

## FAIRFAX AREA LONG TERM CARE COORDINATING COUNCIL (LTCCC)

### MEETING INFORMATION:

<b>Committee Name:</b>	<b>COVID-19 Impact &amp; Response Committee</b>
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Held Virtually, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
<b>Note Taker:</b>	Ozun Dalaran-McClary

### ATTENDEES:

Carolyn Cukierman, Committee Chair; Debi Alexander, Doug Birnie, Nadia Hoonan, Allegra Joffe-Fahringer, Anita Light, Karen McPhail, April Pinch-Keeler, Doris Ray, Patricia Rohrer, Chuck Thornton, and Diane Watson.

### AGENDA ITEMS ADDRESSED:

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Outcome/Action Steps</b>
<b>Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Carolyn Cukierman, Committee Chair.	
<b>Motions to Proceed with Electronic Meeting</b>	The COVID-19 Impact and Response Committee of the LTCCC conducted a wholly electronic meeting because the COVID-19 pandemic made it unsafe to physically assemble a quorum in one location or to have the public present. The meeting was held via video and audio using Zoom for computer access and a toll-free telephone number for access via telephone.	
	<p>To assure public access, Carolyn (Committee Chair) asked committee members to state their names and where they were joining the meeting from. The Committee Chair passed the virtual gavel to Assistant Committee Chair, Anita Light, to conduct confirmation of the following motions. The Chair moved that each member's voice was adequately heard by each other committee member, and specifically that each voice was clear, audible, and at an appropriate volume for all other members. The motion was seconded by Diane Watson.</p> <p>Next, the Chair moved that the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for this committee to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting, and that as such, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA's) usual procedures, which require the physical assembly of the COVID-19 Impact and Response Committee of the LTCCC and the physical presence of the public, cannot be implemented safely or practically. I further move that this committee may conduct this meeting electronically through</p>	<p>The motion carried.</p> <p>The motion carried.</p>

	<p>a dedicated video and audio-conferencing line. The motion was seconded by Doug Birnie.</p> <p>Next, the Chair made a motion that it is required that the matters addressed on today's agenda are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and the discharge of the LTCCC's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. The motion was seconded by Doug Birnie.</p> <p>The Assistant Committee Chair passed the virtual gavel back to the Committee Chair.</p>	The motion carried.
<b>Approval of Summary Notes from April 27, 2021, Meeting</b>	The summary notes from the April 27, 2021, meeting were reviewed.	The summary notes from the April 27, 2021, meeting were approved as written.
<b>Update: COVID-19 High Risk Community Task Force (HRCTF)</b>	<p>Patricia Rohrer provided an update from the Health Department's COVID-9 High Risk Community Task Force (HRCTF) and asked if committee members had new suggestions regarding older adults and adults with disabilities to take to the task force. The CDC's new guidelines indicating that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear masks is also in the Governor's new order, which Patricia had emailed to the LTCCC membership. There are some exceptions. For example, Virginia's governor has not removed a mask mandate for school students, staff, and teachers and in alignment with the CDC, has not removed the mask mandate for health care settings, jails, homeless shelters, and some other congregate settings. There is a briefing on the CDC website that explains the new guidance in more detail. If you are in a large setting such as houses of worship, indoor sporting events, there should be about one-third of those in attendance wearing masks (the un-fully vaccinated.) We hope that those who are not full vaccinated will comply and wear masks. The duration of protection after being vaccinated and whether and when boosters are needed are under study. No definitive answers are available about these as of today. Cycle four funding for vaccination administration from the CDC was just announced. This funding goes to State Health Departments and is distributed to local health districts. Fairfax Health District will receive a little over \$2 million for this purpose. Priority will be given for outreach and vaccinating in communities on the vulnerability index, people with disabilities, equity clinics in multi-cultural and communities of color, etc. Nearly 68% of Fairfax County residents aged 18 and older have received at least one dose of the vaccination. At least 51% of the total population of Fairfax County have received at least one dose and 35% of the total population have been fully</p>	<p>Committee members should continue to bring recommendations for the HRCTF, related to older adults and adults with disabilities, to committee meetings and Patricia will relay back to the HRCTF.</p> <p>For general questions or specific scenarios about vaccinations or the pandemic, email Patricia.</p>

vaccinated. Fairfax County is on track to meet President Biden's target of 70% vaccinated by July 4. There is also good news within some specific communities. Fairfax County Hispanic residents are being vaccinated at the same proportion as the general population and in African American communities the vaccination rate is increasing and getting closer the rate of the general population. For COVID-19 tests, the positivity rate is 2.3%, the lowest we have had in Fairfax County. According to the CDC positivity rating scale, this is at their moderate level. This past week, there was an average of 37 cases; yesterday there were 16 cases and today 11. These numbers the lowest in over a year. On Wednesday, May 12, 2021, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved the Pfizer vaccine for children aged 12 and older. It is anticipated that by September this age may go as low as age 3. The county began vaccinating age 12+ at their vaccination locations, including the Tyson's walk-in clinic (operated by the State), the Government Center, GMU, equity clinics and other county vaccine sites. Pharmacies and other community vaccinators with access to Pfizer are also vaccinating age 12 and up and some are accepting walk-ins. For the county vaccination sites, an adult must accompany those under age 18 and give verbal consent. This does not have to be the parent; for example, it could be the grandparent or a trusted friend that the parent permits the child to go with. Title I schools will be having on-site vaccinations for their students with a pre-signed consent by the parent or legal guardian. There may be additional schools offering vaccinations as well. [www.vaccinefinder.org](http://www.vaccinefinder.org) is now [www.vaccine.gov](http://www.vaccine.gov). If you go to [www.vaccinefinder.org](http://www.vaccinefinder.org) it will now take you to [www.vaccine.gov](http://www.vaccine.gov). People can also go to the County's COVID-19 page and schedule appointments at the county sites or go to the Tyson's walk-in center without an appointment. Other county locations have been accepting walk-ins when they are not filled-up with pre-scheduled appointments. Two recent days when Patricia served at the Government Center vaccine clinics, walk-ins were accepted all day. Soon there will be a new data dashboard added on the Health Department's COVID-19 website showing numbers of people vaccinated that will include a breakdown by age. This has not yet been posted, but hopefully will soon be there. For the new media campaign designed to encourage vaccination that Patricia mentioned at the last committee meeting, a few videos have been placed on social media. Some are for general audiences, and several are for targeted sectors. Here are some examples that was also sent with the committee meeting announcement: <https://youtu.be/dQHyVwvmMUE> <https://youtu.be/6odnwVmQYE0>

Some of the issues brought up at the meeting are as follows:

	<p>Committee members are concerned about people not wearing masks in retail stores who are unvaccinated. The committee feels that it is a better precaution to mandate that everyone continue to wear masks at retail establishments and not be voluntary on the part of each retailer. The committee is anxious for information about booster vaccinations. Some members have been vaccinated for nearly six months and are concerned about the length of protection after being fully vaccinated. Patricia will seek updates about this. Accessibility of printed handouts distributed at vaccination sites and assisted listening devices is another concern. Members asked these questions: Are printed materials made available in large print at vaccination sites for those with visual disabilities, when they are being distributed at them? Are assisted listening devices available at all county-operated vaccination sites? A member asked if there are sensory relax rooms at county vaccination sites and if people are informed about the availability of these rooms when they arrive. Is this information of the availability of these included on the county website near appointment scheduling section? A committee member who has underlying conditions was contacted by their physician for a blood test after they had been vaccinated and discovered that they have very little protection against COVID-19. The result is that he fell in the 5% of the Pfizer vaccine in-effectiveness. What messaging is being conveyed about this type of situation?</p>	
<p><b>Committee Action Plan: Presentations About Existing Social Isolation Programs by LTCCC Member Organizations</b></p>	<p>On the Committee's Action Plan, the second item is Social Isolation. The first action step in this item is to: Leverage LTCCC organizations already doing social isolation activities to partner with other LTCCC organizations to expand and increase the impact. To advance this action item, presentations are made by LTCCC members whose organizations have initiated activities to address social isolation during the pandemic. Two presentations were made at this meeting. The presentations will encourage collaboration, expansion of services, partnering, and information sharing. A chart detailing each organization's presentation was provided to the committee and it included today's presentation.</p> <p><u>MVLE</u> – The Executive Director, April Pinch-Keeler, presented. Their mission is to create futures one person at a time for people with disabilities and other barriers, through employment and support services. They serve older adults and adults with disabilities. They perform routine outreach via phone calls. They have programs such as cooking classes, yoga, reading group, art, music that are done on Zoom, Facetime and Teams virtual sessions. Families have also been joining their programs. They offer virtual assistive technology and a daily virtual exercise called Morning Moves. They have a large volunteer program and looking for more volunteers to provide virtual classes and activities. They are adding more classes</p>	.

to their schedule and as they plan for the future, they are looking for solutions for people with severe disabilities. Doris Ray asked if they are utilizing technology for older adults with memory problems. The answer was yes and that they have a point of contact helping them. Another question was, how are you achieving equity or keeping track of people? Their biggest obstacle was internet and connection issues and then they deployed iPhones. It took some time but now clients are mostly connected except for people who do not want to use technology. They have received grants from Fairfax County and are creating more partnerships with GMU and similar organizations. MVLE stands for Mount Vernon-Lee Enterprises.

Aging Rainbows (LGBTQ) – Karen McPhail, Executive Director, presented. Their mission is to provide community outreach, resources, advocacy, education, supportive programs, foster positive interventions to create more LGBT inclusive care communities and service providers, expand on socialization opportunities, and support intergenerational programs in the Northern Virginia area and through collaboration nationally for LGBT older adults. They are doing this through creating collaborative partnerships. Before the pandemic, social isolation was already an issue for older adults in LGBT community, many of whom are estranged from families. Some of the programs to alleviate social isolation during COVID-19 are virtual inclusive care education and support programs. Topics include holistic health and wellness, reducing stress as one ages, new LGBTQ+ protections, Virtual Pride, older adult panel, and discussion. They utilize SAGEConnect social connection program. They perform friendly visits, make calls to follow up with clients and bring care packages. They evaluate services every six months that includes feedback from those utilizing services and about those yet to reach. They ask for people's time not money. They can assist people and other organizations by sharing inclusive care information. They advise SAGE. They seek partnerships with like-minded organizations for health and wellness, LGBT informational, and supportive services. Aging Rainbows want to return to some in-person events, however, they are probably going to continue to host educational programs virtually due to high participation. Part of the local Gay Pride event activities will be online for older adults. They can provide volunteers to be speakers, bloggers, or facilitate a program or session to help other organizations. Nadia Hoonan asked if they offer training for other members or providers. Yes, they offer free training to caregiving organizations. They are trying to make sure everyone knows how to provide services for LGBT adults.

<p><b>Committee Action Plan: Operations</b></p>	<p>Carolyn Cukierman and Chuck Thornton provided an update from the Operations Sub-group. Chuck Thornton has been in touch with local Chambers of Commerce to engage them with operations support. He added that senior living communities are consolidating, and that people are seeking home care options more since COVID-19. This brings up home care provider licenses needing to be carefully checked before hiring them to care for your loved ones. Telemedicine is a technology that became more popular during pandemic and will stay. There is a need to provide education about using it. There will be a new workforce of home care workers with training needed to prepare them to enter homes and provide services there. Doris Ray raised concerns about the expense of facility-based services and appropriate training for staff. Chuck replied by mentioning that there are updated facility standards in Maryland and that there may be some new requirements in Virginia. Chuck mentioned the importance of the LTCCC advocating for qualified, educated, and well-paid home care workers. Patricia mentioned that the LTCCC Government Affairs Committee will be discussing this issue for input for the Board of Supervisors Human Services Issues Paper and invited those interested to join that committee. Carolyn suggested that committee members explore what how their organizations' operations were impacted by the pandemic.</p> <p>Next, Carolyn asked Nadia Hoonan to share information that she uncovered about economic support options for nonprofits. Nadia shared that the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) is working in partnership with the Department of Economic Initiatives (DEI), on another round of grant opportunity aimed at nonprofits. It is expected that something will be announced about these in early June, and she will let Patricia know to inform committee members and the LTCCC membership. She shared that the former Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3) is now housed within the Department of Economic Initiatives (DEI). One of the links on the side of the page leads to the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA.) She found a COVID-19 specific page on the site that has additional information about resources and assistance, called COVID-19 Emergency: Information, Resources and Assistance for Businesses. The DEI also started a Roadmap for Fairfax County Recovery which includes nonprofits. She looked through the recovery framework document and it highlights that the county, including the FCEDA, are offering financial support and guidance. It looks like DEI is proposing two recovery programs, Pivot Grants and Thrive Programs. The Pivot Grants would be small grants for impacted businesses to support continued operations, and</p>	<p>Chuck will provide an update at the next meeting regarding his outreach to area Chambers of Commerce.</p> <p>Nadia Hoonan will let Patricia know when new funding information is made available for nonprofits and Patricia will send to committee members and the LTCCC membership.</p>
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	<p>Pivot Grants for recovery. The Thrive Programs consist of technical assistance and counseling to help businesses and entrepreneurs adjust and transition towards growth. She said that it seems that nonprofits would be included in these. The recovery programs information that she found is from March 16, 2121. The DEI email is <a href="mailto:EconomicInitiatives@fairfaxcounty.gov">EconomicInitiatives@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>. There is also the County's Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP), but there is no COVID-19 specific information on the page. This fund is on a two-year cycle grant that distributes county general funds to non-profits through a review process that has been in existence for many years.</p> <p>Carolyn said that Jan Buchanan will look at finding and support offered by the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia (CFNV) and Orlene Grant will check with the Kellogg School.</p> <p>Next, Carolyn and Chuck shared that we need to find out what LTCCC member organizations need to maintain healthy financials and operations going forward. It was agreed that committee members will be asked to contact individual LTCCC members asking them questions, rather than administer another survey. Carolyn will prepare questions to be asked and assignments of who to contact will be emailed for completion by the next meeting.</p>	<p>Jan Buchanan will explore options with the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia (CFNV) and Orlene Grant will check what Kellogg School has to offer.</p> <p>Carolyn will provide operation questions for Patricia to disseminate via email to committee members, along with who they should contact on the LTCCC. Responses to the questions are to be brought to the next committee meeting.</p>
<b>Think Tank Challenge Results</b>	<p>Carolyn Cukierman and Chuck Thornton were invited by the Think Tank Challenge Committee to a virtual meeting to answer questions on how to use and maintain the Friend Mobile project. Even though they have not announced winners (yet), the committee said that they are intrigued by this idea and found it very engaging. At the meeting, they discussed it being a partnership type project. Members asked how to move forward. Doris Ray suggested creating a pilot in the Hunter Mill District, where there is a big community, and move on from there, based on the results. Chuck Thornton suggested waiting to see if they will get endorsement from the County and be a Think Tank Competition winner. Either way, there will need to have at least one anchor organization and partner organizations to initiate and operate a Friend Mobile.</p>	<p>Carolyn to keep the committee informed about whether the Friend Mobile is selected (or not) as a Think Tank Winner.</p> <p>At future committee meetings, there will be discussions about which committee organizations are able and willing to lead the Friend Mobile Project.</p>
<b>Future Committee Work</b>	<p>See Outcome/Action Column for specific actions and assignments for committee work. The committee will continue to implement its Action Plan. Committee meetings will move to once a month and is expected to meet through December 2021. Communications, operations, and social isolation have continued to be the three main areas of committee focus.</p>	

<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.	

**Next Committee Meeting Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., to be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Next LTCCC Meeting:** Tentatively: Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.