



News Release

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DARS RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT TO ENHANCE COORDINATED DEMENTIA TREATMENT

(RICHMOND, Va.) — A nearly \$1 million federal grant to the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services will launch a pilot project to establish a coordinated care system for persons with dementia and their caregivers.

The three-year project will develop a statewide model for dementia treatment from diagnosis through follow-on care, including education on community resources, behavior strategies and developing support systems. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that the number of cases of Alzheimer's disease in Virginia could jump 46 percent, from 130,000 in 2014 to 190,000 in 2025.

“As our population ages, so will the number of Virginians suffering from dementia,” said Secretary of Health and Human Resources Dr. Bill Hazel. “We need to be prepared for that, and federal resources like this grant will help as we transform our health care system to address needs more proactively.”

The \$969,000 grant from the federal Administration of Community Living will set a foundation for collaborations between health care systems and Area Agencies on Aging. The project will bring together local residents receiving clinical care from the University of Virginia's Memory and Aging Care Clinic with the Jefferson Area Board of Aging's specialized dementia care services. DARS will launch and assess the program's success.

This is the second federal grant in a year awarded to DARS to focus on dementia services.

“As the number of Virginians needing dementia treatment is expected to increase dramatically in the next decade, DARS is seeking ways to sustain a statewide, coordinated treatment program to meet this growing need,” said Commissioner Jim Rothrock. The agency

will examine how individuals with dementia can qualify for funding through Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance.

The grant was awarded as the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission released its [Virginia Dementia Plan 2015-2019](http://1.usa.gov/1PTbQrd) (http://1.usa.gov/1PTbQrd), which calls for coordinated care for individuals with dementia in the most integrated system.

“The commission and its partners envision a Virginia that provides ethical, person-centered, evidence-based, and high-quality care through a coordinated system that meets the needs of individuals with dementia and their caregivers and families,” said Commission Chair Courtney S. Tierney.

The project will focus on individuals with dementia who reside in Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson and include individuals with low incomes and minorities. The coordinated services supported by the grant will begin in early 2016.

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The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in collaboration with community partners, provides and advocates for resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families. For more information, visit www.vadars.org or follow DARS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vadars or Twitter at @vadars.