



VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

January 27, 2015

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ACL News & Information

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<http://www.acl.gov/NewsRoom/NewsInfo/Index.aspx>

NASUAD Weekly Update

Here is a link to the weekly update from NASUAD:

<http://www.nasud.org/newsroom/friday-update>

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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January 26, 2015

**Postponed: January 27 and 28 Meetings
of the President's Committee for People
with Intellectual Disabilities**

The Tuesday, January 27 and Wednesday, January 28, 2015 meetings of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities have been postponed until further notice. This change is because of the significant number of flight cancellations due to inclement weather along the East Coast, from the mid-Atlantic region to the Northeast.

We will send out an announcement of the new dates and times as soon as possible.



January 22, 2015

**Webinar: National Senior Citizens Law
Center Teaches SSI Basics**

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 2:00 p.m. - 3:30
p.m. EDT



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AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

In this webinar Gerald McIntyre and Kate Lang of the National Senior Citizens Law Center will give an overview of the basic eligibility rules for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program which provides modest financial support for older people and people with disabilities who lack other resources. They will describe how benefits are calculated and also will provide suggestions on where to go if you need further information. The webinar is designed for advocates just getting started in the field and others who want to learn the essentials of how the program works. [Click here](#) to register.

Virginia Center on Aging Legislative Breakfast Tomorrow
Cecily Slasor, Administrative Support

The Virginia Center on Aging
at Virginia Commonwealth University
cordially invites you to its 29th Annual Breakfast
Wednesday, January 28, 2015
from 7:30 - 8:45 a.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Parish House
813 E. Grace Street

located opposite the Capitol on the southwest
corner of Ninth and Grace Streets

Nominal fee of \$15.00 made payable to Virginia Center on Aging
RSVP 804/828-1525 or to eansello@vcu.edu by January 21st
This event is made possible with non-state funds



Population Statistics from Weldon Cooper Center

Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations

Today, the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center released the 2014 annual official population estimates for Virginia and its counties and cities. The summary report is included below, or you may access the full report and all data files on our website at:<http://www.coopercenter.org/demographics>

Virginia's Population Growth Slows to Decades' Low; Cities Rebound

Virginia's population has increased by less than 1 percent each year since 2010 – the commonwealth's lowest growth rate in decades. With more than 8.3 million residents as of July 1, 2014, Virginia remains the nation's 12th-largest state and ranks 10th in numerical gain between 2013 and 2014.

The rate of growth between counties and cities in Virginia reached relative parity since 2010. In contrast to the last decade, in which growth was most prominent in counties, cities make up more than half of Virginia's 25 fastest-growing localities in this decade.

Despite the economic effects of the federal budget sequestration, Northern Virginia continues to account for nearly three-fifths of the commonwealth's population gain, with eight of the 10 fastest-growing localities located there. The city of Charlottesville and New Kent County are the only exceptions.

The slowing pace of population growth is most evident among counties adjacent to or beyond the state's metropolitan areas. Due to lower birth rates and older populations, localities outside metro areas had at least 8,200 more deaths than births since 2010. While migration into the state helped to mitigate population loss, Virginia's non-metro population is stagnant, adding only 2,230 people between 2010 and 2014.

The Cooper Center's population estimates, prepared annually, are the official figures for the commonwealth of Virginia. The estimates are based on changes since 2010 in housing stock, school enrollment, births, deaths and driver's license issuances. They are used by state and local government agencies in revenue sharing, funding allocations, planning and budgeting.

Fire Safety for Older Adults

Kathy Miller on behalf of Chip Stratton, Safety & Risk Management Director



We all have an important role to play when it comes to preventing fires, especially during the winter season when home fires increase. As the mercury plunges, help ensure the safety of individuals in your family or community that are most at-risk for fires – older adults. According to the [U.S. Fire Administration](#) (USFA), adults age 65 or over are [twice as likely](#) to suffer fatal injuries in a home fire.

Follow these tips from the USFA to help older loved ones safely enjoy the winter months:

- Make sure there is a working fire alarm installed on each level of their home;
- Conduct a home assessment to identify existing fire hazards;
- Educate them and their caregivers on how to [prevent fires](#); and
- Have a [fire escape plan](#) with easily accessible escape routes.

For community-wide fire education, the USFA and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) developed the [“Fire-Safe Seniors”](#) program to plan and implement fire safety interventions for older adults. Access the free toolkits, handouts, and other resources to prepare your community today! Your efforts can also count towards participation in America’s PrepareAthon! so be sure to [register](#) on the campaign’s website.

With a good understanding of fire prevention, older adults can stay safe this winter and seasons to come.

Chip Stratton

Safety and Risk Management Director

Emergency Coordination Officer

Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center

Social Security to Expand Field Office Hours Nationwide

Kathy Miller, Director of Programs, Division for the Aging

Social Security announced that effective March 16, 2015, as a result of Congress’ approval of the fiscal year 2015 budget, the agency will expand its hours nationwide and offices will be open to the public for an additional hour on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Offices will continue to close to the public at noon every Wednesday so employees have time to complete current work and reduce backlogs.

“This expansion of office hours reaffirms our commitment to providing the people we serve the option of top-notch, face-to-face assistance in field offices even as we work to expand online services for those who prefer that flexibility,” said Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security. “The public expects and deserves world-class customer service and thanks to approved funding, I am pleased we will continue our tradition of exceptional service.”



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For more information about Social Security's decision to expand field office hours, see the [press release](#).

2015 HCBS Conference – Call for Sessions Now Open!

Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations



2015 HCBS CONFERENCE

Call for Sessions Now Open!

[Thinking of Presenting at This Year's Conference?](#)



The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) is pleased to announce the Call for Sessions for the **2015 National Home and Community Based Services Conference**, August 31-September 3, 2015 in Washington, DC.



The conference offers a unique blend of policy, program and practice issues for professionals interested in home and community based services for individuals of all abilities and in all settings. Proposals are currently being accepted for one hour workshops.

Past Presenters: The 2014 HCBS Conference had a strong presence from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services ranging from ACL, AoA, CMS, HRSA, Office of Disability, SAMSHA, Office of Developmental Disabilities and more. In addition to federal partners, State professionals have presented new and promising practices in the fields of aging and disabilities.

The Call for Sessions for the 2015 HCBS Conference will be open from January 20th - March 20th.

[Click here](#) to learn more and submit your session.

Stay Connected!

**Learn more about the HCBS Conference and NASUAD programs ---
[Click here to subscribe to Friday Update!](#)**



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National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities | 1201 15th St. NW |
Suite 350 | 1201 15th St. NW | Washington | DC | 20005

New Web-Based Resource to Support Veterans' Caregivers in Virginia

Cecily Slasor on behalf of Kim Tarantino, SeniorNavigator



Virginians providing informal care to veterans now have access to a new web-based technology that offers an integrated approach to finding support services and educational information – helping them to maintain their emotional and physical health.

VirginiaNavigator is pleased to announce a new collaborative initiative with the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS). As a result of the collaboration, family members caring for veterans have a new resource enabling them to easily search for support information and resources to better assist them in their caregiving role.

“The Commonwealth is fortunate in having many family caregivers who tirelessly give of themselves day-in and day-out to care for the veterans in their lives. The healthcare system cannot support the needs of all Virginia veterans without the force extender provided by family caregivers. Anything we can do to support them is a priority of ours and this partnership is helping us to do just that,” said VWWP executive director, Brandi Jancaitis.

VirginiaNavigator’s Veterans’ Caregivers Resource Page, offers a virtual information-hub that enables veteran caregivers to access valuable resources in one place, at their convenience, including:

- Veteran caregiver-specific educational articles and resource guides
- Key tools and links to a variety of interactive tools and training modules
- An easy-to-use search tool to find local support services across Virginia
- A robust Caregiver Forum, offering a place where veteran caregivers can ask questions, give answers, exchange messages and get support from other family caregivers of veterans

“Being a family caregiver is a rewarding experience, but an extremely challenging one. It is a job most of us aren’t trained to do and families are often overwhelmed by a lack of information and ongoing support,” said Adrienne Johnson, executive director, VirginiaNavigator. “We are pleased to offer this new resource to our service men and women and their families, in close



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collaboration with our partners, DVS and the VWWP. We all share a steadfast commitment to empowering veteran caregivers and providing them with resources to help them navigate their caregiving journey.”

To access the Veterans’ Caregivers Resource Page visit www.VeteransCaregivers.org

Commonwealth Council on Aging

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL ON AGING'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WILL HOLD LISTENING SESSIONS ON THE FOCUS TOPICS OF THE

COMMONWEALTH'S FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR AGING SERVICES 2015-2019 ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015

(Hearing begins at 10:30 a.m. and will end approximately at 12:30 p.m.)

Switzer Building Large Classroom at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center
243 Woodrow Wilson Avenue, Fishersville VA 22939

You can also attend the listening session by video conference at the following four Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) locations:

- DARS Roanoke
Roanoke Valley WFC
1351 Hershberger Road, Suite 205 Roanoke, VA 24012
- DARS Abingdon
468 East Main Street, Suite 200 Abingdon, VA 24210
- DARS Fairfax
11150 Fairfax Blvd., 3rd Flr. Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030
- DARS South Hampton Roads (Norfolk)
Interstate Corporate Center, Bldg. #7
6340 Center Drive, Suite 101 Norfolk VA 23502

The purpose of the hearings is to receive comments on the following focus topics for the Commonwealth's Plan:

- Older Americans Act Core Programs including Supportive Services, Nutrition, Disease Prevention/Health Promotion and Caregiver, and the Elder Rights Programs.
- Discretionary Programs including Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services, Community Based Care Transition, Chronic Disease and Self Management, and No Wrong Door.
- Participant Directed/Person Centered Planning for Older Adults and their Caregivers across the spectrum of long-term care services, including home, community and institutional settings.
- Elder Justice activities to prevent, detect, assess, intervene, and/or investigate elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation involving adult protective services, Long Term Care Ombudsman programs, legal assistance programs, law enforcement, health care professionals, and other essential partners across the state.

- Virginia's Funding Formula and funding allocation to the Area Agencies on Aging.

Those persons wishing to speak may register at each hearing site **no earlier than one hour prior** to the start of the hearing.

Speakers will be taken in the order of registration. Each person may register only one speaker at a time. Speakers are asked to limit their comments to three minutes or less. Speakers representing groups and organizations should consolidate remarks to reduce duplication.

Persons unable to attend may comment in writing to:

Amy Marschean, Senior Policy Analyst
Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100
Henrico, Virginia 23229
Amy.Marschean@dars.virginia.gov

Accommodations for individuals with hearing impairment may be made by calling (804) 662-9155 beginning Tuesday, January 20, 2015. All requests for individuals with hearing impairment must be received by 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 30, 2015. Interpreters will only be provided at locations per specific requests.