



WEEKLY E-MAILING
April 4, 2023
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Helpful Links

ACL News & Information

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

<https://acl.gov/>

ADvancing States (NASUAD) Information

Here is a link to state technical assistance from ADvancing States:

<http://www.advancingstates.org/state-technical-assistance/enhancedtechnical-assistance>

[View this email in your browser](#)



Dr. Thelma Bland Watson Legacy Sponsor



Virginia Housing has been committed to supporting the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging since it was reinvigorated in 2016 by Dr. Thelma Bland Watson, former Commissioner James Rothrock and a group of other passionate advocates that understood the importance of convening the aging network from across the Commonwealth. As the lead sponsor for this year's conference, we honor their commitment to elevating aging in the Commonwealth and look forward to recognizing them throughout VGCOA 2023. Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

TITLE SPONSOR

Thank you for your recent investment in VGCOA 2023!



Centene Corporation is a leading healthcare enterprise that is committed to helping people live healthier lives. Centene takes a local approach - with local teams and local brands - to provide fully integrated, high-quality, and cost effective services to government-sponsored and commercial healthcare programs, focusing on under-insured and uninsured individuals. Centene is proud to sponsor the 2023 VA Governor's Conference on Aging.





VA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON AGING

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VA. ACADEMY ELDER LAW ATTORNEYS

UNITEUS

SENIOR CONNECTIONS, CAPITAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING

PINNACLE LIVING



2023 Sponsorship Opportunities!

Why Sponsor?

- Join over 400-450 aging advocates, decision-makers, community leaders and policymakers for two days in Richmond
- Conference attendees are diverse, including state and community leaders, academia, members of the public and private sector, employed in healthcare and social services, housing and transportation, and a vested interest in the future of aging in the Commonwealth
- Repeated brand visibility in electronic mailings, social media, and website
- Opportunities to engage in our ongoing webinar series
- Endorsement as a partner of the VGCOA brand
- And so much more! Just ask our partners!

View the sponsorship page of our website to learn more about each sponsorship level, exclusive opportunities, offerings, and commitment details.

Questions about sponsorships? Contact VGCOA Staff,

Martina James, martina@vgcoa.com | (540)809-7505

Gillian Saul, gillian@vgcoa.com | (804)929-8438

[Visit the Sponsorship page of the Conference website](#)

[Download sponsor opportunities packet! \(.PDF\)](#)

[Register Here!](#)

Register NOW!

Conference Attendee Spots are limited. Don't miss your chance to be a part of the conversation.

Visit the Conference website **vgcaging.com** to register and view hotel room block details.

Questions or registration issues? Contact VGCOA Staff,

Martina James, martina@vgcoa.com | (540)809-7505

Gillian Saul, gillian@vgcoa.com | (804)929-8438

[Visit VGCaging.com NOW!](#)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION RATES

FULL REGISTRATION: \$195

ONE-DAY REGISTRATION: \$120

DEMENTIA CAPABLE SUMMIT: \$25

ATTENDEES

Who has registered so far? We have attendees from across the Commonwealth, Maryland, and Washington DC attending on behalf of a number of organizations and agencies! You don't want to miss joining this group of leaders and advocates in Richmond!

Take a look at SOME of the organizations that will be represented so far,

- Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens, Inc.
- Bay Aging
- Beard Center on Aging- Univ. of Lynchburg/Lynchburg College
- Carilion Clinic
- Center for Workforce Inclusion, Inc.
- Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living, Inc.
- Chesterfield County
- Culpepper Garden
- Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
- Dominion Energy
- Eastern Virginia Medical School
- Eldementals, LLC
- Fairfax County Government
- Fairfax County Therapeutic Recreation Services
- Fredericksburg Social Services
- Genworth
- Goochland Social Services
- JABA - Jefferson Area Board for Aging
- James Madison University
- Lake Country AAA
- LeadingAge Virginia
- Lindsay Institute for Innovation in Caregiving

- **LOA- LOCAL OFFICE ON AGING**
- **Monteleon Law Group, PLLC**
- **Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc.**
- **New River Valley Agency on Aging**
- **Northern Virginia EMS Council**
- **Northumberland Department of Social Services**
- **Prince William Area Agency on Aging**
- **RAFT of Northern Virginia**
- **Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services**
- **SCC- Bureau of Insurance**
- **Senior Connections The Capital Area Agency on Aging**
- **Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia**
- **Seniors First, The Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging**
- **Southern Area Agency on Aging**
- **University of Virginia**
- **University of Virginia, Health System**
- **Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging**
- **Valley Program for Aging Services**
- **Virginia Commonwealth University**
- **Virginia Department of Health Professions**
- **Virginia Tech**
- **VirginiaNavigator**
- **and more!**

Learn more about the Conference Program!

MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER!

We are thrilled to announce our keynote speaker, **Bradley Schurman**.



Bradley Schurman is an expert on demographic change and population aging and how these forces disrupt social, cultural, political, and economic norms across the United States and around the world. His deep understanding of these shifts, when coupled with his grasp of emerging tastes and trends, makes him an authoritative voice into the future of everything.

He's the author of *The Super Age: Decoding our Demographic Destiny* and the founder and CEO of the global strategic foresight and inclusive design firm, The Super Age. He's written for Newsweek, been quoted by The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and USA Today, and regularly appears as a guest on podcast, radio, and television shows around the world.

Stay tuned for more information about his keynote session and other exciting announcements about our partnership!

[Learn more about the Conference Program!](#)

The 2023 VGCOA program will explore the spectrum of aging services in Virginia, providing a forum for discussion about what is currently happening, how we responded over the past two years, and what we see on the horizon.

Over the course of two days, the following sessions will be held, including a range of individual presenters, groups, and panels. **More details about selected break-out sessions and presenters can be found online.**

Monday, May 8

8:30-9:30am | Registration Open, Networking & Exhibits

9:30-10:45am | Opening General Session

11-11:45am | Breakout sessions

Noon-1:30pm | Keynote & Lunch

1:45-2:30pm | Breakout sessions

2:45-3:30pm | Breakout sessions

3:30-4pm | Networking & Snack Break

4:00-5pm | Breakout sessions

5:30-7pm | Reception

Tuesday, May 9

7:00-8:30am | Registration Open, Continental Breakfast & Networking

8:00-9:00am | Breakout sessions

9:15-10:15 | Breakout sessions

10:15-10:45 | Networking & Snack Break

10:45-11:45 | Breakout sessions

Noon-1:30 | General Session & Networking Lunch

1:45-2:30 | Breakout sessions

2:45-3:30 | Breakout sessions

3:30-4pm | Networking & Snack Break

4-5pm | Breakout sessions

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Over the course of two days, the following sessions will be held, including a range of individual presenters, groups, and panels.

[A tentative schedule can be found here.](#)

IMPORTANT Date Change!

May 8-9, 2023

Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging

Both events will be hosted at the Richmond Marriott in Downtown Richmond, 500 East Broad Street, Richmond, Va.

The Conference and planning process is successful because of dedicated community partners, volunteers, and sponsors. **If you are interested in being part of the VGCoA Steering Committee please contact VGCoA Conference Manager, Martina James, martina@vgcoa.com**

May 10, 2023

Virginia Dementia Capable Summit

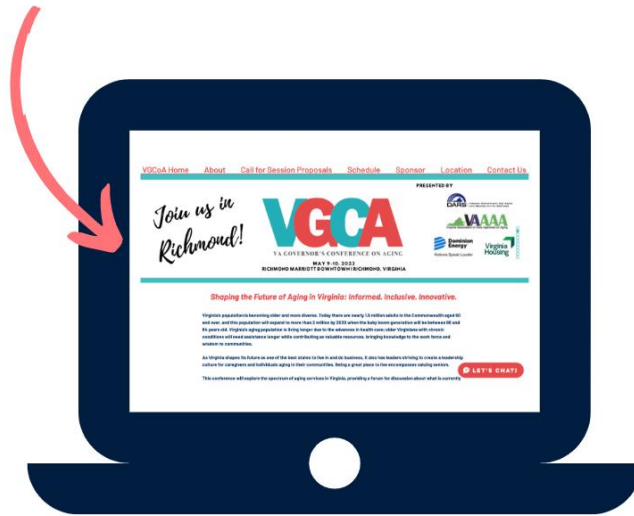
*** Virginia Dementia Capable Summit tickets can be bought as a stand alone ticket. VGCOA registration is not required to attend the Summit.**

This is a special one-day pre-session. The Summit, presented by the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission, DARS, and the Virginia Department of Health, will have a particular focus on advancing brain health and dementia risk reduction and will be a great opportunity to learn about the Dementia State Plan and provide input into the next version of the Plan.

Interested in receiving more information as it is announced? Use the button below to be added to the mailing list!

Visit the Virginia Dementia Capable Summit page of the Conference website

I am interested in attending the Summit and would like more information when available!



VISIT THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE!

Stay up to date with all VGCA news and updates on our new website!

Access the VGCA Website Here!



VGCoA's Webinar Series

We are looking to schedule webinar topics for 2023!

If you are interested in participating in our webinar series as a speaker, or have another speaker or topic you would like us to pursue, please contact Conference staff member, Gillian Saul with your proposed webinar discussions/panels/presentations.

[Email Gillian Saul](#)

Have questions?
Contact VGCOA Conference Staff!

Martina James Nalley
VGCOA Conference Manager

(540) 809-7505

martina@vgcoa.com

Gillian Saul
gillian@vgcoa.com

[Email Martina James](#)

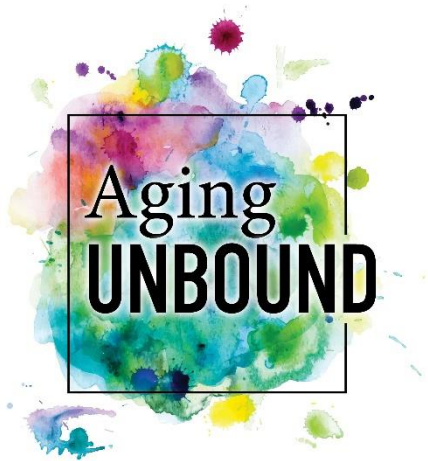
[Email Gillian Saul](#)



OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

OAM 2023 Materials Available

Every May, ACL leads the nation's observance of Older Americans Month (OAM). This year's theme is *Aging Unbound*, which offers an opportunity to explore diverse aging experiences and discuss how communities can combat stereotypes. Join us in promoting flexible thinking about aging – and how we all benefit when older adults remain engaged, independent, and included.



Now available on the OAM website:

- Logos*
- Posters*
- Social media graphics*
- Masthead
- Activity ideas
- Sample article
- Proclamation template

**English and Spanish*

Use these materials to celebrate OAM with your community. Don't forget to follow [#OlderAmericansMonth](https://twitter.com/OlderAmericansMonth) for the latest from ACL and to see what others are planning!

Visit acl.gov/oam



Securing today
and tomorrow

Dear Colleague,

The National Council on Aging, in collaboration with the U.S. Administration for Community Living, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, will host the 6th Annual ***Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium*** on **Thursday, May 11, 2023, from 10:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. ET**. This all-day, virtual event is free and will feature several sessions on how to best meet the mental health needs of older adults.

For more information or to register, please visit the [event](#) page.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bystry
Acting Associate Commissioner
Office of Strategic and Digital Communications
OEA.Net.Post@ssa.gov
[@SSAOutreach](#)



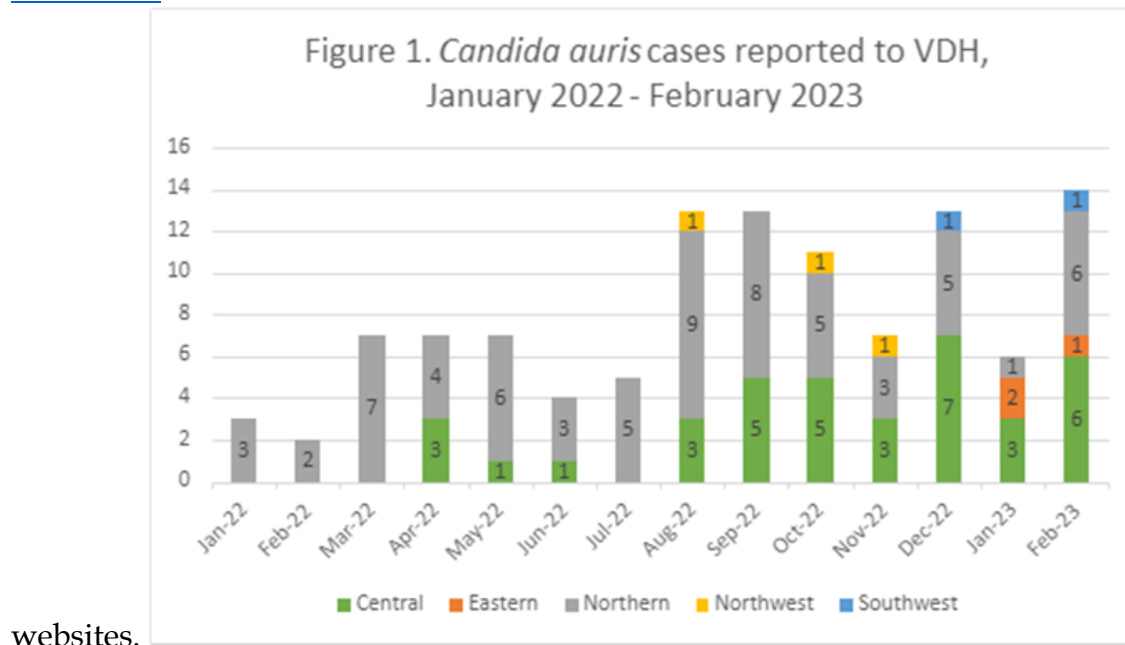
COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health
Increase in *Candida auris* and Carbapenemase-producing Organisms
March 23, 2023

Dear Colleague:

The Virginia Department of Health continues to respond to reports of cases and outbreaks of *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) and/or carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs). *C. auris* is an emerging fungus that presents a serious global health threat. It is often resistant to antifungal drugs used to treat *Candida* infections and can cause outbreaks in healthcare settings. This advisory provides an update on the current epidemiology of these organisms in Virginia and recommendations for prevention and control.

VDH is observing a concerning increase in *C. auris* and CPO cases in Virginia. While most reported cases of *C. auris* and CPOs remain concentrated in Northern Virginia, increasing cases and outbreaks in the Central Region and detection of cases in all regions of Virginia indicate healthcare facilities across the state should be on alert for *C. auris* and CPOs. Case data and additional information can be found on the [VDH *C. auris*](#) [VDH CPO](#)



websites.

Source – Cases – Virginia Electronic Disease Surveillance System, data entered by 3/14/2023. Data is preliminary and subject to change.

CPOs and *C. auris* can cause asymptomatic colonization in patients, which can later lead to infection and transmission of the organism to other patients within a healthcare facility. Co-colonization of CPOs and *C. auris* has also been frequently observed. CPOs are highly antibiotic-resistant organisms that can cause infections that are difficult to treat, and in some cases, infections are resistant to all classes of available antibiotics.

Patients at highest risk for *C. auris* and/or CPO colonization are those who reside in or who have had prolonged admissions to high-risk healthcare facilities (particularly long-term acute care hospitals or ventilator-capable skilled nursing facilities). Persons who have recently spent time in hospitals and have invasive devices (e.g., mechanical ventilation or tracheostomy, feeding tubes, or central venous catheters) are also at high risk.

Prompt implementation of infection prevention and control measures is essential to prevent patient-to-patient transmission of *C. auris* and CPOs in healthcare settings.

VDH recommends the following actions for health care providers:

- Be aware *auris* and CPO cases are on the rise and are causing outbreaks in healthcare facilities. Every region of the state has identified persons infected or colonized with *C. auris* or CPOs.
- Review and implement prevention measures to limit the spread of *C. auris* and CPOs as recommended on the [CDC *C. auris* website](#) and the [CDC Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales website](#).
- Inquire about high-risk exposures in all newly admitted patients and consider *auris* and CPO screening and/or empiric contact precautions in patients at high risk, including those who:
 - Had close contact in a healthcare setting to someone diagnosed with *auris* or CPO infection or colonization.
 - Were admitted from a long-term acute care hospital or a ventilator-capable skilled nursing facility.
 - Had international healthcare exposure within the past year.
- Immediately report any suspected or confirmed *auris* or CPO cases to public health by contacting your [local health department](#) per the [Virginia Reportable Disease List](#).
- Ensure the implementation of appropriate infection prevention and control practices:
 - All healthcare workers should have high adherence to hand hygiene.
 - Patients with suspected or confirmed *auris* or CPOs in healthcare facilities should be managed using contact precautions. Some residents in nursing homes might be eligible to be managed with [enhanced barrier precautions](#) instead of contact precautions.
 - When *auris* is suspected, use healthcare grade disinfectants that are registered with EPA for claims against *C. auris* ([List P](#)). Additionally, high-risk healthcare facilities should consider switching to a List P product prior to identification of *C. auris* due to increasing cases in Virginia.
 - Use checklists to identify who is responsible for cleaning each item and cleaning frequency (e.g., environmental services staff versus clinical staff).

- Reinforce and audit core infection prevention practices in healthcare facilities.
- Conduct periodic education on multi-drug resistant organisms and training on appropriate infection prevention and control practices to healthcare workers.
- Communicate information about colonization or infection with *auris* or CPOs during care transitions within and transfers between healthcare settings.

Laurie Forlano, DO, MPH Acting State Epidemiologist
Acting Director, Office of Epidemiology

A version of this letter is available on the VDH [Resources for Health Care Professionals](#) web page.



Planning Ahead for National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD)

NHDD Communications Toolkit

NHDD is almost here and we have a [new toolkit to make promotion easy](#) for you with images, language and resources for you to use/adapt to promote NHDD to your personal, social, or community circles.

Planning for NHDD 2023: Top 5 Most Frequently Asked Questions

Looking for ideas for planning for and promoting NHDD in your community? We've pulled together some of our most [frequently asked questions about planning for NHDD](#) and created a roadmap with specific examples and resources to help provide answers.

NHDD 2023: Activities in the Works across the Country

Looking for activities or ways to promote NHDD across your community? We work with community champions all over who have shared some fantastic ideas with us, so far, about what they are planning for NHDD 2023. [Here are several ideas](#) brewing that individuals from various organizations across the country shared with us.

Guest Bloggers Share Their Stories

Planning for My Future Health Care Today

The idea of planning for care through the end of life seems distant and hard to grasp for a lot of us — especially those considered young or without current health conditions. When are we at the end? When we're diagnosed with cancer? When we're in the wrong place at the wrong time? "Advance care planning" is similarly vague. In advance of what? Plus, a lot of us

assume a doctor or medical team is responsible for planning our care. [Read more](#) from the newest blog by Aly Lynch.

National Healthcare Decisions Day

A Message from Nathan Kottkamp

Dear National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) Team:

We're now just a month away from NHDD on April 16. Although the Conversation Project theme for the month is "Planning Ahead," for NHDD we need to tweak that a bit to be "Acting Now for Planning Ahead." That's right, it's GO TIME! Now is the time to assemble your team, assemble your resources, and prepare to make a big deal out of NHDD. Having said that, please remember that broad impact with big numbers is fantastic, and NHDD success can (and should) be measured at the individual level. To be sure, we've all seen the sad cases where things went poorly because of a lack of planning. And, we've seen how things can go right, bringing comfort when conversations happen and knowing what matters most to our person is understood and respected - those situations should be your motivation. Finally, please be sure to emphasize the fact that Planning Ahead with Advance Care Planning applies to everyone, regardless of age, regardless of health status, and regardless of health issues (in other words, it applies to end of life issues, mental health issues, choices regarding facilities for care, and anything else that is relevant).

This is the part that is so exciting every year, and I look forward to learning about all your activities and initiatives. Of course, I would be remiss if I did not remind you all to lead by example and ensure that your own advance care planning is in place and conversations have been started. That, alone, is the first step for NHDD success. GO TEAM!!

Nathan A. Kottkamp

Founder and Chair, National Healthcare Decisions Day Initiative

Join the Movement

Events, Webinars, Podcasts

- [Ideas for National Healthcare Decisions Day and Beyond: Looking at Hope in a New Way](#) by Alliant Health Solutions featuring The Conversation Project's Patty Webster and the Institute for Innovation's Dr. Deirdre Mylod | March 23rd
- [Patient Priorities Care Telehealth Course \(free\)](#) | March 21st – June 13th
- [Advance Care Planning Made Easy \(in-person event\)](#) by Kitchen Table Conversations, Sponsored by AARP Texas, Austin, TX | March 29th
- [Your Peace of Mind EOL Plan: How to decide, discuss and document your final wishes BEFORE you go](#) (Webinar, free registration opens April 1st) by Kitchen Table Conversations, Sponsored by AARP Texas | April 25th
- [Reimagine Events](#) on-going virtual events from a variety of hosts who help you reimagine loss, adversity, and mortality, and transform life's challenges into meaning and growth | Ongoing
- [ACP-I Conference](#) by ACP-I Society, Virtual/In-person hybrid, Singapore | May 24th – 27th

OPEN CALL: if you have an upcoming, free virtual (or in-person) event that would be of interest and applicable to a wider audience to attend, please email us at ConversationProject@ihi.org and we'll include it in here, as applicable.

Connect with Others

If you haven't already, view our [Conversation Champions Map](#) to connect with others doing similar work in your area. And, join our [Conversation Champions Discussion Group](#), an online community of local leaders who are dedicated to spreading TCP's initiative to ensure everyone, everywhere expresses their wishes through the end of life.



LeadingAge[®]
Virginia

ART
FOR THE
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Opening Minds through Art



Art for Long-Term Care Residents

With grant funding through the CMS Reinvestment Program, LeadingAge Virginia & Art for the Journey are expanding OMA to reach thousands of older adults.

Two OMA Facilitator Training Scholarships

&

\$2,000 Start-Up Supply Funding

Worth 19 CEUs

Eligibility:

- ✓ Virginia Long-Term Care community
- ✓ Skilled Nursing Facility
- ✓ Medicare/Medicaid Certified

**Trainings offered
throughout the state for
one more year only.**

DISCOVER

OMA

- OMA is an award-winning, intergenerational abstract art program for people living with Alzheimer's disease & dementia.
- OMA empowers people to make independent creative choices within a supportive relationship.
- OMA is based on the PERMA model of well-being: Positive emotion, Engagement, Relationship, Meaningfulness, & Accomplishment.
- OMA is internationally acclaimed & backed by published research.
- OMA meets DSS standards.



Learn more & apply at:

www.artforthejourney.org/omatraining