

**Virginia Center on Aging (VCoA)
School of Allied Health Professions
Virginia Commonwealth University
Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2009-2010**

Executive Summary

- Two grant proposals funded for calendar year 2009, totaling \$44,708: domestic violence in later life (\$35,390) and family violence (\$9,318).
- A major multi-year collaborative \$2.2 M project on geriatric education developed and submitted in national competition, for consideration by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration of HHS.
- Continuing work in our three-year federally funded elder abuse project for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges (\$108,400 in FY 2009-10), and our partnered grant project (with VCU Psychology) on Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for dementia caregivers (\$21,950 in FY 2009-10)).
- Geriatric workforce projects supported by VCoA through our administration of the General Assembly's appropriation for Geriatric Training and Education (GTE): 16 different initiatives across Virginia (\$216,460).
- Solicited, reviewed, and awarded five ARDRAF seed grants (\$37,000 each) to Virginia researchers, using peer third party reviewers, for a total of 122 awards since program inception.
- Significant involvement in multi-party effort to conceptualize and establish the Four-Year Plan of the Virginia Department for the Aging.
- Developing, community testing, and launching with our partner Senior Navigator central features of the *Take Back Your Life* project on domestic violence in later life, funded by the Cameron and Verizon Foundations.
- Declining Exploritas/Elderhostel enrollments, with 755 older learners in our four sites (Harrisonburg, Natural Bridge, Richmond, and Staunton). Implementation of several measures for increased program efficiency and cost reduction, but Exploritas, Inc. failed to include several of our programs in national catalogues sent to prospective registrants.
- At least one scholarly publication and five presentations at professional societies, by four VCoA faculty and staff.

- At least 13 university-community engagements where VCoA is regularly and continuously involved in community-based partnerships to address identified needs.

1. Progress on Objectives for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

VCoA listed six objectives for 2009-2010, which are organized according to our legislated mandates of interdisciplinary studies, research, and information and resource sharing. Brief notes follow, with greater detail later in the report.

Interdisciplinary Studies

1. VCoA committed to maintaining much-needed geriatric training across Virginia, amidst a depressed economy and continuing fiscal cuts, by developing a consortium of institutions of higher education to seek and obtain federal funding for a Geriatric Education Center to be headquartered at VCoA. We did so, even while sustaining another permanent reduction of 16% in our appropriation from the General Assembly. VCoA led a consortium of three universities (VCU, UVA, and EVMS) in proposal development, submitting its application in late April 2010 to the U.S. Health Resources Administration for award as a Geriatric Education Center. (This project was awarded in July 2010, just into the 2010-2011 fiscal year).
2. VCoA intended to continue its leadership in matters of domestic and family violence in later life. We sought and obtained greater engagement of prosecutors and judges in our federal OVW project, e.g., involving 15 circuit court judges in our Norfolk workshop. VCoA also gained a no-cost extension to continue work on this project.
3. VCoA satisfied its intention to continue leadership within the Area Planning and Services Committee (APSC), expanding its membership, and co-sponsoring both a fall regional workshop (*There is No Place Like Home: Supporting Aging in Place*) and one spring statewide conference (*Creative Roads to Inclusion*) that focused on aging with lifelong, developmental disabilities.

Research

4. VCoA continued its administration of and advocacy for, the Alzheimer's and Related Diseases Research Award Fund (ARDRAF), to stimulate promising lines of inquiry into the causes, consequences, and treatments of dementing illnesses. We received 22 full proposals for review by third party experts, resulting in five awards.

Information and Resource Sharing

5. VCoA intended to maintain its extensive university-community partnerships, by committing VCoA staff to serve on the boards and task forces of at least six non-profit aging-related organizations, offering *pro bono* gerontological expertise, leadership, and technical assistance to the benefit of the elders and families that they serve. VCoA exceeded this goal, with its staff serving in at least 19 positions.
6. VCoA continued to partner with statewide aging-related organizations in order to disseminate research findings and to expand training for professionals across Virginia. VCoA co-developed and co-sponsored nine workshops and conferences, all but one being annual events, as part of its commitment to research translation and knowledge transfer.

Research

1. VCoA continued its evaluation of an evolving, partnered project to assist employers in central Virginia, including the VCU Health System, who wish to help their employees who are family caregivers. The project, Workplace Partners for Eldercare, was re-funded through December 2009.

2. Contributions to the University, Fiscal 2009-2010

Initiatives supporting the VCU 2020 Strategic Plan:

- “Taking our position among the top research institutions”
 - VCoA has successfully helped secure two grant projects this year, and a no-cost extension.
- “Serving VCU’s many communities”
 - VCoA’s work is addressing statewide both the aging and disabilities communities. Initiatives during this fiscal year focused on lifelong learning, employed workers who are family caregivers, training of professionals in geriatrics, aging with lifelong disabilities, and domestic and sexual violence against older women.
- “Developing a global presence”
 - VCoA is representing VCU in a continuing pioneering collaboration to introduce applied educational gerontology in Japan and India,

subsequent to successful international gerontology synthesis conferences in Tokyo (July 2004), Okinawa (March 2007) and Visakhapatnam (March 2009).

- “Leveraging our strengths and building bridges through interdisciplinary activities”
 - VCoA partnered with 29 units of VCU, as well as with at least 360 local or regional, and 49 statewide, agencies, departments, non-profits, organizations or businesses across Virginia, in calendar 2009 in interdisciplinary training, research, and information sharing.

- “Maintaining VCU as a Model for University/Community Partnerships”
 - VCoA co-maintains the Lifelong Learning Institute in Chesterfield through a partnership with the Chesterfield County Public Schools, and the support of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors. In fiscal 2009-2010 the LLI conducted 329 classes, over three terms, engaging over 600 mid-life and older students.

 - VCoA directs the multi-jurisdictional Area Planning and Services Committee (APSC) as a model project to address the needs of aging adults with lifelong disabilities and their family caregivers. APSC membership covers Richmond City, Chesterfield, Hanover, and Henrico counties and includes representatives from VCU, agencies in intellectual disabilities, deafness/hard of hearing, healthcare, parks and recreation, aging services, communities of faith, and other sectors, as well as family caregivers.

 - VCoA and Senior Connections: The Capital Area Agency on Aging partnered to complete two multi-year collaborative projects in December 2009: 1) *Workplace Partners for Eldercare*, funded by the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation, to assist caregiving employees of some 20 employers in central Virginia; VCoA collected and analyzed data from on-line survey and in-person interviews with human resources managers and work/life coordinators to determine extant elder care programs or services and potential initiatives; 2) *Virginia Respite Care*, funded by the Virginia Department for the Aging, to provide respite services to caregivers through scholarships for adult day care, in-home personal care, etc. and to train these caregivers in coping strategies; VCoA’s evaluation documented changes in caregiver stress and the need for supportive services.

3. Highlights of Accomplishments

Listed according to our three primary mandates in the Code of Virginia:

Interdisciplinary Studies

Geriatric Training and Education (GTE)

VCoA administers the Geriatric Training and Education (GTE) initiative, an annual appropriation from the General Assembly to help build up the capacity of Virginia's geriatric workforce. GTE is the only state funded geriatric education offered in the Commonwealth. We received proposals on September 1st, November 1st, and January 5th in the current fiscal year and, after third party review, awarded 16 projects in amounts from \$1,000 to \$25,000 that are affecting Virginians in each geographic region. Some of these workforce projects included:

- *Working Together: Third Annual Community Conference on Senior Care*, by the Legal Justice Aid Center
- *Scholarships for non-geriatric healthcare professionals to attend the 2010 Virginia Geriatrics Conference*, by the VCU Department of Geriatric Medicine
- *Statewide Palliative Care Training for Long Term Care Nursing Staff Using End-of-Life*, by the Virginia Association of Nonprofit Homes for the Aging
- *Training and Education in the Use and Implementation of the POST Form*, by the Palliative Care Partnership of the Roanoke Valley
- *Aging through a Different Mirror: Intellectual Disabilities, Aging & Dementia* by the Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services Board
- *Geriatric Training and Education Scholarships*, by the Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
- *Building Aging Competencies: Gerontology Training for Counselors*, by the Center for Excellence in Aging and Geriatric Health
- *VERC/VGA Annual Conference*, by the Virginia Guardianship Association
- *Geriatric Education for Practical Nursing Students*, by the South Central Area Health Education Center
- *Leaders Laying the Foundation for Culture Change*, by the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Central Virginia Training Alliance to Stop Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

This training alliance received continuation funding by the US Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women for the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2010 for additional program activities. These include providing a training event for direct service providers and government workers, conducting strategic planning around outreach and service delivery, and implementing outreach and service delivery to older victims. Continuation activities build upon the initial award's justice training and collaborative systems change work, including building cross-sector collaboration (investigation to prosecution) and establishing expertise through training. VCoA provides management and coordination for both the initial and continuation projects. Paula Kupstas is Project Director.

Trainings for justice professionals	July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010	Since October 1, 2006
Local judges attending national judicial institute	0	2
Virginia circuit court judges attending six-hour workshop in Norfolk (from all over state)	15	15
Prosecutors attending national prosecutor training	4	13
Number of two-day local law enforcement trainings	4	12
Number of local law enforcement attending two-day trainings	77	268
No. of law enforcement agencies represented	15	49
Number of four-hour in-service sessions conducted at Richmond Police Academy	10	10
Richmond sworn officers attending four-hour in-service	203	203

Alcohol and Aging Awareness Group (AAAG)

Responding to an Act of the General Assembly requiring all state agencies to plan for the aging of Virginia, VCoA collaborated with the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to form the Alcohol and Aging Awareness Group (AAAG) to address alcohol misuse and the interactions of alcohol and

medications. The Group has developed a website, written and produced informative brochures for the public, and initiated training forums for service providers on assessing, screening, and referring older adults at risk. This fiscal year the Group:

- Sponsored the *Get Connected Toolkit Training* on September 24, 2008, to teach use of this effective federal product
- Conducted the second *The Hidden Epidemic* conference in April 2009 for a statewide audience of social workers, nurses, and other service providers on the signs and symptoms of alcohol misuse in older adults and the potential risk of alcohol and medication interactions
- Distributed the DVD from the previous *The Hidden Epidemic* conference and conducted a public awareness media campaign.

Elderhostel and Lifelong Learning

VCoA has offered Elderhostel (briefly renamed Exploritas during this period) learning programs for older adults since 1979, but the current economic recession has presented the greatest challenge in our history. VCoA is also founding co-sponsor (2003) of the Lifelong Learning Institute of Chesterfield, whose growing operations are discussed separately under “Community Partnerships.” Dr. Jane Stephan directs VCoA’s Elderhostel and lifelong learning programs, while Catherine Dodson coordinates Richmond Elderhostel. Noteworthy Elderhostel achievements in this fiscal year include:

- Enrollments Continue to Decline. VCU-Elderhostel programs in Richmond, Natural Bridge, Staunton, and Harrisonburg drew 755 participants in 34 four-day and six-day programs during FY 2009-2010, compared to 1,084 in 44 programs the previous year; the fill rate or average attendance for each program did rise to 22. The Staunton programs are in partnership with the American Shakespeare Center.
- One of VCoA’s newer Natural Bridge programs, *A 21st Century Chautauqua*, evokes the concept and atmosphere of its namesake, a 19th century learning camp in upstate New York. The August 2009 *Chautauqua* showcased 12 of our best instructors from all four of our traditional Elderhostel locations, i.e., Natural Bridge, Richmond, Staunton, and Hampton Roads. Our *Chautauqua* allows us to expand enrollment from the usual 44 learners (one program) to 120 (three programs), and, in fact, filled to capacity; participants rated Chautauqua extremely highly and VCoA intends to expand this concept.

Central Virginia Task Force on Domestic Violence in Later Life

VCoA is the leading agency in the Central Virginia Task Force on Domestic Violence in Later Life, a regional collaboration of aging services, criminal justice professionals, domestic and sexual violence programs, and allied professionals working to raise awareness and improve the community response to older women who experience domestic and sexual violence. VCoA administers two grant projects on behalf of the Task Force:

- Central Virginia Task Force on Domestic Violence in Later Life Project: The Virginia Center on Aging, as lead agency, was awarded \$35,390 in continuation funding to administer and implement this project in calendar year 2010. Funding is through the Virginia Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution (V-STOP) Violence against Women grant program, administered by the Virginia Dept. of Criminal Justice Services. Those trained during this year include: domestic violence/ sexual violence program staff, 6; health professionals, 30; prosecutors/ victim witness, 15; professionals in aging services, 8; Law Enforcement, 52; Faith Community, 58; and Students, 25. Total number trained: 182.
- Family Violence Project: The Virginia Center on Aging, as lead agency, was awarded \$9,318 in continuation funding to administer and implement this statewide project in calendar year 2010. Funding is through the Virginia Domestic Violence Victim Fund, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. We worked with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance and Henrico police to produce a statewide training conference in August. Lisa Furr led trainings and consultations at sites across Virginia, including: Abingdon Coordinated Community Response Team, 36 participants; Department of Criminal Justice Services: a) Virginia Victim Assistance Academy, 31 participants, and b) Sexual Violence Training of Trainers, 40; Network Conference for Victim Witness Advocates, 80; Norfolk Sexual Assault Response Team, 28; Office of Attorney General, training of prosecutors and law enforcement, 55; Rappahannock DV and SV Coordinating Council, 25; Samaritan House Board of Directors, Virginia Beach, 24; Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, Statewide Family Violence Hotline, 3; and Shelter for Help and Emergency Services in Charlottesville, 10. Total number trained: 298.

Take Back Your Life

VCoA collaborated with Senior Navigator in pilot-testing an innovative, positive, community-based and interactive confidential Internet project to assist victims of domestic violence in later life; this pilot, funded by the Verizon Foundation and the Cameron Foundation, concentrates on the Tri-Cities area of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, and Petersburg, anticipating future statewide replication. The initiative seeks to raise awareness in the region: 1) that domestic violence occurs in later

life, 2) that there are unique aspects of domestic violence in later life, and 3) that faith-based leaders and community-based leaders can respond and help people in abusive situations to take back their lives. The project seeks to give individuals, clergy, faith community (parish) nurses, lay leaders, and professionals a better understanding of the issues specific to the older adult population and equip them with resources for those in need. Key components include convening focus groups, designing an online “Solution Center,” developing a training module for faith-based leaders and community-based providers, and launching the Solution Center and deploying the training module. During fiscal 2009-2010, the project:

- Built upon results from focus groups (28 participants plus two key informants, held in five locations, with representation from every city and county across the Cameron region) to advise development of Solution Center content.
- Conducted two Community Partner Meetings (15 participants in October 2009 and 17 participants in March 2010)

Older Dominion Partnership:

VCoA was central to the conceptualization and launching of the Older Dominion Project, a broad undertaking by businesses, government, and non-profits, led by the Southeastern Institute of Research, to understand the aging of Virginia, create appropriate business opportunities, and increase public awareness of the implications for Baby Boomers and other generations. VCoA’s Paula Kupstas and Ed Ansello are currently serving on the Statewide Database Work Group.

Virginia Victim Assistance Academy (VVAA)

Partnering in a federal project led by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, VCoA helped to launch week-long residential academies for law enforcement and victim/witness personnel in July 2008 and August 2009 at the University of Richmond campus. VVAA is a multi-year project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. VCoA has worked on curriculum development, training, and sustainability aspects of the Academy. Other partners include staff from other units of VCU (Internal Medicine and Psychiatry, Social Work, Sociology, Wilder School of Public Policy, etc.); the Virginia Departments of Corrections and Social Services; the Office of the Attorney General; and several other public and private organizations. VCoA’s Ed Ansello and Lisa Furr serve on the advisory committee and Furr as faculty at the training.

Research

Alzheimer’s and Related Diseases Research Award Fund (ARDRAF) VCoA administers the Alzheimer’s and Related Diseases Research Award Fund

(known as ARDRAF) for Virginia-based researchers. ARDRAF enables pilot research into promising lines of inquiry into the causes, consequences, and treatments of dementing illnesses. Since 1982, VCoA has now awarded 122 seed grants in a total outlay of \$2.25 Million, which have, in turn, brought back to Virginia over \$19.8 Million in larger grants from the likes of the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, for a return on investment of \$8.80 for each dollar appropriated. In addition, we have documented 242 related scientific and professional publications stemming from the project funded through the ARDRAF

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for Alzheimer's Caregivers

VCoA is the Principal Investigator for this collaborative study with the VCU Department of Psychology, as part of the federal Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program conducted by the Virginia Department for the Aging with funding from the U.S. Administration on Aging, DHHS (October 2008-March 2010; \$90,500). The double-blind research study is intended to evaluate the immediate and longer-term efficacy of an intervention for caregivers of persons with dementia, using measures of psychological symptoms and well-being, stress-related physiological functioning, and physical morbidity in the caregivers, as well as caregiver-patient relationship quality.

Information and Resource Sharing

Age in Action Recognized

Age in Action, VCoA's quarterly published in partnership with the Virginia Department for the Aging, received honors during this fiscal year. In April 2010 at its 31st Annual Meeting, the Southern Gerontological Society recognized *Age in Action* with its Media Award as the most outstanding aging-related media product (print, broadcast, video) in the South. *Age in Action* now reaches more than 20,000 readers across Virginia, the United States, and other parts of the world.

Professional Training Conferences Sponsored

VCoA co-sponsored six statewide conferences this fiscal year, as follows:

- *Working Together: The Third Annual Conference on Improving Senior Care*, in Charlottesville (February 16th-17th)
- *The 31st annual meeting of the Southern Gerontological Society*, in Richmond (April 7th -10th)
- *The Virginia Geriatric Society Conference*, in Williamsburg (April 8th-11th)
- *The Virginia Guardianship-Virginia Elder Rights Conference*, in Richmond (April 26th-27th)
- *The 16th Annual Conference of the Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse*, in Virginia Beach (June 2nd-4th)
- *Creative Roads to Inclusion* on aging with lifelong disabilities, in Richmond (June 7th).

4. Research and Scholarly Activities

One journal article by one staff member: Ansello, E.F. (2010). Abuse, neglect, and exploitation: Considerations in aging with lifelong disabilities. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 22(1-2), 105-130.

Memberships on two professional association boards of directors/executive committees by three staff members: Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (Waters) and Southern Gerontological Society (Ansello and Coogle).

Memberships on three professional journal editorial boards by two staff members: *Journal of Applied Gerontology* (Coogle), *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities* (Ansello), and *Gerontology and Geriatrics Education* (Coogle).

Five papers and presentations at professional conferences by four staff members (Ansello, Coogle, Kupstas, Waters [2]):

5. Public/Community Service Activities (Community Partnerships)

Lifelong Learning Institute of Chesterfield

VCoA is a founding sponsor of the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI), which is housed in Midlothian, VA. Conceived and operated in partnership with the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors and Chesterfield County Public Schools since 2003, the LLI is based on the Elderhostel Institute model, which emphasizes and operates on member-driven administration and instruction. LLI membership reached over 600 adults ages 50 and older during FY 2009-10. The LLI offered 74 classes during summer 2009, 115 during fall 2009, and 140 during spring 2010, for a total of 329 learning experiences (courses, special events, guest lectures), up 4% from the previous fiscal year.

Area Planning and Services Committee for Aging with Lifelong Disabilities (APSC)

VCoA maintained its seventh consecutive year of community partnership in the APSC, a broad coalition of family caregivers and leaders across metropolitan Richmond in disabilities, health care, aging services, parks and recreation, communities of faith, and more. The APSC membership assesses needs and designs strategies to assist both those who age with lifelong disabilities, such as mental retardation and cerebral palsy, and their family caregivers. During fiscal year 2009-2010, the APSC offered a community workshop *There Is No Place Like Home: Aging in Place* in November 2009 and in June 2010 held its annual statewide conference, this year entitled *Creative Roads to Inclusion*, which addressed: honoring the person within; the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); cultural competency; person-centeredness; communication and behavior;

opening the doors to fun: a panel of best practices; self-advocacy for those who missed it; and more.

Professional Assistance to Community Partnerships

VCoA staff (noted in parentheses) contributed technical assistance, knowledge transfer, and other professional assistance in response to community need by working with many groups, including the following 13 organizations and groups:

- Area Planning and Services Committee (APSC) (Ansello)
- Central Virginia Task on Domestic Violence in Later Life (Kupstas, Furr, Ansello)
- Chesterfield Council on Aging (Ansello)
- Equality Virginia's Anti Violence Project (Furr)
- Lifelong Learning Institute of Chesterfield (Board of Directors) (Stephan, Ansello)
- National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Central Virginia (Kupstas)
- Richmond Fatality Review (Furr)
- Richmond Peace Education Center (Furr)
- Shepherd's Center of Richmond (Ansello)
- Virginia Arthritis Action Coalition (Executive Committee) (Ansello)
- Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (Board of Directors) (Ansello, Furr)
- Virginia Culture Change Coalition (long-term care reform) (Steering Committee) (Waters)
- Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (Governing Board) and its Wild Women of Wisdom Task Force (Furr, Kupstas)

6. International Activities

VCoA has been collaborating, since 2003, with colleagues within the Nippon Care-Fit Service Association (a Japanese non-profit), the World Health Organization (WHO) of the United Nations, several universities in the United States, Japan, India, Asia, and Europe, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, and others in a continuing initiative to introduce a re-envisioned, culturally sensitive gerontology curriculum into higher education across Southeast Asia, including Japan and India. VCoA is exploring a similar relationship with a university in Turkey.

7. Important Challenges in Fiscal Year 2009-2010

- VCoA has again experienced both reduced appropriations from the General Assembly and a decrease in enrollments in our Elderhostel programs, both reflecting the continuation of the economic decline across the country that has

been called the Great Recession. This decline produces less tax revenue for the Commonwealth, hence lowered appropriations to state entities such as VCoA, and fewer travelers to educational programs like Elderhostel. VCoA has undertaken a reassessment of our various educational programs, has instituted a number of efficiencies, and established a special subcommittee within its Advisory Committee to advise next steps.

- VCoA, having had to reduce the scope of both the ARDRAF seed grant program and the GTE training program because of budget cuts, is addressing ways to maximize the impact of these programs.

8. Objectives for Fiscal Year 2010-2011

The following outline of six objectives for 2010-2011 is organized according to our legislated mandates of interdisciplinary studies, research, and information and resource sharing.

Interdisciplinary Studies

1. VCoA has received federal support for a substantial project in geriatric education that capitalizes on expertise in several professions at VCU. Eastern Medical School and the University of Virginia. This five-year project, headquartered at VCoA, focuses on faculty development; curriculum development, with a special emphasis on Evidence Based Programs on prevention of falls; the clinical interprofessional training of students; and the continuing education of practicing professionals. This project has specified objectives and outcomes for each of its five years; VCoA intends to meet those specified for fiscal year 2010-2011.
2. VCoA intends to continue judicious administration of appropriations from the General Assembly to conduct the Geriatric Training and Education (GTE) program, in order to support needed geriatric workforce training across Virginia.
3. VCoA intends to continue its leadership in matters of domestic and family violence in later life. We will seek to train prosecutors and judges in our federal OVW project and to secure additional support from DCJS to continue both of our projects on domestic violence in later life and family violence.
4. VCoA intends to continue leadership within the Area Planning and Services Committee (APSC), to expand the membership of the APSC, and to co-sponsor at least one regional workshop and one statewide conference on matters of aging with lifelong, developmental disabilities.

Research

5. VCoA will continue its administration of and advocacy for, the Alzheimer's and Related Diseases Research Award Fund (ARDRAF), to stimulate promising lines of inquiry into the causes, consequences, and treatments of dementing illnesses.

Information and Resource Sharing

6. VCoA intends to continue to partner with statewide aging-related organizations in order to disseminate research findings and to expand training for professionals across Virginia. VCoA will co-develop and co-sponsor at least six annual conferences throughout the year as a commitment to research translation and knowledge transfer.