



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

[Click here to go to the Virginia Department for the Aging Home Page](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS
AAA TUESDAY E-MAILING
June 3, 2008

SUBJECT

VDA ID NUMBER

[Caregiving](#)
(Ellen Nau)

08-107

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Ellen M. Nau, Program Coordinator

DATE: June 3, 2008

SUBJECT: Caregiving

Virginia Caregiver Coalition Meeting

REMINDER!

Invite your caregivers and pertinent professionals!

Virginia Caregiver Coalition News

The Virginia Caregiver Coalition will meet at 9:30 A.M. on **Thursday, June 5**. Greetings from Kerry Weems, Acting Administrator for CMS will be delivered via DVD for the meeting. Featured presenters include Debbie Burcham, Deputy Commissioner, Virginia Department for the Aging, and Kathy Pryor, Virginia Poverty Law Center, and Joanie Latimer, Virginia Ombudsman. Coalition members, caregivers, hospital discharge planners will enjoy Ms. Burcham speaking about the Virginia Department for the Aging and its current projects as well as the Older Dominion Project. Kathy Pryor and Joanie Latimer will present on Nursing Home Residents' Rights Regarding Transfer and Discharge as well as the Right of Readmission after a Hospital Stay.

Participating video conference sites include: **VDA Conference Room; Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc.** (Contact: Julia Trivett Dillon MEOC 276-523-4202); **James Madison University** (Contact: Vickie Landes, Caregivers Community Network 540-568-3462); **Fairfax County-Pennino Government Building** (Contact: Yolanda Thompson Fairfax AAA 703-324-5411); **Newport News Health Department** (Contact: Sharon

Brandau Peninsula AA 757-873-0541); **Madison Virginia Health Department** (Contacts: Rappahannock/Rapidan CSB/AAA and Aging Together Lynnette Scott 540-825-3100 or Chris Miller 540-829-6405); **Smyth County Health Department** (Contact: Libby Davis District III Senior Services 276-783-8158), **Tazewell County Health Department** (Contact: Carol Raines Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens, Inc. 276-964-4915), and the **Disability Resource Center** in Fredericksburg, (Contact: Pat Holland, Rappahannock AAA at 540-371-3375). Please consult program contacts if you would like to attend the video conferencing, as some sites have limited seating. For further information, contact: Ellen Nau at 804-662-9340

Future of Alzheimer's: Breakthroughs and Challenges

The May 14 Hearing of the Special Committee on Aging is now available on video webcast via your computer at http://aging.senate.gov/hearing_detail.cfm?id=297771& Chaired by Senator Herb Kohl and ranking member, Senator Gordon H. Smith, the hearing featured testimony from Alzheimer's patient, Charles Jackson from Oregon; Alzheimer's patient caregiver, Suzanne Carabone, from Silver Spring, Maryland; The Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor, Former Supreme Court Justice, Member of the Alzheimer's Study Group; The Honorable Newt Gingrich, Former Speaker of the House, Member of the Alzheimer's Study Group, and Rudi Tanzi, Ph.D, Director of Genetics and Aging Research Unit, Massachusetts General Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases, Professor of Neurology, Harvard University.

For further information about the Special Committee on Aging, view:
<http://aging.senate.gov/about/index.cfm>.

Virginia's "Silver Alert" System Noted

The National Conference of State Legislatures has a feature article on state silver alert systems at <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/shn/2008/sn516c.htm>.

Virginia is one of ten states to have implemented a missing person notification system for individuals with some form of mental impairments. Virginia's system requires local authorities to act within two hours of the filing of a missing person report if that person meets the requirements of a Silver Alert. Virginia Law allows for a Silver Alert if the missing person is 60 or older; if the person has a cognitive impairment and is unable to care for himself without the assistance of a caregiver, and if the disappearance poses a threat to the health and safety of the senior.