

1/13/08

VDA commissioner visits Culpeper

CONTRIBUTED REPORT



On Jan. 4 Virginia Department for the Aging Commissioner Linda Nablo and Chief Deputy, Debbie Burcham visited the area to learn about the Aging Together Partnership and its work in improving quality of life for the growing older population.

The Commissioner's visit took place during the Aging Together Partnership's monthly Core Leadership meeting, providing an opportunity to see the partnership in action.

"We have met with other AAAs and discussed their planning for the growing aging population but this is the first time we have heard about the results," Nablo said. "Your structure of county teams working locally paired with groups exploring issues across localities is an excellent model. This is the best example of how regional cooperation and coordination can help communities move forward."

Aging Together is a community partnership of over 100 organizations and individuals in the Rappahannock-Rapidan region. Because of the collaborative nature of this effort, the partnership has made significant progress addressing the needs and preferences of the rapidly growing aging population in the region's five counties.

A few of Aging Together's many achievements include the establishment of DayBreak, a regional adult day healthcare program; expansion of prescription drug education and financial assistance for seniors; classes for family caregivers; and a new volunteer transportation program in Fauquier County to be replicated in other areas.

The Commissioner stated that the Aging Together Partnership model should be promoted statewide: "I think what you've done here will be

valuable throughout the Commonwealth,” she said.

Following the meeting there was a luncheon with presentation by staff and Board members of the RRCSB/AAA.

The Commissioner’s visit concluded with a visit to the new DayBreak Adult Day Healthcare Center.

The Aging Together Partnership is part of the national Community Partnerships for Older Adults (CPFOA) initiative. CPFOA is a national program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help communities develop leadership, innovative solutions and options to meet the needs of older adults over the long term.

To learn more or to join the Aging Together Partnership, call 829-6405, email info@agingtogether.org or visit the website at agingtogether.org