



VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

July 1, 2014

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ACL Weekly Update

Here is a link to the weekly Administration for Community Living (ACL) update:

<http://www.acl.gov/NewsRoom/eNewsletter/CurrentNewsLetter.pdf>

NASUAD Weekly Update

Here is a link to the weekly National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) update where you can sign up or view the current and archived editions:

http://www.nasud.org/newsroom/friday_updates/friday_updates.html

Riverside Pace MacTavish 3rd Anniversary Celebration

Charlotte Arbogast, MSG, Dementia Services Coordinator

PACE MacTavish is having an event next Thursday, July 10 from 3-5 pm to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the PACE site. RSVP to Kimberly Fauerbach at kimberly.fauerbach@rivhs.com. Invitation is [attached](#).

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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Division for Aging Welcomes a New Deputy Commissioner

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner

We are so happy to welcome a new Deputy Commissioner for Aging at DARS. Please see Commissioner Rothrock's message:

Over the last few years, we have greatly benefitted from At Will employees designated and assigned to our agency by our Governor(s). Denise Goode, Mary Margaret Cash, and now Ali Faruk have distinguished themselves in service to our agency and those we serve.

This is to announce our latest At Will who will begin working with us as the Deputy Commissioner for Aging Services – the Honorable Robert (Bob) Brink. Recently, he resigned after 17 years of leadership from the House of Delegates to begin a term with us in this critical position.

He is indeed well qualified for this duty as he not only has years of distinguished service in the General Assembly (many years on House Appropriations and an expert in health care) but also is a veteran and served in the Department of Justice as an attorney. He knows how government works!

More directly though, he brings experiences which will aid him in his duties with our Division for the Aging. He has served as a member of the Arlington Commission on Aging and patroned legislation and budget amendments to support our network of Area Agencies on Aging. He is a member of the ARC of Virginia, a board member of the Warren Stambaugh Foundation (Stambaugh was the leading advocate in the effort to pass the Virginians with Disabilities Act), and the Arlington County Local Emergency Planning Council to name only a few of his association memberships.

He will be housed in our VDA office but will be meeting many of you as his orientation will include a great deal of listening to you to better inform him of the wide array of services we offer.

Join me in a big welcome for Bob as he begins his new job.

Jim



HHS Offers Evidence-based Materials for Conversations About Brain Health

Kathy Miller, Director of Programs

A new set of materials to facilitate conversations with older people about brain health as we age is available from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“As we get older, many of us have a little more trouble recalling things quickly or reacting as fast as we used to,” said Dr. Richard J. Hodes, director of the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health. “Knowing what is normal and not normal, and – more importantly – what you can do to help keep your brain working its best can reduce fears and improve health.”

The four-part set of materials is written in plain language and explains what people can do to help keep their brains functioning best. Topics include: preventing falls to avoid head injury, refraining from excessively drinking alcohol, getting enough sleep, and managing diabetes and blood pressure.

The basics of Alzheimer’s disease as a primary threat to brain health with age and managing possible risk factors are also explained in the materials. Although no activity or medicine has yet been shown to prevent the disease or reduce risk, some of the healthy lifestyle and chronic disease management strategies presented are good for healthy aging and may prove, with further research, to directly protect against cognitive decline and Alzheimer’s disease.

The materials for use at senior centers and in other community settings, were designed and reviewed in 2014 by scientists and educators at three HHS agencies with expertise in health and aging: the Administration for Community Living (ACL); the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and NIH.

“Right now, we spend two thirds of our country’s health care budget on older adults with multiple chronic conditions. Helping people grow older in good health – including good brain health – benefits them, their families, and their communities,” said Ursula E. Bauer, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of CDC’s National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

“Staff and volunteers at senior centers, area agencies on aging, health departments, local clinics, and community organizations of all kinds are in a wonderful position to debunk myths and share accurate information about this subject,” notes Kathy Greenlee, assistant secretary for aging and administrator of ACL. “Evidence-based resources like these can go a long way to make sure that people with concerns about brain health can get the information they need from the community caregivers they trust.”



The [Brain Health Resource](#) also provides connections to health screenings, exercise programs, chronic disease self-management education, fall prevention programs, and behavioral health programs funded by HHS.

The Brain Health Resource includes:

- A PowerPoint presentation that teaches older adults and their caregivers how to reduce risks related to brain health. This slide set, recommended as a 60-minute session, including the presentation and discussion, covers:
 - Aging and health
 - Good health and the normal aging brain
 - Threats to brain health
 - Healthy aging for your body and brain
- An accompanying [Educator Guide](#) that provides additional information for presenters to share with audiences.
- A [one-page handout](#) for older adults and caregivers called “Brain Health as You Age: You Can Make a Difference!”
- A [supplementary handout](#), Brain Health as You Age: Key Facts and Resources, that includes basic information and resources for the topics covered in the presentation.

Aging Together - Five Over Fifty

Ellen M. Nau, M.A., Program Coordinator

Aging Together will honored its first *Five Over Fifty* on Friday June 20th with a reception, awards ceremony, and benefit concert at the State Theatre in Culpeper.

These five ([see attached picture](#)) have improved the lives of people of all ages through their professional careers and volunteerism. What they have achieved over decades deserves to be in the spotlight, even if they are somewhat embarrassed by the attention.



T.I. Martin (Culpeper) - A Culpeper native Mr. Martin helped to establish Yowell Meadow Park and led fundraising efforts for the Powell Wellness Center along with numerous other community contributions.

Jean Lowe (Fauquier) - Ms. Lowe is the former Chair of the Fauquier Food Bank and currently works assisting older adults in finding employment across the region.

Jean Kane (Madison) - A founding member of Aging Together, Ms. Kane has also been a long time advocate for healthcare reform and the needs of people with disabilities.

Dr. R. Merrick (Orange) - Dr. Merrick is one of the founding members of the Orange Free Clinic and is a leader in his field of laser surgery.

Hal Hunter (Rappahannock) - A long time advocate of environmental issues and historic preservation, Mr. Hunter also founded the Rappahannock Food Pantry.

Article in newspaper after the event:

http://www.dailyprogress.com/starexponent/news/local_news/better-with-age/article_24e5c928-f8da-11e3-ae45-001a4bcf6878.html

Aging Together is a collaborative effort to help localities prepare for an unprecedented growth in the older population. We assure that local residents will have the services and supports they need as they age here in Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock counties. This partnership is built on an alliance of more than 100 organizations and individuals who actively participate in one or more county-based teams and regional workgroups and collaborate across agencies, counties and interest areas. Aging Together is proud to announce a grant from the Family & Children's Trust Fund (FACT) Family Violence, Prevention, Treatment & Public Awareness Program to fight financial abuse of older adults in our region. Project



DIVISION FOR THE AGING
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

partners include Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services Board and the Departments of Social Services for Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange & Rappahannock Counties.

Join Us For A Care Transitions Community Celebration!

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner



**Quality Improvement
Organizations**

Sharing Knowledge. Improving Health Care.
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES



A Care Transitions Community Celebration!

When

Friday July 18, 2014 from
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM EDT

[Add to Calendar](#)

Where

This is an online event.

Contact

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VHQC

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rhonda.fletcher@hcqis.org

Carla Thomas
VHQC

804-289-5320

carla.thomas@hcqis.org

VHQC has led a care transitions project since the fall of 2011. The development of community coalitions to improve transitions and reduce hospitalizations has grown significantly across the state since that time. VHQC has supported numerous communities throughout the project.

Join us Friday, July 18 at noon to:

- Learn about the successes of the VHQC Care Transitions Project.
- Identify the best practices from project community representatives.
- Implement new change concepts in your own community coalition effort.
- Identify next steps for receiving QIO assistance.

[Get more information](#)

[**Register Now!**](#)

[I can't make it](#)



CommunitySync: Centra Health System Brings Churches to the Table

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner



Education

What's the Risk? Using Clinical Scenarios to Identify Practices that Place Our Patients at Risk of Bloodstream Infections

Two dates:

July 8 at 12 p.m. ET or

July 10 at 2 p.m. ET

[Click here to register](#)

Virginia Hospitals Outcomes Congress - Sustaining HAI Prevention

July 10

12-1 p.m.

[Click here to register](#)

A Care Transitions Community Celebration!

July 18

12-1:30 p.m.

[Click here to register](#)

Centra Health System Brings Churches to the Table to Improve Care Transitions

The effort to improve care transitions has led to a variety of new partnerships in communities across Virginia. Through its Congregational Health Program, Centra Health System is bringing a new partner to the conversation - churches.

Based in Lynchburg, Centra is a regional health system that operates three hospitals (Lynchburg General, Virginia Baptist and Southside Community) and a provider group with more than 150 physicians, specialists and surgeons. Centra and other providers within the Lynchburg community are also growing their local effort with assistance from VHQC's Care Transitions Project Team.

[Click here to read more >](#)

Care Transitions Community



Deeply Rooted: Building Strong Systems to Sustain Outcomes

July 22

2:30-4 p.m.

[Click here to register](#)

In the News

[UVA Health System, Tech Firm Collaborate to Reduce Readmission Rates](#)

[The Shift from Hand-off to Hand-over: How the University of Iowa is Lowering Readmissions](#)

[New Technology Helps Hospitals Tailor Patient Treatment and Avoid Readmissions](#)

[Using IT in Transitions of Care: Don't Let Perfect be the Enemy of Good](#)

[Meet the Newest Member of Your Personal Healthcare Team](#)

[Psychometric Evaluation of the Care Transition Measure in TRACE-CORE: Do We Need a Better Measure?](#)

VHQC

9830 Mayland Drive

Richmond, Virginia 23233

www.vhqc.org

Celebration!

The VHQC Care Transitions Project will be "transitioning" to a new QIO project later this summer. It's a great time to celebrate the accomplishments of community efforts within project communities and beyond.

Please join us Friday, July 18 at noon for this informative call with great sharing from community members. Register [here](#).

Improvement Tools

RED (Re-Engineered Discharge)

RED is a free toolkit that can reduce readmissions by integrating better communication among clinicians and patients and by instituting follow-up communications after discharge. Developed in a safety-net hospital with AHRQ funding, the RED Toolkit is now used effectively in many hospital settings. Learn more [here](#).

Project BOOST (Better Outcomes by Optimizing Safe Transitions)

This implementation toolkit provides a wealth of materials to help you optimize the discharge process at your organization. The tools and approach are based on QI principles, evidence-based medicine, as well as personal and institutional experiences. Click [here](#) for more information.

For Patients

Join 100 Congregations for Million Hearts®

Does your congregation or faith-based organization have a desire to live a heart-healthy life? If so, join 100 Congregations for Million Hearts®! This faith-based program is designed to help guide your members toward a heart-healthy lifestyle. Click [here](#) to learn more.

What's Your Story?



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804.289.5320

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This material was prepared by VHQC, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Virginia, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.
VHQC/ICPC/ 6/19/2014/1950

Follow Us



Communities across Virginia are taking steps to help patients avoid hospitalization. Now, it's time to share your experiences. VHQC wants to work with you to create stories that highlight successful interventions, share patient and family perspectives, and celebrate innovative strategies for bringing community partners together. If you have a story that we can help you develop and share, please contact Amy Ridolphi, Communications Manager, at aridolphi@vhqc.org or 804.287.6215.



ADA Employment Updates June 30

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner

New England  Center

ADA Updates



To read the full article click on the article's title.
2014

June 30,

ADA Title I - Employment

[Is transfer a reasonable accommodation?](#)

HR.BLR.com

Massachusetts state courts have consistently held that under state law, an employer isn't required to transfer an employee to another job as a reasonable accommodation. Recently, however, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) took a different stance, leaving employers to wonder, "Is transfer a reasonable accommodation?"

[Tenth Circuit upholds employer's inflexible leave policy](#)

Lexology

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) guidance provides that employers violate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by enforcing inflexible policies with specified leave limits. The EEOC has filed lawsuits against many employers for discharging employees who were unable to return to work after their maximum allowable leave periods had expired. Consequently, some employers have revised or even eliminated these fixed leave policies, allowing for flexibility when an employee's medical condition requires leave beyond the maximum allowed by company policy. However, employers' inflexible leave policies may not be as inadvisable as previously thought. Based on a recent Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals case, *Hwang v. Kansas State University*, which approved a six-month maximum leave policy, such policies may now indeed be permissible.

[ADAAA at Five: Intent Largely Realized, But Interpretation Continuing to Evolve](#)

Bloomberg BNA

Five years after Congress revised the nation's primary workplace disability discrimination law, the ADA Amendments Act has largely fulfilled its legislative purposes and policy goals, but some confusion and unsettled questions remain, federal officials and employee and management advocates agree.

Sixth Circuit: "the 'workplace' is anywhere that an employee can perform her job duties.

Lexology



Last month, in *EEOC v. Ford Motor Co.*, the Sixth Circuit held 2-1 that the ADA may require an employer to permit telecommuting as a "reasonable accommodation" for a disabled employee, even if "attendance" is an essential job function. The court distinguished between "attendance" and "physical presence at the [employer's] facilities," reasoning that, although the essentiality of the former is an established "principle," the essentiality of the latter is "a 'highly fact specific' question" (citation omitted). Finding that Ford had failed to prove that a steel buyer with irritable bowel syndrome, prone to suddenly and humiliatingly soiling herself, could not effectively perform her job if working remotely up to four days per week, the court reversed the district court's grant of summary judgment in favor of Ford.

Employer need not tolerate misconduct by bipolar employee; not required to detect and accommodate undisclosed disability

CCH Netnews

Requiring an employee to act appropriately at work was job-related and consistent with business necessity and employers need not tolerate a disabled employee's misconduct if it would result in a non-disabled employee's discharge, a federal district court in Minnesota explained, granting summary judgment against a bipolar employee who acted erratically and aggressively at work. Her failure to accommodate claims also failed because she never disclosed her bipolar disorder or requested an accommodation and employers are not required to independently detect and accommodate disabilities (*Walz v Ameriprise Financial, Inc*, DMinn, May 22, 2014, Kyle, R).



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New England ADA Center, a project of the Institute for Human Centered
Design

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You are cordially invited to our

3rd Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, July 10th,
3-5 pm

Come help Riverside PACE MacTavish celebrate its third year anniversary. Enjoy live music by The Taters, delicious food — including a carving station and seafood, networking, and a SURPRISE guest speaker!

We are excited to celebrate the past year with you and look forward to many more years of serving the Richmond community.

**Please RSVP by July 3rd
to Kim Fauerbach
at Kimberly.fauerbach@rivhs.com
or call (804) 977-5925.**



A Program of An Inclusive Care for the Elderly

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