

# 2007 Report of the Virginia Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission

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## 2007 Short Term Recommendations

- Respite care is any service or set of services that allows a caregiver of a demented individual to temporarily escape from the caregiver role
- Takes on different forms:
  - Adult day care
  - In home respite care
  - Institutional respite care

## Scope of the Problem

- 7 of 10 people with AD live at home
- 75 percent of their care is provided by family and friends
- On average each care recipient receives \$23,436 worth of informal care
- In 2005, Virginia had almost 250,000 caregivers with an equivalent of 215,563,228 hours of unpaid care per that year valued at over \$2.1 billion

3

## Benefits to the Commonwealth

- Respite care resources allow caregivers to continue within the taxable workforce, which increases the tax base and in turn helps pay for increased respite program investment

4

## Benefits to the Commonwealth

- Increasing investment in respite care can create jobs, and can therefore benefit local economies

5

## Benefits to the Commonwealth

- Respite care can delay time to nursing home placement, which can reduce dependence on Medicaid subsidization of long term care and result in substantial savings to the Commonwealth
  - Can delay nursing home placement by a year

6

## Benefits to the Commonwealth

- Respite helps preserve both the mental and physical status of caregivers, which keeps them productive in their communities and in the workforce

7

## Benefits to the Commonwealth

- Although the number of Alzheimer's patients in the Commonwealth has markedly increased in the past 20 years, the amount of funding by the Virginia General Assembly for its Respite Care Initiative has not increased in 20 years

8

## Recommendations

- Increase funding for the Virginia General Assembly's Respite Care Initiative to achieve more complete statewide coverage (expand coverage to locales currently not served by the program)

9

## Recommendations

- Encourage local level planning for increased delivery of resources (local agencies will decide how to organize service improvements, by either providing services to more people, or else providing more services to those already participating in respite programs)

10

## Recommendations

- Strive to reduce the length of respite care wait lists and the time to receive services once services are applied for (a reduction in wait lists and wait times should be used as outcome measures)

11

## Recommendations

- Create a mechanism for receiving feedback from caregivers on the state of respite care services (it is further recommended this mechanism be provided through the Virginia Alzheimer's Commission AlzPossible Initiative website).

12

## Virginia Alzheimer's Commission AlzPossible Initiative (VACAPI)

- Education, Outreach, and Information Core
- Services Core
- Research Core
- Administrative Core