

# COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Minutes

October 21, 2021; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

120 Gateway Center and Zoom

**Attendance in person:** Robert Weiss, Presiding; Jan Helge Bøhn, Ralph Hall, Farida Jalalzai (for Laura Belmonte), Theresa Johansson, Penny Muelenaer

**Attendance via Zoom:** Tara Brent, Ben Grove (for Ed Jones), Don Hempson, Robert Oliver, Cassidy Rist, Angela Scarpa, Peter Schmitthenner, Megan Seibel, Susan Short (by phone), Jane Wemhoener (for Nick Copeland)

**Absent with Notice:** Laura Belmonte, David Brinberg, Nick Copeland, Guru Ghosh, Ed Jones

**Absent:** John Galbraith, Kenner Love, Aimane Najmeddine

**Guests:** April Myers, Ila Schepisi

**Welcome:** Robert Weiss called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. and welcomed the group. Attendees signed the attendance sheet; those participating by Zoom were asked to sign into the chat; visual attendance was also taken; a quorum was established.

1. **Adoption of Agenda:**

Robert Weiss called for a motion to approve the agenda; was moved, seconded; no discussion; the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

2. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, September 16, 2021:**

Minutes from the September 16, 2021 meeting were approved electronically and were sent to the Governance Information System; approved minutes can be found on the web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu/>).

3. **Vice-Chair Awards Selection Committee:**

Jan Helge Bøhn gave an overview of committee responsibilities for the Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence; deadline is 01/31/22 at 4:00 p.m.; with a meeting mid-February and decision at that time. He made a call for one commission volunteer; Penny Muelenaer volunteered. Jan Helge will contact a previous award winner to serve as the final member on the selection committee.

4. **Resolution to Recommend Authorization of the Renaming and Service Expansion of the Engagement Center for Creative Aging (ECCA)-Second Reading and Vote:**

Robert Weiss announced the second reading of the resolution for The Engagement Center for Creative Aging (ECCA) with an overview of the documents that were previously sent to COIA (**see attached**). A motion to approve the resolution presented to COIA for second reading was made, seconded, there was no dissension, approved and will be forwarded to Cyril Clarke's office, and then to Dwayne Pinkney's office.

5. **Acceptance of Constituent Reports and/or Minutes:**

**A. Chairman's Report:** The September 20, 2021 University Council meeting included first readings of CGPSP resolution to discontinue the doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Educational Research and Evaluation (EDRE); resolution to Change the Grading Mode at VTCSOM from Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory with Opportunities for Letters of Distinction in Each Year 3 Clerkship to Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail; resolution for the Establishment of a School of Animal Sciences at Virginia Tech; and a presentation of Future of Work Flexibility by Bryan Garey.

The October 4, 2021 meeting included second readings and voting of the resolutions as described above, and well as a presentation of Revisions to the Course and Program Approval Process: on behalf of the President's Committee on Governance by Bob Hicok.

- B. Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE):** Ben Grove presented the report of VCE on behalf of Ed Jones. He reported on the 4-H Hall of Fame award winners that included Bob Meadows for 2020; and John Dooley for 2021. Also, that Ed Jones received the 2021 Distinguished Service Ruby Award; the most prestigious level of recognition from Epsilon Sigma Phi (<https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2021/08/ext-ed-jones-ruby-award.html>). Ben also spoke about the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Georgia; and the Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity in Farmville, VA November 4-5. Yesterday the 2021 Global Agricultural Productivity Report was released; article in the VT News (<https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2021/10/cals-GAP-report.html>).
- C. Engagement Leadership Council:** Kimberly Rhodes read the report from Susan Short. The Engagement Leadership Council (ELC) met on October 7, 2021. In addition to receiving a number of programmatic updates from Council members, the group welcomed Amy Azano, associate professor of adolescent literacy and rural education, for a presentation related to the Center for Rural Education proposal. Following the presentation and question/answer period, Engagement Leadership Council members in attendance unanimously endorsed the proposal to establish the Center for Rural Education. The next ELC meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.
- D. University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA):** Theresa Johansson reported on the September 20, 2021 UCIA meeting. The first meeting included getting reacquainted and expression by departments of international engagement and elevation of ideas. There is some work to be accomplished for the upcoming year and some sub-committees to focus on issues. The election of the Vice-Chair took place and formation of the awards committee began.
- E. Global Alumni Engagement Sub-Committee Update:** There have not been any new meetings at this time.
- 6. Call for Announcements/Commission Board Member Comments:**  
Robert Weiss made the call for announcements/comments. He indicated that the role that members of this commission is to report back to their own departments the summaries of COIA; as well as bringing forward departmental concerns as they relate to COIA. The conversations should be a two-way communication. Additionally, voting on resolutions and other matters should reflect the departmental voice as opposed to an individual member's personal feeling on the matter. Theresa indicated that since UCIA represents a wide variety of departments that conversations between both COIA and UCIA would be beneficial.
- 7. Adjournment:** There being no further business, Robert Weiss thanked the group for attending; a motion to adjourn the meeting was made; seconded; all were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

The next meeting will be November 18 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in 120 Gateway Center/via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

**PROPOSED DATES FOR 2021-2022** (*Meetings 3:30-4:30 p.m. unless indicated otherwise*)

- November 18
- December 9
- **NO JANUARY MEETING**
- February 17
- March 17
- April 21
- May 5

**Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA)**  
**Resolution to Recommend Authorization of the Renaming and Service Expansion of the**  
**Engagement Center for Creative Aging (ECCA)**  
**Resolution COIA 2021-2022A**

First Reading by COIA:	September 16, 2021
Second Reading by COIA:	October 21, 2021
Approved by COIA:	October 21, 2021
Approved by Vice President, OIA:	October 21, 2021
Approved by Executive Vice President and Provost:	TBD
Approved by Senior Vice President and Chief Business Officer:	TBD
Effective Date:	Upon Approval

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA) exists to study, formulate, and recommend to University Council policies and procedures concerning the engagement of the university in service, outreach, and international affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Adult Day Services Center has submitted a proposal to rename its existing departmental-level center as the Engagement Center for Creative Aging (ECCA) and expand services reporting to the Department of Human Development and Family Science, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and the Office of the Vice President of Outreach and International Affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned Center will support Virginia Tech's global land-grant mission by improving the quality of life and human condition through outreach programs and services for families experiencing dementia, empowering adults all over the world to engage new information regarding aging and brain health, modeling advanced community-based aging services for regional, national, and global impact, and offering innovative and holistic programming and interventions relevant to an interdisciplinary student audience; and

**WHEREAS**, the goals of the Center will include providing programs and services in the New River Valley, related to aging, mild cognitive impairment, caregiver wellness, and adult day services; providing robust learning opportunities for students, caregivers, and professionals; collaborating with students and faculty across departments, colleges and universities to engage in innovative interdisciplinary research focusing on interventions and issues related to aging and dementia; and supporting caregivers and communities impacted by dementia through targeted virtual programs, social media presence, and the development of international relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, the approval of this name change and expansion of services by the Engagement Center for Creative Aging will increase its visibility and enable a broader impact resulting in stronger interdisciplinary collaborations, increased holistic scope of services, increased number of individuals served, development of new initiatives and increase competitiveness for external funding;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that COIA recommends authorization of the new name and expanded services of the current departmental-level Center to the Engagement Center for Creative Aging.



# **The Engagement Center for Creative Aging (ECCA)**

A Center in the  
Department of Human Development and Family Science  
Virginia Tech

Charter Proposal April 2021

## VISION

*A world where aging joyfully and connected in the presence of dementia is possible.*

## MISSION

To provide innovative community services for families aging in place while enhancing the education of future healthcare professionals

To this end, ECCA engages in the following activities:

- **Outreach:** Providing programs and services in the New River Valley, related to aging, mild cognitive impairment, caregiver wellness, and Adult Day Services;
- **Teaching:** Providing robust learning opportunities for students, caregivers, and professionals through service learning, workshops, field study, direct care training, study abroad and more;
- **Research:** Collaborating with students and faculty across departments, colleges and universities to engage in innovative interdisciplinary research focusing on interventions and issues related to aging and dementia; and
- **Global:** Supporting caregivers and communities impacted by dementia through targeted virtual programs, social media presence, and the development of international relationships through study abroad and research efforts.

## RELEVANCE TO THE UNIVERSITY'S GOALS AND MISSION

In support of Virginia Tech's mission to be an inclusive community of knowledge, discovery and creativity dedicated to improving the quality of life and the human condition within the Commonwealth of Virginia and throughout the world, ECCA will help to:

- Improve the quality of life and human condition through programming for families experiencing dementia;
- Empower adults all over the world to engage new information and programming regarding aging and brain health;
- Model advanced community-based aging services for regional, national, and global impact;
- Offer innovative and holistic programming and interventions relevant to an interdisciplinary student audience;

- Tackle critical societal issues impacting equity for older adults in rural areas;
- Support engagement and learning for alumni and the local community with relevant programming about aging; and
- Participate in continuous strategic planning for the center, enabling us to evolve with evidence-based practice and the needs of our participants and students.

### **ECCA Approaches To Integrative Care**

There are a number of philosophies, theories, modalities, and approaches that influence ECCA's teaching, research, outreach, and engagement. These include:

- Creative Arts
- Eden Alternative Philosophy
- Game, Flow, and Systems Theories
- Greencare
- Holistic Care
- Integrative Health and Wellness
- Intergenerational Relationship
- Philosophy of Leisure
- Person-centered Care Philosophy
- Strengths-Based Approach
- Validation

### **OBJECTIVES**

ECCA has five short-term objectives and they include:

1. Strengthen interdisciplinary collaborations across campus and in the community to contribute toward "continuous planning" of services and research meeting our center mission;
2. Increase holistic scope of services;
3. Reach beyond boundaries to expand service impact to more people;
4. Begin Greencare and Integrative Health and Wellness initiatives; and
5. Secure capital funding for a new facility.

ECCA will accomplish these objectives by:

1. Providing robust learning opportunities for students, caregivers, and professionals;
2. Increasing awareness of strategies and services available to engage individuals in preserving brain health and aging well;
3. Offering community-based services to people with mild cognitive impairment and their families to support holistic wellness;
4. Improving social connectedness and skill sets for families' caregiving for a loved one with dementia;
5. Providing holistic, therapeutic and person-centered day programming to older adults;
6. Collaborating with faculty on interdisciplinary projects to advance the field of aging; and
7. Maximizing revenue, increasing grant funding, and attracting a larger donor base through networking, collaborating and marketing efforts.

ECCA has six long-term objectives:

1. Become an official Alzheimer's Research Center with NIH/NIA Funding;
2. Partner with Engineering to become an NSF Engineering Research Center;
3. Become a National Endowment for the Arts Research Lab;
4. Become the first university-based Greencare Facility in the United States;
5. Serve as a model and support for other land-grant universities developing their own community Greencare and outreach initiatives; and
6. Become a global leader in aging innovations.

## **FACULTY & STUDENTS**

Primary Faculty Involved	Role	Title	Department
April Few-Demo	Administrator	Department Head	Human Development and Family Science
Ila Schepisi	Director	Director	Human Development and Family Science
Joanna Culligan	Outreach	Therapeutic Program Manager	Human Development and Family Science
Benjamin Katz	Departmental Research Liaison	Assistant Professor	Human Development and Family Science



### Other Faculty

ECCA welcomes collaboration with faculty from across the university and other institutions that align with missions of Virginia Tech and ECCA.

### Student Groups

ECCA is positioned to provide a unique interdisciplinary educational opportunity. Volunteer and for credit options are available to undergraduate and graduate students at any level of study from any department within Virginia Tech and among neighboring institutions. In addition to the Department of Human Development and Family Science, we have supervised or collaborated with students from departments and units such as Communication; Computer Science; Interior Design; Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise; Music Therapy; Recreation Therapy; Occupational Therapy; Social Work; Psychology; Neuroscience; and Public Health.

ECCA provides opportunities for service learning, field study, internship, volunteering, community service and research. Additionally, collaborations with student-led organizations, local public schools, and community programs have been successful for engagement.

### Clientele Description

The Engagement Center for Creative Aging serves:

- a. Individuals interested in preserving brain health against memory challenges;
- b. Families caring for older adults and loved ones with a dementia diagnosis or other age-related illness;
- c. Older adults with dementia and/or other conditions benefiting from a mixed social/medical model within the scope of care defined by center license with the Department of Social Services; and
- d. College students interested in expanding their knowledge base and gaining experience with the families and individuals we serve.

## **GOVERNANCE**

ECCA will be housed in the Department of Human Development and Family Science (HDFS) within the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS) at Virginia Tech.

The Center's **Administrator** will be the HDFS Department Head.

The **Center's Director** is a HDFS faculty member who is appointed by the Administrator. The Director must meet all the basic requirements of the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) regulations for oversight of an Adult Day Care [Services] program.



The **Center's Therapeutic Program Director** is a HDFS faculty member who is appointed by the Center Director.

The **Center's Healthcare Coordinator** is a staff member who is appointed by the Center Director.

The **Stakeholders Committee** will be composed of faculty with departmental and college oversight.

The purpose of the **Stakeholders Committee** is to safeguard the Center's effective operation and ensure that the Center's mission and objectives are achieved.

Specifically, the **Stakeholders Committee** will include:

- The ECCA Director, Ila Schepisi, MTS
- The ECCA Administrator, April Few-Demo, Ph.D.
- The CLAHS Associate Dean for Policy, Debra Stoudt, Ph.D.
- The CLAHS Dean, Laura Belmonte, Ph.D.
- The CLAHS Assistant Dean of Advancement, Holly Kobia
- The Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs, Guruprasad Ghosh, Ph.D.

To achieve the Center's objectives, the Director of ECCA will be assisted by an **Advisory Board**.

The Chair of the **Advisory Board** will be nominated and appointed by members of the Advisory board.

The **Advisory Board** members include:

#### Virginia Tech

- AgriAbility Virginia Program Director, Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation Director, Kim Niewolny, Ph.D.
- Associate Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations, Adam Short
- Center for Gerontology Core Faculty, Tina Savla, Ph.D. and Pam Teaster, Ph.D.
- Center for Public Health Practice & Research Director, Kathy Hosig, Ph.D.
- CLAHS Communication Director, Paula Byron
- CLAHS Director of Alumni Relations, Christina Miller
- ECCA Director, Ila Schepisi
- ECCA Faculty/staff Representative, Joanna Culligan

- Executive Director of Real Estate, Heidi Meyers
- Gerontologist & Mind-Body Curriculum Specialist, Matthew Komelski, Ph.D.
- HDFS ADA Faculty Liaison for Research, Benjamin Katz, Ph.D.
- Reynold's Homestead Director, Julie Walters Steele
- VT Director of Environmental Health & Safety, Lance Franklin
- VT Women's Center Co-Director, Christine Dennis Smith

#### Community Partners

- Blacksburg AARP/VT Life Long Learning Institute Representative and Former Dean, Jerry Niles, Ph.D.
- Cheryl Milkes More Endowed Professor in Mental Health Research, Keith Anderson, Ph.D., University of Texas Arlington
- Community Foundation of the New River Valley, Jessica Wirgau
- ECCA Adult Day Program, Caregiver (current or former), Betsy Risen
- Gerontologist and Research Strategist, Shannon Jarrott, Ph.D.
- Local Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, Bart Williams
- Vice-President of Health & Wellness at Warm Hearth, Heather Gearhart
- VT HDFS and Center Alumni, Emily Patrick

### **ANTICIPATED RESOURCE NEEDS & PROSPECTIVE SOURCES**

#### Facility Resource Needs

ECCA requires physical space to hold outreach programming that (at minimum) meets the DSS regulations for Adult Day Care Centers with additional space adequate to accommodate on-site experiential learning, training and research opportunities for students and faculty. Additional facilities and a large outdoor space to incorporate Greencare as well as integrative health and wellness initiatives is ideal.

#### Human Resource Needs

ECCA requires staff with healthcare and/or complementary healthcare credentials to meet the needs of its vulnerable population and DSS regulations for Adult Day Care Centers. To reduce staff turn-over, ECCA needs full-time equivalents for sustainability.

#### Program Resource Needs

ECCA provides a variety of programming that requires therapeutic, medical, recreational, musical, educational, cultural, nutritional and administrative among other supplies. This would include training and personal/professional development for staff.

#### Technology Resource Needs

ECCA utilizes technology for programming, teaching, documentation, administration, health monitoring, and research. ECCA strives to meet HIPAA standards as best practice requiring professional oversight by the department's Systems Administrator.

#### Prospective Sources

**Virginia Tech** provides physical space and utilities free of charge in addition to housekeeping and maintenance. VT also provides computers to appointed faculty.

The Department of **Human Development and Family Science** provides the salary for the Center Director. HDFFS also provides technology equipment through ETF funding, end of year funds, winter session, and/or pass downs when other faculty get upgrades.

The **College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences** provides the salary for the Healthcare Coordinator and Senior Systems Administrator and partial salary for the Therapeutic Program Manager.

Remaining human resources, program and technology needs are covered by **center-generated revenue**. Fees are charged for each arm of service delivery--Engaging Aging, Caregiver Wellness, and Adult Day Services—as well as professional consultations and assessments.

**Grants and donors** are sought to fund research, develop new program offerings, and build organizational capacity.

### **FORECAST OF EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES**

ECCA has the versatility to collaborate on interdisciplinary teams across campus, with other universities and faculty globally. ECCA will seek collaborations that will enhance eligibility for small and large grants. Former and current external funding sources include: Jesse Ball DuPont, Impact 1890, and the Alzheimer's Association. Potential future funders include: National Institute of Health, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for Humanities, National Science Foundation, National Institute on Aging, AARP, and the RWJ Foundation.

### **ANTICIPATED DISTRIBUTION OF F&A COSTS**

The Center follows department, college, foundation, and university policies related to F&A costs.

### **QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED DIRECTOR**

The Director of The Engagement Center for Creative Aging is responsible for the daily operations and overall management of the program and services of the Center. The Director ensures the center is advancing its mission. The Director reports directly to the Head of the Department of Human Development and Family Science.

Required qualifications include a Master's degree (minimum) with experience or professional degree or certification (e.g., CTRS or RN) in a health and human service profession, gerontology, or human development, and recent experience working with people who have dementia. Preferred qualifications include knowledge of community-based health and human services with research and/or clinical training/supervision experience.

The responsibilities of the Director include:

1. Management of the Center's services and programs, including compliance with local, state and/or federal regulatory agencies and Virginia Tech policies;
2. Orientation, training, and supervision of Center staff, including coordination of their activities to assure the needs of participants and families are met;
3. Providing direct care to participants as needed and within scope of practice;
4. Monitoring the Center's operating budget and supervising fiscal operations,
5. Coordinating services with other human service agencies and programs, including emphasizing public awareness for the center's programs and advocacy for quality services to older adults;
6. Initiate quality assurance of participant care by leading and delegating responsibilities for staff and student in-service training and weekly staff meetings; participate in service plan conferences with families and participate in developing interdisciplinary plans of care;
7. Fulfillment of duties and responsibilities consistent with faculty instructor status in the Department of Human Development and Family Science; and
8. Collaborating with the Department of Human Development and Family Science's Adult Development and Aging Faculty Liaison, the Child Development Center for Learning and Research, and the Advisory Board to the Center to forward the Virginia Tech's goals of learning, discovery and engagement.



**Department of Human Development and  
Family Science**

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24 February 2021

Guruprasad Ghosh, Ph.D.  
Vice President, Outreach and International Affairs  
Gateway Center, Ste 120  
902 Prices Fork Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. Ghosh,

Virginia Tech Adult Day Services (ADS; est. 1992) is a center in the Department of Human Development and Family Science (HDFS) within the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS).

Dr. Jack Finney has advised the CLAHS Dean's Office, the HDFS department head (Few-Demo) and myself, the ADS Center Director (Schepisi) to develop and submit a new center charter in alignment with Policy 13005.3.1 as part of the realignment process of Policy 13005.3.6.1 for voluntary realignment. Dr. Finney is aware that we are not seeking realignment, but merely a name change. There will be no transfer of oversight. The center will remain as an entity within the HDFS department.

ADS has expanded its outreach over the years and needs a new name that fully encompasses its services, vision, and mission. ADS has been meeting needs and providing services beyond the scope of its ADS licensure for several years. These services include activities related to caregiver wellness, research, consultation, advocacy, study abroad, and most recently mild cognitive impairment programming. Our revised strategic plan adds online and social media components to service delivery as well.

The name change will allow the center to restructure its business model and initiate growth as it becomes a developmental model of care with a systems approach to aging services. We will be able to fully embrace our specialty in dementia care and focus on engaging aging creatively. This is the foundation for expansion of service delivery and additional revenue streams for sustainability.

It is my intent to submit to you a new charter endorsed by the administrator (April Few-Demo, Head of the HDFS Department) and CLAHS Dean Laura Belmonte compliant with VT Policy 13005.3.1 renaming Adult Day Services as *The Engagement Center for Creative Aging* (ECCA). There is not an associated stakeholder committee currently as we were grandfathered into this policy. Below you will find the policy 13005.3.1 directed LOI information for your review.

Departmental Center Name: The Engagement Center for Creative Aging



1. Vision: A world where aging joyfully and connected in the presence of dementia is possible.  
Mission: To provide innovative community services for families aging in place while enhancing the education of future healthcare professionals.  
Objectives:
  - (a.) Provide robust learning opportunities for students, caregivers, and professionals;
  - (b.) Increase awareness of strategies and services available to engage individuals in preserving brain health and aging well;
  - (c.) Offer community-based services to people with Mild Cognitive Impairment & their families to support holistic wellness;
  - (d.) Improve social connectedness and skill sets for families caregiving for a loved one with dementia;
  - (e.) Provide holistic, therapeutic and person-centered day programming to older adults; and
  - (f.) Collaborate with faculty on interdisciplinary projects to advance the field of aging.

## 2. Faculty & Student Groups Involved and Clientele Served

Primary Faculty Involved	Role	Title	Department
April Few-Demo	Administrator	Department Head	Human Development and Family Science
Ila Schepisi	Director	Director	Human Development and Family Science
Joanna Culligan	Outreach	Therapeutic Program Manager	Human Development and Family Science
Ben Katz	Departmental Research Liaison	Assistant Professor	Human Development and Family Science

### Student Groups

Although we continue to engage students, current student involvement is low due to the pandemic situation. Numbers from 2020 better represent what we have and will offer. During 2020, we engaged 98 students representing nineteen majors and three institutions. ADS Center faculty supervised 99 field study credits and 3,554+ student hours. These undergraduate and graduate level students participated in service learning, field study, internship, volunteer, and community service opportunities to create an interdisciplinary environment for learning and service delivery.

### Clientele description

The Engagement Center for Creative Aging (formally Adult Day Services) serves and will continue to serve:

- a. Individuals interested in preserving brain health against memory challenges
- b. Families caring for older adults and loved ones with a dementia diagnosis or symptoms

- c. Older adults with dementia and/or other conditions benefiting from a mixed social/medical model within the scope of care defined by center license with the Department of Social Services, and
  - d. College students interested in expanding their knowledge base and gaining experience with the families and individuals we serve.
3. Administrative Category: Departmental Center
4. Anticipated Resource Needs and Expected Sources  
Current resources for ADS will remain in place for the Engagement Center for Creative Aging. In addition to the revenue that will be generated from participants receiving day services, we plan to also seek approval to charges for two new services, Memory Masterclass and Caregiver Bridge Program. These added revenue streams will improve center sustainability. The salary support that ADS receives from CLAHS will continue. A COVID response grant of \$32,344 to cover part-time wage cost for reopening the day program and \$30,839 of continued grant support for our Mild Cognitive Impairment Program that will sustain it through 2022. Resource needs in the form of part-time wages and other standard operational expenses will also remain the same as ADS.
5. Relationships with other university entities with apparent similar areas of mission-related focus
  - Center for Gerontology (CfG)  
This center's primary mission is to foster and facilitate multidisciplinary research that enhances the quality of life of older adults. It focuses on family gerontology, health and aging, and elder rights. The CfG is a College-level center hosted by CLAHS. Faculty from both the CfG and ADS collaborate on articles, consult on expertise, and refer students. ADS is an outreach center with expertise specifically in dementia care. There is no competing or overlapping work between these centers. The presence of each enhances the other.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working through this process with you.

Submitted with endorsements by,



Ila Schepisi, MTS, CTRS  
Senior Faculty Instructor  
Director, VT Adult Day Services

April L. Few-Demo, Ph.D., Digitally signed by April L. Few-Demo, Ph.D., Professor and Head  
Professor and Head  
Date: 2021.02.24 17:15:19 -05'00'

April L. Few-Demo, Ph.D.  
Professor and HDFS Head  
Administrator, VT Adult Day  
Services



**Office of the Dean**

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April 12, 2021

April Few-Demo, PhD  
Head, Department of Human Development and Family Science  
Virginia Tech

Dear Dr. Few-Demo,

The Engagement Center for Creative Aging (ECCA) has the full and enthusiastic support of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. This Center builds on the legacy of the Adult Day Services to program to advance the College's priorities in outreach, research, and instruction beyond the Virginia Tech campus.

This mission of ECCA, "to provide innovative community services for families aging in place while enhancing the education of future healthcare professionals," advances Virginia Tech's mission as a land grant university serving the New River Valley, Southwest Virginia, and beyond. Each of the activities of the Center receive the strong support of the College: improve the quality of life and human condition through programming for families experiencing dementia; empower older adults all over the world to engage new information and programming regarding aging and brain health; model advanced community-based aging services for regional, national and global impact; offer innovative and holistic programming and interventions relevant to an multi/interdisciplinary student audience; tackle critical societal issues impacting equity for older adults in rural areas; support engagement and learning for alumni and the local community with relevant programming about aging; and participate in continuous strategic planning for our center, enabling us to evolve with evidence-based practice and needs of our participants and students.

The College's commitment for the Center includes representation on the Stakeholders Committee by the Dean of the College, Associate Dean for Policy and Faculty Affairs, and Assistant Dean for Advancement. In addition, the College will provide administrative and financial support to the Center and the Department of Human Development and Family Science as outlined in the Charter and reviewed periodically by the Dean.

Regards,

*Laura Belmonte*

Laura A. Belmonte  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences  
Professor of History

September 8, 2021

Guruprasad Ghosh, Ph.D.

Vice President, Outreach and International Affairs Gateway Center, Ste 120  
902 Prices Fork Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. Ghosh and Members of the Commission for Outreach and International Affairs:

In December 2021, the Virginia Tech Adult Day Services will have existed for 29 years as a center in The Department of Human Development and Family Science. Center faculty and staff have been conducting strategic planning over three years resulting in a complete refresh of the center's charter. This document highlights the evolution of the mission of Adult Day Services since 2006 and summarizes the centers operational changes underway and outlined in the proposed charter.

### **Evolution of the center mission**

The mission of the center was reported in the FY2007 Annual Report and is listed below.

\*Founding documents were not accessible.

Virginia Tech Adult Day Services is dedicated to providing

- A state-of-the-art center dedicated to the well-being and optimal functional capacity of its adult participants,
- A resource for caregiver support,
- An educational experience for students interested in gerontology,
- A research facility for students and faculty focused on care of frail elderly persons,
- Dissemination of research findings to scholars, professionals, policy makers and other interested people in the community of the commonwealth, and
- A sense of community among generations of children, college students and adults.

In 2018, faculty recognized an unmet need in the community that the Adult Day Services Center could fill. Center faculty and staff began a strategic planning process at that time and acquired grant funding to initiate a portion of that plan. In the FY2019 Annual Center Report, the center submitted a revision and an addition to the mission. It then read:

The Virginia Tech Adult Day Services (VT ADS) mission is to provide innovative community services for families aging in place while enhancing the education of future healthcare professionals.

To accomplish this, we strive to be:

- a research facility for students and faculty focused on care of frail elderly persons,
- an educational experience for students interested in gerontology,
- a state-of-the-art center dedicated to the well-being and optimal functional capacity of its adult participants,
- a sense of community among generations of children, college students and adults.
- a resource for caregiver support,
- dissemination of research findings to scholars, professionals, policy makers and other interested people in the community and the Commonwealth

During the center's extended closure due to COVID (March 2020 to July 2021), faculty did extensive strategic planning resulting in the proposal for name change and revised charter. The approval of the revised charter is an important step in innovation, relevance, and sustainability for the center's future.

In the revised charter, you will see that the core components of the former mission are imbedded in the revised mission. It now reads:

## VISION

*A world where aging joyfully and connected in the presence of dementia is possible.*

## MISSION

To provide innovative community services for families aging in place while enhancing the education of future healthcare professionals

To this end, ECCA engages in the following activities:

- **Outreach:** Providing programs and services in the New River Valley, related to aging, mild cognitive impairment, caregiver wellness, and Adult Day Services.
- **Teaching:** Providing robust learning opportunities for students, caregivers, and professionals through service learning, workshops, field study, direct care training, study abroad and more.
- **Research:** Collaborating with students and faculty across departments, colleges, and universities to engage in innovative interdisciplinary research focusing on interventions and issues related to aging and dementia.
- **Global:** Supporting caregivers and communities impacted by dementia through targeted virtual programs, social media presence, and the development of international relationships through study abroad and research efforts.

## Summary of the center's operational changes



## The Engagement Center for Creative Aging

*Department of Human Development and Family Science*

*102 Wallace Hall, 295 West Campus Drive*

*Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061*

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From conception Virginia Tech Adult Day Services existed as a single service offered as a community outreach program. Over the years, faculty and staff of the center have witnessed that the ripples of need extend wider than the single service delivery method. Faculty and staff observed that families waited far into a loved one's dementia before getting help, therefore, caregivers were burdened, lacking adequate support. Programs for people with mild cognitive impairment didn't exist in our area. Through SWAT analysis, center faculty and staff acknowledged they had the expertise to meet those needs.

Thus, the center is moving from a single arm of service delivery (ADS only) to a developmental model with a family systems approach that incorporates three arms of service: Engaging Aging (MCI program), Caregiver Wellness, and Adult Day Services.

The benefits of the operational change will offer increased community outreach and engagement, improve the human condition of those who receive services, and improve program sustainability.

I look forward to joining COIA for its readings/reviews September 16, 2021 and October 21, 2021.

With Enthusiasm,

Ila Schepisi, MTS, CTRS- Specialization in Geriatrics  
Senior Faculty Instructor, Human Development and Family Science  
Director, The Engagement Center for Creative Aging (formerly Adult Day Services)



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11 September 2021

Cyril R. Clarke, Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President and Provost  
210 Burruss Hall  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Provost Clarke,

The **Engagement Center for Creative Aging** (formerly Adult Day Services; ECCA) has been a center of the Department of Human Development and Family Science since 1992. ECCA continues to meaningfully engage students and faculty in outreach and research while serving our community and influencing its field through modeling and training. During its 29 years of service, ECCA has used evidence-based research to evolve and expand its services, teaching, and to advance the mission.

ECCA's mission statement is as follows:

*To provide innovative community services for families aging in place while enhancing the education of future healthcare professionals.*

As ECCA's administrator, I have reviewed and contributed to the submitted charter and I am pleased to offer my full endorsement. This center will require no additional resources from the Department of Human Development and Family Science nor the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

I am eager to support the work of ECCA and believe that this center will lead the way toward achieving the vision of a world where aging joyfully and connected in the presence of dementia is possible.

Respectfully,

*April L. Few-Demo*

April L. Few-Demo, Ph.D.  
Professor and Head  
Administrator, Engagement Center for Creative Aging

cc: Ila Schepisi, Engagement Center for Creative Aging Director, Department of Human Development and Family Science, Virginia Tech  
Laura Belmonte, Ph.D., Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech