



12-239

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
**DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

JAMES A. ROTHROCK  
Commissioner

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**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Kathy Miller, Director of Programs

**DATE:** August 7, 2012

**SUBJECT:** CommonHelp and Community Partners WebEx Recording is Now Available

More than 400 individuals from all areas of the Commonwealth participated in the live information sessions that provided an introduction to CommonHelp, the new VDSS portal for online benefit applications, and information for organizations and individuals who assist citizens with accessing and applying for VDSS benefits and assistance.

A recorded version of the WebEx sessions on CommonHelp is now available on the VDSS public site at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/commonhelp>.

To view and hear the session, individuals will need to go to the webpage and click on the link, [Pre-Recorded WebEx Session](#).

Once you click on the session link, WebEx will automatically begin. It will take a few moments for the WebEx system to establish the playback feature on an individual's computer. This is normal. The recording lasts approximately 75 minutes and can be paused or stopped at any time. Interested parties can view the recorded session at their convenience.



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**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Amy Marschean, JD

**DATE:** August 7, 2012

**SUBJECT:** September is Older Virginian's Mental Health Month

The 2009 Virginia General Assembly passed HJR 674 declaring September as Older Virginians Mental Health Month in order to heighten awareness of the compelling need for mental health services for older people. The joint resolution recognized: (1) the prevalence of mental health diagnoses among older Virginians; (2) the difficulties faced by long-term care facilities and community providers in meeting the specialized needs of older people with mental illness; and (3) the benefits of a mental health system that promotes recovery and empowerment for elders including aging in place in the community when possible. Please let me know if you will be hosting any events in September that will be emphasizing the mental health needs and services for older Virginians. My email address is [Amy.Marschean@dars.virginia.gov](mailto:Amy.Marschean@dars.virginia.gov).



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**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** James Rothrock

**DATE:** August 7, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Independent Living Research

ILRU (Independent Living Research Utilization) is conducting a survey to assess the assistive technology needs of people with disabilities. The goal of this survey is to determine both the current availability of such technologies and the potential for new, innovative devices. By identifying the assistive technology needs of people with disabilities, ILRU will be better able to work with policymakers and funders to address assistive technology needs.

Please distribute the [survey link](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/embeddedform?formkey=dF9mMzNzblJxOXVVVm5qSm1EY0FWSWc6MQ) below to as many individuals with disabilities as possible.  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/embeddedform?formkey=dF9mMzNzblJxOXVVVm5qSm1EY0FWSWc6MQ>

We appreciate your assistance.

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