



**Commonwealth Council on Aging
2025 Annual Report
with
2026 Legislative Recommendations**

Commonwealth of Virginia

Richmond

September 10, 2025

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September 10, 2025

Dear Governor Glenn Youngkin,
Members of the General Assembly, and
Members of the Public:

Members:

Carla Hesseltine, Chair
Ellen Nau, Vice-Chair
Andrea Buck, MD, JD
Jo-Ann Chase
Tracey Gendron, MS, PhD
Hon. Christopher T. Head
Hon. Patrick A. Hope
Joshua L. Myers
Vickie P. Runk
Donna F. Smith
Yolanda Stevens, PhD
Paige H. Wilson
Roland Winston

Ex-Officio Members:

Hon. Janet Vestal Kelly
Kathryn Hayfield
Tara Ragland
Courtney Richter, MSW
Ron D. Boyd

*Virginia Department for Aging and
Rehabilitative Services*

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Pursuant to § 51.5-128 of the Code of Virginia, the Commonwealth Council on Aging ("Council") submits its annual electronic report regarding the activities and recommendations of the Council.

The Council is charged with promoting an efficient, coordinated approach by state government to meet the needs of older Virginians. With approximately 1.9 million adults in Virginia who are over 60 years old, the Council commends the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), the 25 local Area Agencies on Aging, and the array of public and private service providers, all of which provide crucial support to older Virginians and their caregivers.

I am happy to share that the Council had a busy and exciting year. This April, the Legislative Committee of the Council added an additional meeting focused on collaborating with stakeholder organizations within aging services. Twelve organizations representing various fields within aging services gathered to report on their legislative successes from 2025 and share their hopes for 2026. This meeting set the stage for the Council's 2026 Legislative Recommendations which takes a coordinated approach to aging services' legislation.

For your consideration and as you look ahead to the upcoming General Assembly Session, the Council has prepared its 2026 Legislative Recommendations, which focus on three primary areas:

1. Increase Funding for Home and Community-Based Services Through Area Agencies on Aging
2. Increase Funding for the Nursing Home Inspection and Enforcement Process
3. Establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board
4. Strengthen Nursing Home Transparency, Data, and Oversight
5. Increase Funding of the Statewide Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
6. Increase Funding for Public Guardianship Program Slots
7. Provide State General Funds for the Ongoing Operations of the Virginia Memory Project



8. Extend the Sunset for the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission
9. Increase Funding for No Wrong Door's Statewide Resource Database

More information about the 2026 Legislative Recommendations can be found in this report.

Members:

Carla Hesseltine, Chair

Ellen Nau, Vice-Chair

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The Council was also pleased to celebrate its 2025 Best Practices Awards winners. With financial support from Dominion Energy and AARP Virginia, the Best Practices Awards honor model programs that improve the lives of older Virginians and support caregivers. This year's winners highlight the importance of community connections and how arts and culture can create a sense of community and purpose. In addition to onsite recognition ceremonies, the Council partnered with DARS, the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A), and the Steering Committee of the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging to showcase the winners at an evening reception at the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging on May 19, 2025.

Lastly, this summer, the Council was pleased to welcome two new members during the transition to a new structure that aligns with Chapter 583 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly. Vickie P. Runk of the Western Central Region and Donna F. Smith of the Eastern Region, the Council's first Area Agency on Aging Director member to be appointed under the new membership structure.

The Council looks forward to partnering with policymakers in advocating for and supporting older Virginians. I have no doubt that the Council's impact on the Commonwealth of Virginia will continue to grow. Together, we can make Virginia a great place for everyone to grow old.

Sincerely,

Carla Hesseltine, Chair

2025 Best Practices Awards

This year, the Commonwealth Council on Aging celebrated 20 years of its Best Practices Awards. Established in 2006, the Best Practices Awards recognize and encourage the replication of model programs, particularly those that foster aging in place, livable communities and home and community-based services. Sponsored by Dominion Energy since 2012, and with additional funding from AARP Virginia since 2023, the Council encourages the development of these innovative programs.

First Place (\$5,500): Fellowship Fresh at Fellowship Square

Fellowship Square's Fellowship Fresh provides nutrient-dense healthy food to financially vulnerable seniors, enabling them to age in place and avoid the negative health outcomes of food insecurity. Residents of Fellowship Square senior affordable housing communities live on an average Social Security fixed-income of under \$10,000/year. Even with stable housing provided, seniors on limited-incomes often must make tough choices when it comes to healthcare costs vs. groceries. They commonly purchase some of the least healthy food available because of price. But an unhealthy diet can exacerbate senior health conditions like high blood pressure/cholesterol, diabetes, diminish mental acuity and weaken immunity. With Fellowship Fresh, seniors get the food they need to help them eat nutritiously, thrive, maintain independence and age in place. By engaging community organizations, retailers, restaurants, and volunteers to donate and hand-deliver fresh and shelf-stable groceries, FF has distributed more than 429,758lbs of food to the 800+ older adults in Fellowship Square communities (536lbs per resident). Via weekly hand-delivered food bags from volunteers and regular transportation to/from grocery stores, the program prevents food insecurity, provides nutritious food options, helps solve physical challenges of shopping/meal preparation that many seniors face as coordination and balance weaken, and provides a series of cooking classes and community meals that not only nourish residents but also provide social connections critical for senior health.



For more information about Fellowship Fresh, visit: <https://www.fellowshipsquare.org/>

Second Place (\$3,500): The Beat Goes On: A Community Choir Project

The Beat Goes On, started in 2023. This intergenerational community choir is open to all - no audition required. It was designed by music therapists to be both accessible and approachable, while specifically including persons living with dementia (PLWD) and their carepartners. In addition to PLWD and their carepartners, the choir includes college students, faculty, staff, and other community members with an age range of 2-86 years old. Rehearsals are a celebration of togetherness, community, and joy with relationships between people of all ages blossoming. The inaugural season ended with a free community concert – to a packed audience of over 100 - accompanied by a local rock band of retirees to hear the choir sing familiar pop, rock and R&B tunes.

For more information about The Beat Goes On, visit: <https://ads.hdfs.vt.edu/the-beat-goes-on-a-community-choir-project/>

Third Place (\$2,500): Virginia HEAR—Helping Elders Access Resources—Elder Justice and Ageism Program

Virginia Helping Elders Access Resources (HEAR) is a video-based program designed to educate Virginians on elder justice and ageism, working to make Virginia a safer place to grow old. Elder mistreatment is a serious, underreported, and growing social issue, affecting at least 1 in 10 older Americans. Through Virginia HEAR, participants learn to recognize and respond to elder mistreatment using a community-based, multidisciplinary approach to strengthen collective action across the Commonwealth. The program also connects older adults, their families, and caregivers with valuable information and local support resources. Additionally, Virginia HEAR offers opportunities for those passionate about elder justice and serving older adults to champion and facilitate the program in their local communities, expanding awareness and support statewide.

For more information about Virginia HEAR—Helping Elders Access Resources—Elder Justice and Ageism Program, visit: <https://vcoa.chp.vcu.edu/initiatives/abuse-in-later-life/portfolio/hear/>

The Council gave Honorable Mentions to the following organizations:

- **Safety and Wellness for Independent Living**, a program of Lake of the Woods Living Independently in our Community (LOWLINC)
- **Meet Me: Community Outings**, a program of Insight Memory Care Center
- **AGE (Advocacy for Generational Equity) Program** a partnership between Peninsula Area Agency on Aging (PAA) and Christopher Newport University's Social Innovation Studies program

Awards Reception at the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging

The Council, DARS, the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A), and the Steering Committee for the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging joined together to recognize and celebrate the winners of the Council's 2025 Best Practices Awards. The Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging was held May 19-20 in Williamsburg, VA. During an evening reception on May 19th, the Best Practices Award first, second, and third place winners were recognized for their achievements and presented with a plaque.



First Place Winner: Fellowship Fresh pictured from left to right: *Tresserlyn Kelly, Council Vice-Chair and Best Practices Awards Co-Chair; Kristin Norris, President of Fellowship Square Board of Directors; Carla Hesseltine, Council Chair; and Sara Stowe, Council Executive Director*



Second Place Winner: The Beat Goes On: A Community Choir Project pictured from left to right: *Tresserlyn Kelly, Council Vice-Chair and Best Practices Awards Co-Chair; Joanna Culligan, Therapeutic Program Manager for the Engagement Center for Creative Aging at Virginia Tech; Carla Hesseltine, Council Chair; and Sara Stowe, Council Executive Director*



Third Place Winner: Virginia HEAR pictured from left to right: *Tresserlyn Kelly, Council Vice-Chair and Best Practices Awards Co-Chair; Sarah Marrs, Director of Research, Virginia Center on Aging; Aisling Clardy, Project Manager, Virginia HEAR; Carla Hesseltine, Council Chair; and Sara Stowe, Council Executive*

2026 Legislative Recommendations

1. Increase Funding for Home and Community-Based Services Through Area Agencies on Aging

Background: The 25 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in Virginia have been designated by the Commonwealth to provide services that help adults aged 60 and older to live safely and independently in their communities. AAAs provide critical services such as information and assistance; home-delivered and congregate meals; homemaker and personal care services; transportation; legal assistance; caregiver and respite services; Medicare counseling; and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Virginia's AAAs, in partnership with other aging network stakeholders, are requesting additional funding to provide these services to an expanding population in need. Waiting lists are growing for these services, as Virginia's AAAs do not have the resources to help all those in need. In the 2025 Session, the General Assembly increased funding to AAAs by \$750,000.

But that additional funding is not enough. The Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) is seeking \$10 million increased funding each year to meet the need.

Investing in these services now will pay great dividends in the future, reducing health care utilization and long-term care needs. For example, a recent study showed that home delivered meals alone resulted in 50% fewer hospital readmissions, 37% shorter lengths of stay, and 31% total reduction in health care costs.¹ As directed by the Older Americans Act, AAAs also develop partnerships and foster coordinated and comprehensive systems of services that provide an effective alternative to long term care at greatly reduced costs.

This is a budget request. This is also a priority for the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A), Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN), State Long Term Care Ombudsman, and Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia.

¹ Gurvey et al, (2013, June). Examining Health Care Costs Among MANNA Clients and a Comparison Group, Journal of Primary Care and Community Health, DOI: 10.1177/2150131913490737.

2. Increase Funding for the Nursing Home Inspection and Enforcement Process

Background: To ensure compliance with federal standards and to maintain certification from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Virginia nursing homes must regularly undergo periodic inspection surveys from Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Office of Licensure and Certification (OLC). OLC must also investigate and respond to complaints about nursing homes.

All except eight of Virginia's 289 nursing homes are certified for Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement. Nursing homes must be inspected every two years under state licensure, and CMS-certified facilities must be surveyed every 12 months on average to continue to qualify for Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement.² These inspections/surveys protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents, and identify problems concerning staffing, effective staff supervision, enforcement of resident rights, and the quality of care and quality of life of nursing home residents. Without timely inspections/surveys, Virginia's nursing home failures are left unchecked, and residents are put at serious risk.

OLC needs additional staffing and resources to effectively enforce federal and state requirements. CMS data shows that of the 289 nursing homes in Virginia, 129 (or 42%) have not had an inspection survey since 2022, and 34 were last inspected in 2021.³ Additional funding would enable OLC to hire more inspectors/surveyors, enhance staff training, reduce the backlog of nursing homes that have not had timely inspections, and better enforce compliance with state and federal regulations.

This is a budget request. It is also a priority of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

² Virginia Department of Health, Office of Licensure and Certification, <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/licensure-and-certification/division-of-long-term-care-services/>

³ Data.CMS.gov, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, <https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/dataset/svdt-c123> (2024). Note that similar backlogs in Maryland prompted a lawsuit against the Department of Health and the Health Secretary in May 2024; see Shepherd, K., "Nursing Home Residents Sue in Md," The Washington Post, B1 (May 20, 2024).

3. Establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board

Background:⁴ In 2021, 24% of Virginians stopped taking medications as prescribed due to cost. From 2021 to 2022, drug companies increased the prices of more than 1,200 drugs above the rate of inflation, with an average increase of over 31%. AARP Virginia supports the creation of a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) with the authority to set upper payment limits on certain high-cost prescription drugs. The measure would:

- Save taxpayers money by reducing state spending on prescription drugs,
- Help ensure access to life-saving medicine for illnesses like cancer and diabetes, and
- Prevent harmful price-gouging practices by the big drug manufacturers.

The legislation passed the General Assembly in 2025 (HB 1724) and 2024 (HB 570/SB 274), but was vetoed by Governor Youngkin following both General Assembly Sessions.

This is a legislative item with budget implications. It is also a priority for AARP Virginia.

⁴ AARP Virginia: 2025-26 Legislative Priorities

4. Strengthen Nursing Home Transparency, Data, and Oversight

Background: Requiring the disclosure of ownership, cost and quality reporting data from nursing homes is essential to ensuring that older Americans receive high quality, cost-effective care in these settings. It is needed by consumers making decisions about their short and long-term rehabilitative needs, and by licensure and oversight officials who are responsible for screening out or properly monitoring nursing home providers with a history of substandard care that places residents at risk and squanders stretched taxpayer dollars.

This is a particularly critical need in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Findings released in July of 2022 by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (within the federal Department of Health and Human Services) revealed that from 2016 to 2021, Virginia had the 4th highest percentage of nursing home ownership changes in the nation, with 35% of the state's facilities changing ownership during that 5-year period. In 2021, Virginia had the highest percentage of ownership changes.⁵ Each year nursing homes funnel billions of dollars through related party companies, companies they also own, with little to no oversight at the federal or state level. Without requirements that nursing homes provide more transparent (i.e., clear, accurate, and understandable) cost reports that fully disclose ownership and financing structures, revenues, and expenditures, there can be no true accountability for the billions of taxpayer dollars awarded annually to such operators.

The Commonwealth Council on Aging proposes the following actions:

- Requiring disclosures to the oversight agency (Virginia Department of Health) of ownership, cost reporting, and quality metrics at the time of a nursing home's initial application for licensure to operate; annually, through clear annual cost reporting; and at any point at which the owner/operator seeks to change the terms of licensure (e.g., change in ownership or company restructuring or with the addition or reduction in the number of licensed beds).
- Using these disclosures to strengthen criteria and approval processes for licensure of nursing homes. This should include improving notice to, and input by, the public and other interested stakeholders; establishing clear screening mechanisms to determine an applicant's capacity to provide quality care; and defining clear criteria to deny licenses to operators with a history of providing poor care.

This is a legislative request. It is also a priority of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

⁵ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2022, July 7). Changes in ownership of skilled nursing facilities from 2016 to 2021: Variations by geographic location and quality. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/78aae3d6d528e77a729288746ccc2e84/changes-ownership-snf.pdf>.

5. Increase Funding of the Statewide Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Background: The State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program acts as a voice for long-term care facility residents in nursing home and assisted living residents as well as those who receive home and community-based services. The Program works tirelessly to resolve care problems and issues of basic resident rights. Individuals who are denied care may experience preventable complications and hospitalizations, costing taxpayer dollars and inflicting unnecessary suffering on a vulnerable population. Early intervention by a long-term care ombudsman representative can save money, prevent harm or abuse, and maintain the resident's dignity. The Program's services are needed now more than ever as oversight and enforcement processes struggle to provide timely and effective responses and as trends in long-term care facility ownership and operations that too often place profits over patients.

The General Assembly adopted the recommended national standard of one ombudsman representative for every 2,000 long-term care beds (Code of Virginia § [51.5-135 A 9](#)) but has never funded the Program at the level necessary to achieve that ratio. Across most of Virginia, Program coverage is hamstrung by the lack of sufficient funding to recruit and retain staff with adequate knowledge, skills, and professional experience to carry out their complex roles and cover operating costs. In some areas of the state, coverage is as low as one ombudsman representative per 5,000 beds. A fully funded Program will be better equipped to respond to the needs. The Council recommends fully funding the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program with an additional investment of \$1.5 million each year.

This is a budget request. It is also a priority of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman and Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN).

6. Increase Funding for Public Guardianship Program Slots

Background: The Virginia Public Guardian & Conservator Program (“PGP”) was established in 1998, to provide guardianship (and conservatorship) services for incapacitated, indigent adults who have no one else to serve as their legal decisionmaker. Each of the eleven contracted providers are allocated a portion of the 1,349 slots, each one representing a client for whom they must provide guardianship, and sometimes conservatorship, services.

Funding for the 1,349 PGP client slots is currently separated into two categories: 1,251 slots are funded at \$5,000 per slot annually, and 98 are funded at \$7,000 per slot annually.⁶ The rate difference between the two slot categories no longer reflects a difference in client acuity, and the rates have not increased since SFY 2018, resulting in stagnant salaries for the employees responsible for crucial client oversight, decision making, and advocacy. It is increasingly difficult for providers to recruit new staff with the necessary skills and commitment to their clients and provide high-quality services.

While salaries have not increased, the acuity and intensity of client needs has increased, which is affecting the retention of experienced staff. Providers are responsible for ensuring 24-hour, 365-day coverage for their clients, many of whom have serious a mental illness, brain injury, dementia, and/or a developmental disability. Many of these individuals experience frequent illnesses, psychiatric hospitalization, homelessness, and incarceration, among other destabilizing factors.

In order to shore up the funding for the PGP and ensure its ongoing viability, the Commonwealth Council on Aging recommends funding all PGP client slots at a rate of \$7,000/slot annually (total \$2,502,000).

This is a budget request. It is also a priority of the Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Advisory Board.⁷

⁶ See 2025 Appropriation Act Item 315 B:

<https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/item/2025/1/HB1600/Chapter/1/315/>.

⁷ Pending formal adoption at the Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Advisory Board’s meeting on September 16, 2025.

7. Provide State General Funds for the Ongoing Operations of the Virginia Memory Project

Background: The Virginia Memory Project (VMP) is a statewide data registry specifically focused on quantifying the impact of brain health and neurodegenerative disorders in the Commonwealth. Housed within the Virginia Center on Aging at Virginia Commonwealth University and operated in close partnership with the Virginia Department of Health, the VMP collects and cultivates data about caregiving, neurodegenerative disorders, therapeutics, and conditions associated with brain health. In addition to the data collection, the VMP has a secure resource and education hub, which links enrollees with appropriate regional support. The VMP has been identified as vital to a dementia-capable Virginia because it provides essential, accessible, and cost-free information and education that can be used to inform data-driven policy and support equitable, effective resource allocation.

During the 2024 General Assembly session, the VMP was codified by HB 1455 (see Code of Virginia [§ 23.1-2311.1](#) of the Code of Virginia). However, current funding for the VMP is provided through time-limited grants; ongoing, reliable funding is needed to support the VMP in continuing its important work in Virginia.

This is a budget request. It is also a priority of the Alzheimer's Association. Additional information about the VMP may be found [here](#).

8. Extend the Sunset for the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission

Background: Extending the sunset provision for Virginia's Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Commission is essential to sustain the Commonwealth's coordinated response to the growing numbers of people living with dementia.⁸ According to the 2023 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 1 in 6 Virginians over the age of 45 report changes in thinking or memory that are worsening over time.

The ADRD Commission leads the development and oversight of Virginia's Dementia State Plan, updated every four years, most recently for 2024-2027. The Plan addresses care coordination, caregiver support, public awareness and brain health promotion. The ADRD Commission also facilitates cross-agency collaboration, bringing together leaders from health, aging, behavioral health, medical and social services to align efforts and resources. Recent initiatives, such as the Dementia Capable Summit held in 2023, have supported broader ongoing stakeholder engagement with the ADRD Commission. This engagement includes the addition of thirty non-ADRD Commission members to the Dementia State Plan workgroups and enhanced communication from the ADRD Commission related to progress on the Dementia State Plan throughout the four-year Plan period.

Ensuring continuity in leadership, planning and advocacy by extending the ADRD Commission's authority is vital for building a dementia-capable Virginia that meets the needs of individuals and families affected by these conditions. The Commonwealth Council on Aging recommends extending its sunset by three years to July 1, 2029.

This is a legislative request. It is also a priority of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission and the Alzheimer's Association.

⁸ The ADRD Commission is established and authorized under Code of Virginia § 51.5-154: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title51.5/chapter14/section51.5-154/>.

9. Increase Funding for No Wrong Door's Statewide Resource Database

Background: VirginiaNavigator (formerly SeniorNavigator) is an award-winning, Virginia-grown public-private partnership that leverages technology and community collaboration to address the complex needs of older adults, caregivers, people with disabilities, veterans, and their families. It offers a comprehensive online resource directory featuring nearly 27,000 programs and services tailored to these groups.

Since 2004, VirginiaNavigator has partnered closely with the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to fulfill the directive outlined in the Appropriation Act: "to support the distribution of comprehensive health and aging information to Virginia's senior population, their families and caregivers."⁹

Access to accurate, reliable, and unbiased information about local programs and services is essential to planning for long-term care, wellness, and health needs across the lifespan—especially for our most vulnerable populations.

Despite the growing need, state appropriations for this essential service were cut by 49.5% between 2004 and 2011 and have remained flat for more than 14 years since. This stagnant funding has failed to keep pace with inflation, rising technology costs, and the overall cost of doing business. Meanwhile, demand and workload have increased significantly; since 2004, the number of program listings and profiles in VirginiaNavigator's resource directory has grown by 144% and the number of Virginians served by the organization annually has increased by over 400%.

VirginiaNavigator, with the Commonwealth Council on Aging's support, is seeking \$165,000 annually in restored funding to bridge the ongoing funding gap. Sustained and adequate investment is urgently needed to ensure continued access to trustworthy information that supports informed decision-making and strengthens the health and well-being of Virginians across the Commonwealth -- while expanding capacity for critical work at Virginia's health and human service agencies.

This is a budget request. Additional information about VirginiaNavigator may be found [here](#).

⁹ 2025 Appropriation Act Item 315 F: <https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/item/2025/1/HB1600/Chapter/1/315/>.

2025 Meetings, Presentations, and Activities

During this reporting period, the Commonwealth Council on Aging met virtually on January 7, 2025, due to the Active State of Emergency, as permitted by §§ 2.2-3701, 2.2-3707(I), and 2.2-3708.2 and in-person on March 12, July 15, and September 10, 2025.

Council meetings featured presentations on:

Overview of the new
Virginia State
Legislative
Information System
(LIS)

Regional Older Adults
Facility Mental Health
Support Team (RAFT)

Civil Monetary Penalty
Fund and Nursing
Facility Quality
Improvement
Program

Older Americans Act
(OAA) New Regulations
and Virginia's State Plan
for Aging Services
Amendments

State Long-Term
Care Ombudsman
Program Overview

Policy
Interventions to
Address Barriers
to Aging in Place

Overview of
Assisted Living
Inspections by
VDSS

Overview of
VirginiaNavigator

On April 8, 2025, the Legislative Committee of the Council added an additional meeting focused on collaborating with stakeholder organizations within aging services. Twelve organizations representing various fields within aging services gathered to report on their legislative successes from 2025 and share their hopes for 2026. This meeting set the stage for the Council's 2026 Legislative Recommendations which takes a coordinated approach to aging services' legislation.

On July 15, 2025, the Council also approved a revised Electronic Participation and Meeting Policy. The Council plans to adopt such a policy annually as required by FOIA.

Looking ahead, the Commonwealth Council on Aging will meet on:

- Thursday, December 18, 2025
- Wednesday, March 18, 2026
- Wednesday, July 22, 2026
- Wednesday, September 16, 2026

COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL ON AGING MEMBERSHIP

The purpose of the Commonwealth Council on Aging shall be to promote an efficient, coordinated approach by state government to meeting the needs of older Virginians. (Code of Virginia § 51.5-127)

Council Members	
Andrea Buck, MD, JD Gubernatorial Appointee Term ends 6/30/2026	Ellen Nau, <u>Vice-Chair</u> Gubernatorial Appointee Term ends 6/30/2026
Jo-Ann Chase Gubernatorial Appointee Term ends 6/30/2026	Carla Hesseltine, <u>Chair</u> Gubernatorial Appointee Term ends 6/30/2026
Joshua L. Myers House Speaker Appointee Term ends 6/30/2026	The Honorable Patrick A. Hope Delegate, House Speaker Appointee Term ends 1/13/2026
Paige H. Wilson Gubernatorial Appointee Term ends 6/30/2026	Roland Winston Senate Rules Committee Appointee Term ends 6/30/2028
The Honorable Christopher T. Head Senator, Senate Rules Committee Appointee Term ends 6/30/2028	Yolanda Stevens, PhD House Speaker Appointee Term ends 6/30/2028
Tracey Gendron, MS, PhD Executive Director of the Virginia Center on Aging Term N/A	Vickie P. Runk Gubernatorial Appointee Term ends 6/30/2029
Donna F. Smith Gubernatorial Appointee Term ends 6/30/2029	
Ex Officio Members	
The Honorable Janet Vestal Kelly Secretary of Health and Human Resources	
Kathryn Hayfield, Commissioner Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services	
Tara Davis-Ragland Virginia Department of Social Services	
Ron D. Boyd Representative, Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging	
Courtney Richter, MSW Department of Medical Assistance Services	
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