

FAIRFAX AREA LONG TERM CARE COORDINATING COUNCIL (LTCCC)

MEETING INFORMATION:

Committee Name:	COVID-19 Impact & Response Committee
Meeting Location:	Held Virtually, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
Date & Time:	Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
Note Taker:	Ozun Dalaran-McClary and Patricia Rohrer

ATTENDEES:

Carolyn Cukierman, Committee Chair; Rose Asuquo, Doug Birnie, Jan Buchanan, Orlene Grant, Nadia Hoonan, Anita Light, Steve Morrison, Doris Ray, Patricia Rohrer, Chuck Thornton, and Diane Watson.

AGENDA ITEMS ADDRESSED:

Agenda Item	Discussion	Outcome/Action Steps
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Carolyn Cukierman, Committee Chair.	
Motions to Proceed with Electronic Meeting	<p>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> <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 Doug Birnie.</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 Diane Watson.</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 Chuck Thornton.</p> <p>The Assistant Committee Chair passed the virtual gavel back to the Committee Chair.</p>	<p>The motion carried.</p>
<p>Approval of Summary Notes from May 18, 2021, Meeting</p>	<p>The summary notes from the May 18, 2021, meeting were reviewed.</p>	<p>The summary notes from the May 18, 2021, meeting were approved as written.</p>
<p>Update: COVID-19 High Risk Community Task Force (HRCTF)</p>	<p>Patricia Rohrer provided an update from the Health Department’s COVID-19 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.</p> <p>New Report: Ninety percent of people aged 65-84 have received at least one vaccine in Fairfax County, 70% of those aged 45 through 64, 65% aged 18-45, and 55-60% aged 12-17. Current percentages can be found on this dashboard (scroll to page 2 of the dashboard for age breakdown: COVID-19 Vaccine Data Health (fairfaxcounty.gov) The percentage of those aged 85+ is lower than for those 64-84, at 79% compared to 90%. Because vaccinations were administered on-site at LTC facilities, the assumption is that those in this age group are living at home, aging in place. Because the homebound definition to receive a home-based vaccine by our Health Department is more stringent than defined by the Adult & Aging Division in the Department of Family Services, Patricia wondered if this could be a factor for why the rate is lower. She brought this up at the HRCTF meeting and the response was that it would be taken to the lead response command person requesting greater flexibility to receive a home-based vaccine. The positivity rate of vaccine tests is 1.1%, the lowest that the county has seen. According to the Centers for Disease and Communicable Diseases (CDC) positivity rating scale, this is on the borderline between moderate and low. The variant called “Delta or number 617.2 is quickly increasing in the US accounting now for 2-3% and increasing on a weekly basis. This variant is 60% more transmissible than the “UK” variant which was already more transmissible than</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>

the others. Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines protect against all known variants.

Follow-Up from Past Items Taken to the HRCTF from the Committee:

Committee members are concerned about people not wearing masks in retail stores who are unvaccinated. Response to this was the reason that the CDC has said that those vaccinated no longer need to wear masks is because studies have shown that for those vaccinated, fewer than 90% carried asymptomatic viral loads and for those that did, it was so low that it would not be transmittable. The committee is anxious for information about booster vaccinations. Response to this was that the duration of protection after being vaccinated, and whether and when boosters are needed is still under study.

New Issues and Questions:

Memory Deficient Residents may need facilitators to assist them to ensure that they are vaccinated if they do not have a caregiver to assist them. Doris Ray said many who are living alone could have been missed for vaccinations.

Confirm whether the percentages of those vaccinated refers to first or second doses in the case of Moderna and Pfizer. Response (provided following the meeting) is first doses of Moderna & Pfizer and one dose of J & J. This information can be found and is updated regularly at [COVID-19 Vaccine Data | Health \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/covid-19-vaccine-data) - be sure and scroll to page two of the dashboard for age breakdowns.

What phase is the state in for re-opening? Response: Virginia's reopening guidelines can be found on this website: <https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>
When is Fairfax County local government going to remove the emergency declaration? Response: The Commonwealth of Virginia will remove their emergency declaration effective July 1, 2121. We have not yet heard when the county will remove theirs.

Have there been reactions to vaccinations noted with 12 – 17 year olds?

Response (provided following the meeting): More than 2,000 adolescents aged 12-15 were part of Pfizer's phase three clinical trials, which found 100% efficacy in protection against COVID-19 and robust antibody response – exceeding those recorded earlier in vaccinated participants aged 16 to 25 years old. Kids were monitored for two months with no serious adverse effects. Side effects were like those in the 16-15 age group. Just as in people ages 16 and over, the first shot triggered fewer side effects than the second for younger kids. About 90% of kids will have side effects that are considered mild, ranging from a sore arm and headache to fever or muscle aches and usually last one or two days.

	<p>What are guidelines for congregations and other large gatherings? Response: This information can be found on CDC’s website.</p> <p><u>Should 12 – 17 year old youth get vaccinated, if their rates of symptomatic illness from COVID-19 have been low?</u> Response: The CDC and Virginia State Department of Health are saying that they should get vaccinated and that it is safe to do so.</p> <p><u>What is the local vaccination rate for medical providers, especially in facilities?</u> Response: Compared to the US, Fairfax County’s rates were higher than the average for the country for staff in facilities being vaccinated.</p> <p><u>Have there been issues with people not receiving their second doses?</u> Response: Fairfax County has a high percentage getting second vaccines.</p> <p><u>What is the research about how long the first round of full vaccinations will last?</u> Response: Studies and research is being conducted with no results yet, however, fully vaccinated individuals (Pfizer, Moderna & J & J) are provided with protection against all variants known to be in the US.</p> <p><u>What are the Federal Guidelines for congregations meeting in person?</u> Response: The CDC provides guidelines for congregations and other large gatherings on their website.</p>	
<p>Committee Action Plan: Social Isolation Programs Collaborations</p>	<p>Carolyn led a discussion about how the committee can foster collaborations among organizations and recruit volunteers to increase capacities of community-based programs addressing social isolation for older adults and adults with disabilities. The focus was on the LTCCC member organizations that presented their social isolation programs at past committee meetings. A tracking sheet was sent to committee members prior to the meeting for use during the discussion. So far sixteen presentations have been made, and some partnerships have been formed. The chart shows that the key issue is volunteer help. Carolyn listed names of organizations and their needs and asked ideas for collaboration or helping them recruit volunteers. Chuck noted that some volunteers may not yet feel safe to go out. Chuck asked if the county has a one-stop volunteer source where these needs could be shared. Nadia Hoonan said that there is not one centralized volunteer group for community organizations, like there is for county agency volunteer needs. She mentioned Volunteer Fairfax as a potential resource. Jan offered to share her organization’s liability waiver for volunteers. Doug Birnie mentioned an opportunity to recruit younger volunteers based on their changing work schedules because they may have more flexibility now. He also suggested that employers urge their personnel to serve and get volunteer hours. Doris Ray suggested that the LTCCC could host a summit for discussion between non-profits who have similar issues. Diane mentioned to Doug that the</p>	<p>Carolyn, Patricia, and Nadia will develop and recommend solutions for volunteers for social isolation programs (on the chart) and bring back ideas to the next meeting.</p>

	<p>County's 50+ Ambassadors group is a good place for him to partner with to expand his concept of neighborhood navigators. It was agreed that Carolyn, Nadia, and Patricia will develop and recommend some solutions to increase volunteers for social isolation programs.</p>	
<p>Committee Action Plan: Operations</p>	<p>Carolyn Cukierman and Chuck Thornton provided an update from the Operations Sub-group. Committee members were sent emails with assignments of LTCCC organizations to contact and obtain answers to questions related to their operations during the pandemic. First, however, Carolyn asked Orlene Grant to provide information that she researched from the Kellogg School of Business. They had a series of seminars on leadership for non-profits that shared best practices about management infrastructure. One of the suggestions was non-profits creating an action or best practices plan to be prepared for the future. Next, Carolyn, asked Nadia Hoonan to share any updates about grant opportunities offered by Fairfax County for non-profit organizations. The upcoming PIVOT Grant from the County Department of Economic Initiatives will be available June 30 and July 7; however, this grant is for businesses and not for nonprofits. Regarding resources for grants, she shared that the Candid Foundation offers grant application resources for free or up to \$50. The Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers is another resource. Rose Asuquo mentioned grant resource centers at three branches of the Fairfax County Library system Grants Research and Training Center (GRTC) Library (fairfaxcounty.gov) Doris Ray mentioned the county's Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP) and their priorities for this funding season. The Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP) is a competitive funding process for human services programs developed and administered by nonprofits and community-based organizations, however, the funds come through the county. Next, Carolyn asked Chuck to provide an update about his outreach for engagement with the local Chambers of Commerce. Chuck sent invitations to several chambers and he, Carolyn and Patricia held a Zoom meeting in which only one Chamber attended. That Chamber leader is enthusiastic, and another meeting is scheduled with her. Chuck envisions having a meeting with several local Chambers of Commerce and LTCCC members that could be held at either a committee or full council meeting. Jan Buchanan mentioned having a relationship with the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce. Doris Ray suggested asking Channel 16 to broadcast the meeting LTCCC would have with Chambers of Commerce representatives.</p>	<p>When more non-profit grant opportunities are announced from the County, Patricia will send to the LTCCC.</p> <p>Chuck to provide further updates about engagement of Chambers of Commerce.</p>

	<p>Next, Carolyn asked committee members to share what they learned from their contacts with LTCCC member organizations where they asked questions, prepared by her, about their operations during COVID-19. Doug Birnie talked with The Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, which is a volunteer organization. They had seen a decline in older volunteers but an increase in younger volunteers. Their needs are training and technology for seniors and devices like iPads. Orlene Grant shared information from her organization, The Juanita C. Grant Foundation. They serve members ages 55+ and adults with disabilities. Their major challenges were switching their programs to be online and creating new partnerships for sponsorship and funding. They needed technological and graphic support so people could benefit from their messaging and programs. Beginning in September, their services will morph from 100% virtual to a hybrid model. Carolyn mentioned their hiring event to which Orlene said that this program will focus on remote jobs more so now than in the past, due to the pandemic. Diane shared about her interview with Marie Woodard who provides geriatric care management and she recommended assisting with use of technology for senior engagement as the biggest need. Chuck spoke with Chesterbrook Assisted Living Residence's former board member, Judy Seiff, and their biggest challenges were staff turnovers, resignations, and staff's own family issues. As a result, they had to provide the same service with less personnel. His contact suggested that LTCCC encourage living wage rates for caregivers. Patricia said that the LTCCC Government Affairs Committee is the place to take legislative issues from the LTCCC because they make recommendations to the BOS for its legislative issues paper that is sent to the Virginia Legislature each year. She will send Chuck a special invitation to their next meeting. Finding trained caregivers is another problem. Anita Light talked to two people, one of them was from Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. They lost money during COVID-19 and applied to PPP and received funding, but they still had to lay off some personnel. They are a small organization, and they need training on grant writing. They also expressed a need to educate the community about how to obtain communication assistance for people who are deaf or hard of hearing (e.g., accessing American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. Nadia Hoonan was able to reach one person. Bob Sarge from Fellowship Square Foundation, which serves low-income seniors, mentioned that were open with limitations. They received funding from the first round of PPP but were not eligible for the second round. They want to improve their operations by making buildings more accessible and providing internet for the residents. They are looking for exchanging ideas with like minded operations.</p>	<p>Remaining operation survey results will be shared at the next committee meeting.</p>
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	Carolyn Cukierman talked to Ken Krum, Executive Director at Service Source, Inc. Hiring was and continued to be their biggest problem.	
Think Tank Challenge Friend Mobile Project Update	Carolyn shared that she and Chuck met with the Think Tank Committee, at their invitation, because they were impressed with the Friend Mobile submission. They are exploring possible support options for the project and hoped that some LTCCC organizations could lead the project and bring resources to it. The Friend Mobile project has been selected for recognition by the Board of Supervisors and we will be notified about this event. Carolyn also mentioned that developing a budget for the program would be helpful to engage non-profits for it. She asked committee members to check with their organizations to ascertain if they want to be a part of this project. Orlene suggested reaching out to the MacKenzie Scott Foundation because they are funding projects.	Committee members to explore whether their organizations will be a part of the Friend Mobile project.
Future Committee Work	See Outcome/Action Column for specific actions and assignments for committee work. The committee will continue to implement its Action Plan. Communications, operations, and social isolation continue to be the three main areas of committee focus.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.	

Next Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Next LTCCC Meeting: TBD