



VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

March 12, 2013

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Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamation

Tim Catherman, Director, Aging Operations

Governor Declares March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Governor McDonnell has issued a proclamation designating March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The proclamation can be found at this link: [Governor McDonnell Proclaims March Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#)

Interim CEO Appointed at JABA

Tim Catherman, Director, Aging Operations

With the retirement of Gordon Walker at Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA), they were hopeful to have senior staff manage the agency by committee. Although this was working fairly well, the need to have one person in charge on an interim basis has become apparent. Therefore, the Board of Directors has appointed Leonard Lohman as Interim CEO. It is hopeful this

Note: The web links in this document may change over time. DARS-VDA 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.

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arrangement will last only about 6 months until the JABA Board hires a new CEO. The search is progressing but will take longer than expected.

March 21 is World Down Syndrome Day

Ellen M. Nau, MA

March 21, is World Down Syndrome Day! This is symbolic of the 3rd copy of the 21st chromosome that characterizes Down Syndrome.

On Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at 1:00 PM ET, a webinar on Aging and Down Syndrome will be presented by the National Down Syndrome Society. You can register at:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/366890074>

In addition, a new publication from NDSS, *Aging & Down Syndrome: A Health and Well-Being Guidebook*, is to be released soon. The publication will contain valuable resources for those concerned with down syndrome and aging issues.

Valuable information on Down Syndrome can be found at the National Down Syndrome Society website: www.ndss.org

NASUAD Weekly Update

Tim Catherman, Director, Aging Operations

Here is a link to the weekly update from NASUAD - the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities:

http://www.nasuad.org/documentation/newsroom/friday_updates/March-8-2013.htm.

Position Recruitment: Director, Eastern VA Care Transitions Partnership

Tim Catherman, Director, Aging Operations

Position Recruitment: Director, Eastern Virginia Care Transitions Partnership

Bay Aging is recruiting a Director for the Eastern Virginia Care Transitions Partnership. More information on the position is available at <http://bayaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Director-EVCTP-2.pdf>



Consumer Voice Announces New Family Member Focus Group

Tim Catherman, Director, Aging Operations

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care is launching a brand new focus group to get family members' input and thoughts on issues related to their loved one's long-term care and services. By joining the Consumer Voice's Family Member Focus Group, participants will have the opportunity to respond and react to ideas and suggestions for changes in long-term care. Participants will also provide Consumer Voice staff with feedback about their experiences with their loved one's care. The feedback received will then be used to guide the Consumer Voice in their policy work.

This focus group is **ONLY** open to family members. Family members' names will not be shared outside the group, and nothing said will affect the services their loved one is receiving.

The first meeting of the Family Member Focus Group will take place by telephone on a toll-free conference line on Wednesday, March 13th, 2013 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET. Participants will be joined by other family members and Consumer Voice staff. Staff will ask questions, which participants will receive ahead of time, and then give participants an opportunity to respond.

If you know someone who has a loved one receiving long-term services and supports, please pass this info along. They can click [here](#) to register for the call. If they have any questions, they can contact [Sara Cirba](#) at 202-332-2275 extension 221.

Free Live Webinar in the Mental Health and Aging Training Series

Kathy B. Miller, MS, RN, MSHA

The Geriatric Mental Health Planning Partnership, in collaboration with the VCU Department of Gerontology and the Riverside Center for Excellence in Aging and Lifelong Health, is organizing the next in a series of webinars dedicated to **“Mental Health and Aging Training.”**

The first three topics were offered in the spring of 2012. The next three webinars in this series are being offered March, April and May of this year. These webinars are focused on interventions to reduce the use of psychotropic medications, best practices in geriatric psychiatry, and the temporary detention order process. Experts in aging and behavioral health, both within Virginia and outside of Virginia, have been selected to lead these webinars.

Registration is now open. Sessions are available at no charge to participants.

For more details and to register for the free events, please visit <http://worldeventsforum.blogspot.com>



DIVISION FOR THE AGING
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

Public Radio Question about Caring for Seniors

Tim Catherman, Director, Aging Operations

WAMU, American University Radio in Washington, DC is partnering with American Public Media to explore this topic in a special series on eldercare. They are asking seniors, caregivers and professionals what they want to tell people about the needs of older Americans. If you would like to participate in the survey, click on the link: [“So, how are we doing when it comes to caring for older Americans?”](#).