



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Online Technology To Support Family Caregivers in Virginia

(RICHMOND, VA): Family members caring for a loved one in Virginia have a new web-based solution center that offers them an integrated approach to finding support and helping to maintain their emotional and physical health.

Through a collaborative public-private partnership, VirginiaNavigator, the Virginia Caregiver Coalition, and the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) launched the new [Virginia Family Caregiver Solution Center](#) on Wednesday, August 7th at the DARS Virginia Division for the Aging (VDA) Office in Richmond, Virginia.

Featured speakers addressing attendees at the launch include: Samuel Nixon, Jr., Chief Information Officer for the Commonwealth of Virginia; Jim Rothrock, Commissioner of the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services; Katie Benghauser, Director of Operations for VirginiaNavigator; and MaryAnn Johnson, Chair of the Virginia Caregiver Coalition.

“Our Commonwealth is blessed with so many informal caregivers who offer millions of dollars in uncompensated care. Anything we can do to support them in their efforts is an absolute priority and this ‘Solution Center’ will offer a new and creative approach to helping us meet this challenge,” said Rothrock.

To access the *Virginia Family Caregiver Solution Center* visit VirginiaFamilyCaregiver.org or call (804) 525-7728.

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- *VirginiaNavigator*, a statewide non-profit, provides free health and community support information and guidance to seniors, people with disabilities, family caregivers, and health care professionals – supporting independence, dignity, and quality of life. Designed as an award-winning service model combining information technology with community-building, *VirginiaNavigator* offers a 'high-tech' and 'high-touch' approach to healthy lifestyle and long term care support. Vital services and information can be found through its family of websites (disAbilityNavigator.org, SeniorNavigator.org and VirginiaNavigator.org)
- *The Virginia Caregiver Coalition (VCC)* was founded in 2004 and is a volunteer group composed of over 120 active and consulting members from public, private and non-profit organizations and individual caregivers. The VCC is dedicated to improving the caregiving experience through education, advocacy and resource accessibility so that caregivers are valued and supported. The Coalition provides bi-monthly educational meetings for its members and guests. The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services facilitates the VCC.

The VCC is an active partner in the implementation of the Lifespan Respite Care Program in Virginia. In 2011, the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services was awarded a Lifespan Respite Care Program Grant by the United States Administration for Community Living. The goal of Virginia's Lifespan Respite Care Program is to build a statewide coordinated caregiver respite system for families providing support to individuals of any age, and/or with any disability or chronic condition.

- *The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)*, 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.

DARS was created by merging the former Department of Rehabilitative Services and Department for the Aging in 2012 to help older Virginians and those with disabilities to maximize and secure their employment, independence and full inclusion into society and guide the Commonwealth in preparing for an aging population. For more information, visit vadars.org.

- *AgingCare.com* is the go-to destination for family caregivers, providing trusted information, practical answers to real-life questions, and ongoing support through every challenge. Our mission is to help families prepare for and navigate the care of an elderly loved one. Visit www.AgingCare.com to learn more.

Virginia Family Caregiver Solution Center Project Partners Informational Sheet



VirginiaNavigator is a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides free health and community support information and guidance to seniors, people with disabilities, family caregivers, and health care professionals, while supporting independence, dignity, and quality of life. Its family of websites (disAbilityNavigator.org, SeniorNavigator.org and VirginiaNavigator.org) features information such as health, financial concerns, legal questions, transportation, housing options caregiver support, exercise programs, advocacy, support groups and more. Searchable by City, County or Zip Code, consumers are provided the resources available in their own community.

Designed as an innovative service model combining information technology with community-building, VirginiaNavigator brings a "High-Tech and High-Touch" approach to healthy lifestyle and long term care support. Through its award-winning websites and personal help through a grassroots network of over 750 community-based centers across the Commonwealth, VirginiaNavigator brings vital information and resources to hundreds of thousands of families each year.



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