



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Department for the Aging

“AlzPossible” Virginia Creates Virtual Center on Alzheimer’s Disease

“AlzPossible,” the Commonwealth of Virginia’s new comprehensive virtual center on Alzheimer’s disease establishes a virtual center for coordinating activities related to Alzheimer’s disease and other related disorders. “The Center will translate good ideas into visible action and tangible results,” said Ian Kremer, Chairman of the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Commission. “The Center’s objective will be to form partnerships among groups or organizations in order to combine their individual talents and resources in such a way as to advance the public health goals of the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

“The AlzPossible concept provides a unique and competitive edge to soliciting supportive funding,” said Dr. Zaven Khachaturian, the primary “designer” of the virtual center concept. The Virtual Center has no walls – it exists in cyberspace, creating a fertile environment for the discovery of knowledge by bringing together talented professionals with different skills and perspectives. Experts from various disciplines and institutions work together to solve a common problem, even though they might be located at opposite sides of the state. The Center will use a systems approach to solving complex

problems, using a multidisciplinary team of experts who each have an in-depth knowledge of a different part of the problem.

The Virtual Center has broadly defined some problems that the Commonwealth must address in order to ameliorate the increasing public health concerns related to the state's aging population. As the number of older Virginians increase, so will the number of people with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder. At present, the Center's workgroups include: Training and Education, Information and Referral, Research, Technology Transfer, Services, Diagnoses, Care and Support, Databases, and Coordination.

The AlzPossible website (www.alzpossible.org) will showcase the project's mission, objectives and accomplishments as well as provide a private virtual workspace for its members. The workgroups will be able to use the space to communicate effectively and initiate, develop and implement strategies to accomplish their respective goals. The output will then be placed on the public portion of the web site, where the public will be able to review their progress and provide constructive feedback.

The initial model will be used as a prototype in building a full-scale Virtual Center, a pioneering tool for the use by the community of patients, caregivers, researchers and healthcare professionals working to cure Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

Please share this information with affiliated radio stations or media outlets. If you have questions, please contact the Virginia Department for the Aging at 1-800-552-3402 or by using the contact information shown at the top of the first page of this news release.

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