



News Release

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NEW DARS DIVISION ALIGNS AGING, COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES PROGRAMS

(RICHMOND, Va.) — The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services has established the Division for Community Living, combining its aging and community based services programs into a single division.

DARS partners with more than 60 community based organizations, including area agencies on aging, centers for independent living, senior employment programs and brain injury programs, which look to the agency for oversight and funding.

Marcia DuBois, who was previously director of the agency's Division for the Aging, is Deputy Commissioner for the Division for Community Living, effective Oct. 1. "This is an exciting opportunity to leverage the wealth of knowledge and experience across programs to better serve older Virginians and individuals with disabilities," DuBois said.

"This change aligns units with similar functions such as grant management, program monitoring and auditing per state or federal requirements," said DARS Commissioner Jim Rothrock.

DuBois cited as an example of the new division's internal collaboration a recent \$554,525 federal grant awarded to DARS to expand Virginia's falls prevention programs for older adults, including those with early dementia. "This grant allows our new division to work together and with our partners to sustain their prevention work," DuBois said.

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The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, 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. For more information, visit www.vadars.org or follow DARS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vadars or Twitter at @vadars.