

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, March 2, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
Note Taker:	Ozun Dalaran-McClary and Patricia Rohrer

ATTENDEES:

Carolyn Cukierman, Committee Chair; Debi Alexander, Doug Birnie, Ken Crum, Justin Dolan, Nadia Hoonan, Allegra Joffe Fahringer, Suheir Kafri, Anita Light, Steve Morrison, Joel Pace, 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 Committee Member, Chuck Thornton, 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 Anita Light.</p> <p>Chuck Thornton passed the virtual gavel back to the Committee Chair.</p>	<p>The motion carried.</p>
<p>Approval of Summary Notes from February 16, 2021 Meeting</p>	<p>The summary notes from the February 16, 2021 meeting were reviewed.</p>	<p>The summary notes from the February 16, 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-9 High Risk Community Task Force (HRCTF) regarding older adults and adults with disabilities and asked if committee members had suggestions to take to the task force. It was noted that many member suggestions have been implemented. She reported that a new self-removal tool will be added to the website for ease of cancelling your reservation if you have obtained vaccinations elsewhere. She also reported that wherever you get your first vaccine (county, or other source, such as a pharmacy), it will be same location for your second dose. This is because the place where you obtained your first vaccination has been supplied with your second vaccination dose. The request by the committee to make the registration phone number more prominent on the website has not yet been done and the request was renewed. The same is the case for the number to call when cancelling registrations and appointments. Regarding the committee's request to add a second email on the registration form, Patricia was advised that for now, this is not possible. To address phone wait times, a suggestion was made to add a recording indicating the approximate length of wait time. In addition, it was suggested that for those who are having a hard time locating their email notification to schedule an appointment, to send a voice mail to those who did not schedule an appointment, following their email notification. This may avoid calls to the Health Department from frustrated older adults complaining that they did not receive the email notification. Patricia said that people with Hotmail email accounts seem to be having more problems obtaining their email notifications. The county investigated this and found that there are no issues on the County's side, or that its servers are blocking Hotmail emails from going out. There may be blocks on Hotmail's side.</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 the vaccine or the pandemic, email Patricia.</p>

	<p>Committee members asked how to volunteer to help with vaccine dissemination, Patricia shared that people can volunteer through the Medicare Reserve Corps: Join the Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps Health (fairfaxcounty.gov) She added that 100 vaccinator paid positions, that she shared with the LTCCC via email, were quickly filled to help as more vaccine becomes available.</p> <p>The following information was emailed by Patricia about the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine: What You Need to Know About the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine - Fairfax County Emergency Information (wpcomstaging.com) She shared that during March 2, 2021 Board of Supervisors HHS Committee meeting, an equity strategy for vaccinating specific neighborhoods, marginalized communities, communities of color was discussed. Board of Supervisors Health and Human Services Committee Meeting: March 2, 2021 Board of Supervisors (fairfaxcounty.gov) and that the BOS approved eight new multicultural outreach team positions to support this work. New alternatives to County vaccination clinics, such as pharmacies, are being added to increase the ability to vaccinate more people, as the supply increases. If someone is a Fairfax County resident, registering on Virginia State system is not helpful because Fairfax County is not using the state registration system and continues to use the County registration system. For counties in Virginia other than Fairfax, people can register on the Virginia system.</p>	
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<p>Action Plan: Presentations About Existing Social Isolation Programs by LTCCC Member Organizations</p>	<p>On the Committee 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 that includes programs presented at this meeting.</p> <p><u>The Adams Center</u> – Suheir Kafri presented. Suheir Kafri is a social worker with the Adams Center that serves the Dulles area Muslim community. The Mission is to provide religious, social, and educational services that enables the Muslim community to fulfill its responsibilities and contribute to the betterment of society by embodying and exemplifying leadership and excellence and foster peace. The organization used to serve as a charity and now they have a more developed structure. They serve both older adults and adults with disabilities. They provide financial assistance to older adults (\$200 - \$600 per individual every two months for up to a year), rides to medical appointments, picking up groceries, friendly visitors, paperwork completion assistance, ESL classes, monthly 'breakfast at sunrise,' mental health counseling. Household assistance is also provided. The center is a mosque (second largest in the U.S.) and they are trying to meet their religious obligations. During the pandemic, they have stopped on-site gatherings and continue some programs such as their Tuesday sisters' group; a potluck during which they come together and do Koran readings virtually. They sometimes provide guest speakers; especially mental health professionals due to social isolation as a result of COVID-19. They also have a Friday Seniors group that includes a potluck breakfast and prayer. The Adams Center provides speakers and programs on suicide prevention, depression, safety at home planning, mental health. She added that using medications to treat mental health symptoms can be a stigma for some Muslims and that they are trying to break these taboos. During the month of Ramadan, they offer community Iftars (dinners) and that everyone contributes to their charity and pays for one dinner. They use social media for outreach including Facebook, webpage, and emails to a listserv of 6000 people. They also call their members individually to check in and make sure they are OK during the pandemic. During live stream sermons they include messaging of importance for taking care of elders. To show the impact of their work, The Adams Centers takes attendance at programs, and</p>	<p>More LTCCC organizations will be invited to share their social isolation programs (during COVID-19) with the goal of expanding capacity through collaborations. Patricia will be working with Carolyn to schedule these.</p>
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	<p>collects social media usage data. In addition, they survey program attendees for suggestions for improvements. Another service that they provide is transportation assistance for older adults to attend services, go to medical appointments, etc. Volunteers are appreciated for art classes and other activities.</p> <p><u>Service Source's Program for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (DD)</u> –Joel Pace presented. The Mission is: To facilitate services and partnerships that support people with disabilities, their families, their caregivers, and community members in order to build more inclusive communities. They serve in eight day care centers for individuals with Development Disabilities (DD.) Since March 1, 2020, Services Source has operated virtually. Before COVID, they were only serving the northern Virginia area but thanks to virtual services they are now reaching beyond northern Virginia. Because they serve the D) population, they do outreach with the Community Services Board's (CSB) Support Coordinators and by "word of mouth" through families and friends of current clients. They recognize a need for more enhanced connection and programming opportunities which virtual services can provide. They seek new community partnership with organizations and volunteers that can provide new virtual activities and presentations. The following question was asked by a committee member: If someone new wants to benefit from their programs how can they connect with the ServiceSource? Answer: The phone number on their website is the easiest way.</p>	
<p>Action Plan: Advancing Collaborations/Partnerships and Volunteer help for Social Isolation Programs operated by LTCCC Organizations</p>	<p>Carolyn said that through the Social Isolation presentations, opportunities are created for collaborations with organizations and for individual to volunteerism. She shared that Patricia added a section to the Social Isolation Chart (see attached) showing these; and that an email will be crafted to send to the LTCCC membership with specific collaboration and volunteer opportunities.</p>	

<p>Action Plan: Engaging the Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations to Help their Qualified Neighbors get Vaccinations</p>	<p>Doug Birnie presented how the Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations started assisting people who are having hard time reaching information and the vaccination registration system. The Federation is well-poised to reach individuals within various neighborhoods. He mentioned an email that Patricia forwarded from him to the committee earlier today that was from the Federation President to its members about this new effort. Doug added that this can be an outcome of the LTCCC COVID-19 Impact and Response Committee’s work.</p>	<p>The launch of the Federation’s vaccine information dissemination and assistance is an outcome of the committee’s Action Plan.</p>
<p>Action Plan: Sustainable Organizational Operations</p>	<p>Chuck Thornton and Carolyn Cukierman presented a new committee Action Plan item regarding strengthening and sustaining operations of LTCCC organizations; and that it was based on answers from the LTCCC member survey, administered by this committee. These recommendations were sent to the committee members in advance of today’s meeting. There was a brief discussion about how LTCCC and other community-based organizations serving older adults and adults with disabilities can know about COVID-19 relief funding opportunities. Patricia provided information about the Fairfax County Library’s Grants Research and Training Center, which is a resource to find grant opportunities Grants Research and Training Center (GRTC) Library (fairfaxcounty.gov) Questions were raised about whether Fairfax County will initiate additional funding opportunities for small business and non-profit organizations, during the pandemic, similar to the <i>Fairfax Rise</i> program. Patricia will find more details about rise and if there will be another round of grants and other grant programs offered through the county. Diane Watson noted organizations such as her village are not organized as non-profits and therefore do not qualify for grant opportunities. Committee members suggested that she work with the Neighborhood Association to see if they can apply for grants.</p>	<p>Carolyn Cukierman and Chuck Thornton will try to find funding sources. Patricia will find out if the County will provide more <i>Fairfax Rise</i> funding and if other COVID-19 funding opportunities exist from the County.</p>
<p>Action Plan: Committee Assistance with Initiative in the BOS COVID-19 Response Plan for Older Adults</p>	<p>Carolyn provided an update to areas identified in the BOS COVID-10 Response Plan for Older Adults for which our committee is or can assist with. Here is a summary of them, which were added to the committee Action Plan. Social Isolation Initiative (page 6) – <u>Marketing Efforts to promote service offerings to those without technology, with language barriers, and to other potentially marginalized communities.</u> To support this initiative, the committee has been helping expand social isolation alleviation programs/services, offered by LTCCC member organizations, to serve more older adults (with and without technology.) The committee will continue this work that includes building collaborations between organizations with an equity lens to serve multi-cultural older adults.</p>	<p>Committee members are to review the Think Tank proposal and bring recommendations to the next committee meeting for consideration for a committee proposal. Committee members are permitted to discuss with one other committee</p>

	<p>Technology Initiative (Page 8) – <u>COVID-19 Think Tank Technology Challenge competition</u>. To support this project, the committee has offered to provide input to the questions for the competition application.</p> <p>Technology Initiative (page 8) – <u>Options for Low/No-Tech Users</u>. To support this initiative, the committee will continue to provide specific suggestions to the Health Department’s High Risk Community Task Force (HRCTF) so that older adults not using technology receive the same COVID-19 information as those who use technology. Suggestions made have included TV, radio, phone options for non-texters, hard copy information dissemination through neighborhood groups, mailings, etc.</p> <p>For the Think Tank Challenge, requests must be submitted by April 18, 2021 <u>2021 Fairfax Area “Think Tank” COVID-19 Challenge Family Services (fairfaxcounty.gov)</u> Carolyn asked committee bring suggestions and ideas for this challenge to the next meeting and that the committee will develop a proposal for the Challenge. She added that it can be a partnership proposal with other organizations.</p>	<p>member, but not more than one other member. Challenge suggestions can be emailed to Patricia in advance of the meeting.</p>
Future Committee Work	<p>Carolyn reviewed the following items and said that they are for future committee work: 1) Continue work on the Committee Action Plan and identify new actions; 2) Review LTCCC member survey results to determine if results warrant additions to the Committee Action Plan. 3) Hear a presentation by the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia about how to assure accessibility of programs and a brief overview of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging’s 50+ Community Ambassador Program. 4) Committee members Think Tank Technology challenge recommendations will be discussed at the next meeting and a committee response developed.</p>	
Adjournment	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.</p>	

Next Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., to be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.