



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

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**February 15, 2011**

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**Note:** The web addresses (links) in this document may change over time. The Department for the Aging does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.



11-69

*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*Department for the Aging*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Jim Rothrock, VDA Interim Commissioner

**DATE:** February 15, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Virginia Livable Home Tax Credit (LHTC)

As it is tax season, we thought it would be a good reminder for your clients to have this information. Please distribute this as appropriate.

According to the U.S. Census, more than 950,000 Virginians will have one or more disabilities. By the year 2025, more than 25 percent of Virginians will be over the age of 60 and the number of Virginians aged 85 or older will increase five times faster than the state's population growth. For these citizens, their families and their friends, the focus on accessible housing is growing increasingly important.

The Virginia **Livable Home Tax Credit** (LHTC) program, administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, is designed to improve accessibility and universal visitability in Virginia's residential units by providing state tax credits for the purchase of new units or the retrofitting of existing housing units.

Tax credits are available for up to \$2,000 for the purchase of a new accessible residence and up to 50 percent for the cost of retrofitting existing units, not to exceed \$2,000.

Any tax credit that exceeds the eligible individual's tax liability may be carried forward for up to five years. If the total amount of tax credits issued under this program exceeds the \$1 million allocation in a given fiscal year, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development will pro-rate the amount of credits among the eligible applicants.

For complete details concerning eligibility, requirements and process please visit our website at

[http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/HousingPreservationRehabilitation/Tax\\_credit\\_program.htm](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/HousingPreservationRehabilitation/Tax_credit_program.htm) or contact Violet Peyton at [violet.peyton@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:violet.peyton@dhcd.virginia.gov) or by phone at (804) 371-7124.



11-70

*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Jim Rothrock, VDA Interim Commissioner

**DATE:** February 15, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Update on VDA Personnel

With the Holidays behind us and the General Assembly at midpoint, I wanted to touch base with you on some comings and goings in our office.

Before I go further though, let me note how I continue to be impressed with your knowledge, expertise, zeal for your work, and overall commitment to what VDA does for "vintage Virginians". With Ben, Becky, and Bill's exits into well deserved retirements we are all a bit more stretched. To help out with this, the following steps have been taken:

- Pam Smith has accepted the full-time position of VICAP Customer Service Specialist. She will be able to provide greater assistance to the VICAP program and the growing MIPPA reporting requirements. She will assist with grant management, dissemination of information, partnership development, and coordination of media activities. We all know of her many talents and now in this full time capacity, she will even offer more to our agency.
- Nancy Roberts has begun working with me as a Special Assistant (P14 position) to study how our Commonwealth serves aged and disabled Virginians who require long term services and supports. Nancy is a former Deputy Secretary of HHR in the Warner Administration and worked with Jane Woods and many of us on the design of NWD and other VDA aligned programs. She has also served in a wide variety of leadership roles and is finishing up an assignment with the Council on Virginia's Future. We plan to have a report to Secretary Hazel in the fall that will complete this assignment.
- Joseph Hoyle is now engaged trying to fill the very big shoes left by Bill Peterson. Joseph and I have been talking for a month or so about aging issues

and he has been working with Delegate O'Bannon on health issues. He approached me in the late fall and when I found that he had done his masters paper on dementia in NC, I remembered how our Alzheimer's Council noted a need to study this further. I convinced Joseph to work with us to staff two of our advisory bodies as Bill did, and help in researching this emerging topic. Katie Roeper will provide supervision for Joseph and has already a growing list of tasks for him including some grant writing and special assignments that will meet our needs **and** allow Joseph's many talents to benefit our agency. His position is also a part time wage position and in July we will look to establish a similar position in a full time capacity.

- Tim Catherman has accepted a special assignment from me to work with Kathy Miller and her staff on the organization & structure and overall duties of her critical VDA unit. The recent Audit that is finishing notes the significant time spent by us on monitoring the AAAs. I have also talked with some of our national leaders and found that our agency spends way more time than other cohort aging units around the nation on monitoring. This compounded with the other audits that our partners conduct themselves begs the question regarding how much we do. I am asking that Tim review the upcoming audit report, talk to other Aging Units around the nation, and meet with our staff to establish if there are other methods for us to use to sustain accountability and hopefully look at how some time can be shifted to being more of a technical assistance resource to our partners. Kathy has also advocated for at least one other position to strengthen this unit and I am confident that these two along with the others in this unit can find recommendations for workload and structures that in the end will make us more effective.
- Finally, we are getting close to offering a job to replace Becky in our Accounting Unit and this vacancy can soon be filled getting back to full fiscal staffing.

On a related matter we are also having good discussions and realizing progress on identifying strengths that DRS can assist and support the VDA functions. DRS has experience providing **back office support** to other state agencies. This model of support within HHR was noted in the Auditor of Public Accounts 'Shared Services Audit' as a best practice for the Commonwealth.

After the session is over, my time will increase at VDA but with the GA in town, no time slots are safe!!!

Finally thanks for all you do and if you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact me.



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors, Information & Referral Specialists, Care Coordinators  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Patricia Cummins

**DATE:** February 15, 2011

**SUBJECT:** VAIRS Webinar Announcement: Certified Information Resource Specialist  
(CIRS) Webinar  
Scheduled for Feb. 22 & 24 (2:00 – 4:00) & Mar. 1 & 3 (2:00 – 4:00)

See the attached VAIRS flyer for details and registration information on upcoming CIRS webinars.

Please feel free to share this information with colleagues in your community who may be interested in participating.



**REGISTER TODAY!!!**

**Certified Information Resource  
Specialist (CIRS)  
Webinar being offered  
By Virginia AIRS**

**Dates:** February 22 & 24, March 1 & 3      **Time:** 2pm – 4pm

**Cost:** 4 sessions for \$40 for AIRS members and \$100 for 4 sessions for non-AIRS members  
(Hint: You can join VAIRS for as little as \$50, so if you're not a member  
it would benefit you to join and save!)

**Location:** Anywhere you want to be! You will need access to a computer with an internet  
connection and speakers.

Once you have registered and paid for the webinars you will be sent a confirmation  
email containing instructions on how to “connect” to the webinar, how to contact the trainer, etc.

**Seminar Overview**

This webinar is designed for Information & Referral Specialists preparing for the CIRS  
certification examination or as a refresher tool for more experienced Specialist. It covers the  
AIRS Standards and ABCs of I&R: verbal communication, confidentiality, special populations,  
working with “challenging” clients, and general professional I&R behavior.

Participants will be able to:

- Understand general knowledge of Information & Referral
- Demonstrates Information & Referral Skills and Abilities
- Define appropriate and inappropriate attitudes and work-related behaviors

**Trainer Info:** Tina Bessent and Altise Street, from the United Way of Greater Richmond &  
Petersburg's 2-1-1 Call Center will lead the CIRS seminars. They bring a combined knowledge of over  
20 years of health and human services I&R. Tina is the Outreach Manager at the Richmond 2-1-1  
Center and Altise is the Training Coordinator at that same center.

**TO REGISTER VISIT [www.VAIRS.org](http://www.VAIRS.org)  
MUST REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 18TH**



11-72

**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Ellen Nau, Program Coordinator

**DATE:** February 15, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Caregiving

**Lifespan Respite Summit – March 17, 2011**

The final video conference site for the March 17, 2011 Virginia Lifespan Respite Summit has been identified:

Blue Ridge Independent Living Center, Inc.  
1502B Williamson Rd., NE  
Roanoke, VA 24012  
540-342-1231 (v/tty)

All registration for the Lifespan Respite Summit is being conducted on-line at:  
<http://www.arch.memberlodge.org>

Virginia is the first recipient of a grant from the ARCH Lifespan Respite Technical Assistance Center to coordinate a Lifespan Respite Summit for statewide participation using video conferencing. VDA and the Virginia Caregiver Coalition (VCC) would like to thank Rich Watson of the Virginia Department of Health for his unflagging support in providing technical assistance for video-conferencing meetings of the Virginia Caregiver Coalition. The technical assistance of VDA IT staff person, Deb Loving, is greatly appreciated.

Who should attend? State agency representatives, local agency representatives, caregivers and respite providers are invited to participate in the Summit. The Summit will provide participants with knowledge about the national Lifespan Respite Law and explore existing Lifespan Respite models. One goal of the Summit is to expand the Virginia Caregiver Coalition to include caregivers and respite providers of individuals of

all ages with physical and developmental disabilities and chronic diseases. An overview of current respite programs in the state and gaps in respite services will be identified.

The meeting will be held from 9:30 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. Attendance is free but limited. Sites for the meeting include: the VDA Conference Room; Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services Lobby Conference Room; Newport News Health Department; Gloucester Health Department; Charlottesville Health Department, Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc., and the Fairfax County Department of Family Services.

The Administration on Aging has designated 2011 as the Year of the Caregiver. Both professional and family caregivers are encouraged to participate in the Lifespan Respite Summit. For further information, contact Ellen Nau at the Virginia Department for the Aging at 804-662-9340.

### **From Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Dr. Lynn Reid, Executive Director**

TreatmentDiaries.com is a unique online resource, providing REAL information exchange between people coping with or caring for anyone with a chronic illness or rare disease. This virtual support group is free and always available; offering a safe place to anonymously keep multiple diaries of your daily journey, across more than one condition - either privately or shared out with others, allowing for shared coping strategies, support for others and the exchange of information.

TreatmentDiaries.com is dedicated to the needs of ALL types of users including; individual patients, caregivers, family members and advocates. The organization promotes the importance of keeping a diary of life changing experiences and the significance of engaging in behaviors and activities which promote health, mental wellness and the self-management of chronic conditions.

Connect...Share and Inspire at: <http://www.TreatmentDiaries.com> Thanks to the Loudoun AAA staff for sharing this information.

### **United Healthcare**

UnitedHealthcare is partnering with *Lotsa Helping Hands* to provide additional online resources designed to further educate and support people who help care for infirm or chronically ill family members, friends and loved ones. United Healthcare's contributed content will educate members about **Solutions for Caregivers**, which helps caregivers ensure the well-being of both their care recipients and themselves. **Solutions for Caregivers** is a unique program that guides caregivers through the complex process of managing their loved one's changing medical and non-medical needs. To view an article about the collaboration, visit:

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110214005377/en/UnitedHealthcare-Lotsa-Helping-Hands-Partner-Enhance-Educational>

### **Alzheimer's Foundation of America**

Care Connection is a FREE, interactive teleconference for family caregivers and healthcare professionals that is held the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m.

EST. To participate, dial 1-877-232-2992, and enter guest ID 271004#. The next call will take place on Thursday, March 10 and will feature Vladimir Kotelnik, RN, Case Manager, Partners in Care, of NY, NY. "10 Tips for Hiring a Home Health Aide" is the topic for the discussion. For more info, please visit:

<http://www.alzfdn.org/AFAServices/careconnection.html>

### **The American Psychological Association**

The Family Caregiver's Briefcase, a product of the 2010 American Psychologist Association Presidential Initiative on Caregivers, provides extensive online information and resources on how caregiving affects us all, family caregiving, caregiving problems, reaching caregivers, the role of the psychologist, program development and advocacy, research, and education and teaching. For more information, visit:

[American Psychological Association](#)