

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

TO: Community Organizations, Communities of Faith, and Others Providing
Services to Older Virginians

FROM: Richard Lindsay, MD
Chairman, Commonwealth Council on Aging

SUBJECT: 2007 Best Practices Award Program

The Commonwealth Council on Aging is pleased to announce the 2007 Best Practices Award Program targeted to organizations serving older Virginians and their families (see attached). As we all struggle to meet the challenges of serving a rapidly aging population during a time of budget cuts and growing demand, we need to share our best practices and applaud our successes. This Best practices Award program will do both. It will recognize best practices in ten (10) different categories.

The programs selected for recognition in 2007 will also be recognized for their efforts in providing services to meet the needs of an aging population. Nominations for the 2007 must be received by **5 PM on Friday, April 20, 2007**. For more information about the 2007 Awards program, please contact Gwen Mullen at 703-548-9899. Nomination forms may also be downloaded by going to the Department for the Aging's website and clicking on "new." The website is www.vda.virginia.gov.

This is the first Best Practices recognition program sponsored by the administration since the former Governor's Advisory Board on Aging recognized model programs back in 1997. In 2006, the Council recognized the following nine (9) organizations as examples of best practices:

The **Central Virginia Task Force on Older Battered Women** sponsored by the Virginia Center on Aging at VCU, Richmond, VA. Nominated in the Community Partnerships Category.

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The **Caregivers Community Network** sponsored by James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. Nominated in the Education Category.

The program to **Increase Physical Activity for Rural Older Adults in Southwest Virginia** sponsored by Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Big Stone Gap, VA. Nominated in the Healthy Aging (Physical) Category.

The **Arlington County Senior Adult Mental Health Program** sponsored by the Arlington County Department of Human Services, Arlington, VA. Nominated in the Healthy Aging (Mental) Category.

The **Healing Zone Project** sponsored by SeniorConnections: The Capital Area Agency on Aging, Richmond, VA. Nominated in the Healthy Aging (Wellness) Category.

Reusable Home Access Ramps sponsored by District Three Senior Services, Marion, VA. Nominated in the Housing Category.

The **Humanitarian Visitor Program** sponsored by the Citizen's Committee to Protect the Elderly, Virginia Beach, VA. Nominated in the Long-Term Care Category.

The **Financial Exploitation Action Team** sponsored by a community partnership in Virginia Beach, VA. Nominated in the Senior Safety Category.

Four County Transit sponsored by the Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens in Cedar Bluff, VA. Nominated in the Transportation Category.

Please share the attached information about the 2007 Best Practices Award with other organizations in your community and encourage them to share their best practices with us. Together we can ensure that Virginia remains a great place in which to grow older.

Attachments