



## Study Resolution

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### **Strategies to support aging Virginians in their communities**

Authorized by the Joint Commission on Healthcare on December 15, 2020

WHEREAS, the number of Virginians over the age of 65 continues to increase and is projected to account for nearly 20 percent of Virginia's population by the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, the population of older individuals is projected to become increasingly diverse, requiring services and supports to meet the needs of individuals from different cultures and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of older individuals are concerned that they will outlive their financial resources; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) is the state agency responsible for overseeing the provision of aging services in Virginia but several other state agencies and local government entities play a key role in developing and providing services; and

WHEREAS, research consistently shows that the elderly achieve better outcomes and quality of life when they are able to safely live in community settings, including their own home; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of older Virginians able to live in the community varies across different regions of the state; and

WHEREAS, aging in place safely and with a high quality of life requires an appropriate continuum of supports that include housing, assistance with activities of daily living, transportation, and other supportive services, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Joint Commission on Health Care that staff be directed to study strategies to support aging Virginians in their communities.

In conducting its study, staff shall (i) identify the necessary continuum of services and supports necessary to keep people in their homes and communities, (ii) evaluate whether state and local programs and services to support Virginians in the community are effectively coordinated; (iii) assess the root causes of variation in community-based supports across different regions of the state; (iv) identify effective programs in Virginia and other states that are shown to be effective at keeping older individuals safely in the community; and (v) identify strategies that Virginia could pursue to increase the number of older individuals who are able to age in place in their communities.

The Joint Commission on Health Care shall make recommendations as necessary and review other related issues as warranted.

In accordance with § 30-169.1 of the Code of Virginia, all agencies of the Commonwealth, including the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services, the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services, local Area Agencies on Aging, and local Departments of Social Services shall provide assistance, information, and data to the JCHC for this study upon request.