Virginia Caregiver Coalition

“...dedicated to improving the caregiving experience through education, advocacy and resource accessibility so that caregivers are valued and supported.”

Start-Up Process

- The Virginia Caregiver Coalition (VCC) was formed in 2004 with an informal group of 21 professionals and 1 family caregiver (founding members) who attended a coalition building training sponsored by AARP. The Coalition was focused on the caregivers of older adults.
- Currently, there are more than 130 active and consulting members in the statewide coalition. The Coalition has a diverse representation of professional and family caregivers of individuals of all ages, disabilities, and chronic conditions.

Structure

- The VCC is housed at the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Richmond, Virginia. DARS serves as the VCC’s fiscal agent.
- The VCC is governed by an Executive Board. The Executive Board is composed of the VCC’s Officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary (Executive Committee). Other members of the Executive Board include: a representative from the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, a representative from the Founding Members of the Coalition, a representative from the State ADRC Advisory Council, the Immediate Past Chairman of the Coalition, Standing Committee Co-Chairmen and the Coalition’s Publicity Chairman.
- The Standing Committees include: Education and Programming, Membership, and Advocacy.

Staff

- There are no paid staff positions at the VCC; however, there is extensive support from the DARS Program Coordinator who is responsible for the administration of the National Family Caregiver Support Program and the Lifespan Respite Care Grant.

Funding

- The VCC received limited funding from the DARS program coordinator’s participation in a National Alliance for Caregiving project. The VCC also received a small stipend from the DARS 2025 program.
- In 2014 DARS received the Janet Sainer RAPP Award which included a small monetary gift that was given to the VCC.
- DARS provides administrative, meeting, and videoconferencing support for the VCC.

Membership

- VCC membership includes volunteers from a variety of governmental agencies, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and family caregivers.
- There is no membership fee to join the VCC, but members are required to complete a formal membership form indicating their willingness to serve as an active or consulting member of the VCC, and their interest in participating in a Standing Committee.

Meetings and Communication

- Full member meetings are held bi-monthly and are announced through flyers via email networks, and the DARS Facebook Page.
- Members may participate in meetings at the DARS – Aging Conference Room, or at a variety of video conference sites throughout the Commonwealth. Participation by teleconference is also available.
An educational component and a VCC business section are part of each meeting. Meetings are open to the public.

The Executive Committee meets in the months that there is not a general VCC Meeting. Standing committees also meet bi-monthly.

**Major Activities**

- Partnership with DARS in implementing the Virginia Lifespan Respite Care Program and Lifespan Respite Care Voucher Program.
- Various trainings held during the VCC’s eleven year history.
- Presentation about the Coalition at the 2009 NCOA/ASA National Conference.
- Annual November recognition of National Family Caregiver’s Month.

**Documents/Resources Available**

- Electronic or Hard Copy
- By-Laws, Policies & Guidelines
- Meeting Flyers
- Caregiver Resource Manual – Electronic Copy DARS-Division for the Aging Website
- A Practical Guide to Respite for Your Family – by Partnership for People with Disabilities, Virginia Commonwealth University

**State Contact Information**

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