

Volunteers Needed for Focus Groups to Help Develop New Needs Assessment Tool for VirginiaNavigator

SeniorNavigator recently received an award to assist in the Department of Medical Assistance Services' (DMAS) Medicaid Infrastructure Grant. This grant will help to fund a new "Needs Assessment" tool for **VirginiaNavigator**, that will make it easier for adults with disabilities and their families to identify and access a full range of supportive services that will help them increase or maintain their independence.

VirginiaNavigator, the search component of the **Virginia Easy Access** online information and referral system, is committed to serving both seniors and adults with disabilities. This grant will assist SeniorNavigator in better understanding the common threads and the unique needs of each population and in redesigning the existing assessment tool to incorporate both.

SeniorNavigator will conduct three separate focus groups using the Department of Rehabilitative Services' (DRS) Video Teleconferencing (VTC) technology to develop a logic model for the new needs assessment tool.. The focus groups will include persons with cognitive, physical, and sensory disabilities and their family members.

The focus groups will provide feedback on twelve to fifteen questions, in consumer-directed language, that will serve as the basis of the new Needs Assessment tool. We hope to learn:

1. Are any categories missing?
2. Is the language consumer-friendly, inclusive, and appropriate?
3. Are the results returning the appropriate services?

You are invited to participate in this effort by attending a focus group or by recruiting other persons with cognitive, physical, or sensory disabilities and their family members to participate.

Please refer to the schedule below for specific Focus Group locations, dates, times, and local contacts. Individualized electronic **flyers are available** for each location and may be requested by e-mail from Katie Benghauser at Katie@SeniorNavigator.org. In your e-mail, please remember to identify the specific location for which you are requesting a flyer.

For more information, please contact:

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FOCUS GROUP FOR NORTHERN VA:

Fairfax

FRIDAY April 3, 2009, 9am - 12 noon

Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services

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Contact: Jane Bennett, (703) 359-1124