

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, December 8, 2020, 4:00 p. m.
Note Taker:	Tina Ciambuschini and Patricia Rohrer

ATTENDEES:

Carolyn Cukierman, Committee Chair; Christine Amorosi, Doug Birnie, Orlene Grant, Allegra Joffe Fahringer, Anita Light, Steve Morrison, Patricia Rohrer, Chuck Thornton, Doris Ray and Diane Watson.

AGENDA ITEMS ADDRESSED:

Agenda Item	Discussion	Outcome/Action Steps
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 4:00 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 Chairman passed the virtual gavel to Assistant Committee Chair, Christine Amorosi. The Chairman 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 Chairman 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 Chairman 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 Chairman.</p>	<p>The motion carried.</p>
<p>Approval of Summary Notes from November 24, 2020 Meeting</p>	<p>The summary notes from November 24, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Doug Birnie asked that the spelling of his last name be corrected</p>	<p>The summary notes from November 24, 2020 meeting were accepted with a correction in spelling of Doug’s last name.</p>
<p>Committee Members Reflections</p>	<p>Carolyn Cukierman asked committee members to share their reflections on committee work since the last meeting, including how they are feeling. She began by sharing that she was thankful for a successful Zoom Thanksgiving. Diane Watson said that she is in South Carolina with her daughter who is convalescing. Doug Birnie said that he enjoyed a nice Thanksgiving dinner with his wife. Doris Ray said that she had a quiet Thanksgiving and shared that national disability rights groups are concerned about the proposed next federal COVID-19 relief bill, as it relates to ADA. She said that there is also concern because the bill has yet to incorporate provisions for increased service needs of congregate facilities. Anita Light mentioned having a quiet Thanksgiving and that her post-COVID-19 recovery is going well. Chuck Thornton mentioned having a great Thanksgiving and said “Happy Hannukah.” Christine Amorosi said that she visited her elderly relatives including her brother in Long Island, who lives in an adult care residence, where care aides are scarce now. Chuck responded saying that care aides are often being asked to work at only one facility, to mitigate COVID-19 spread during the pandemic, whereas before they worked at several facilities to gain enough money to support themselves. Steve Morrison shared that he had heard that a large percentage of the US population that died from COVID-19 lived in nursing homes or assisted living and many were over age sixty. His family Thanksgiving gathering was very small. Orlene Grant said that she had a quiet Thanksgiving with lots of phone calls. In her foundation, they launched an initiative to communicate with communities of color to overcome</p>	

	<p>hesitancy in taking the COVID-19 vaccine. Recalling the Tuskegee Study, she added that there are good historical reasons for why people of color have trust issues with government medical treatments. Allegra Joffe Fahringer shared that her organization, Let's Connect, LLC, provided an outdoor entertainment event today at a long-term care facility and that it was cold. She commented that the in conversations that she has been having about the vaccine, people are divided on whether to get it.</p>	
<p>Review of Committee Direction, Approach, and Scope of Work</p>	<p>Carolyn said that we all agree that Fairfax County is doing a great job of delivering information and mentioned appreciation for the various emails that Patricia Rohrer sends to the LTCCC. Carolyn discussed the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors new <i>COVID-19 Response Plan for Older Adults</i>, sent to the committee, as having three areas of focus: social isolation, wellness, and technology. From the report, she highlighted a couple Fairfax County existing initiatives that have pivoted to focus on COVID-19 response strategies: 1) the Community Service Board's (CSB) Mental Health First Aid Course for Older Adults; 2) the annual Department of Family Service 'Shark Tank' where high school students develop assistive technologies for older adults and winners are selected and their inventions "showcased;" and 3) the Health Department's Neighbor-to-Neighbor COVID-19 tool kit and shopping/pharmacy pick-up programs. Carolyn said that these are very targeted activities, and that the LTCCC does not need to replicate what is being done. Patricia mentioned that the input of this committee was included in the report, from a focus group conducted at a previous committee meeting.</p>	
<p>Results of the LTCCC Impact Survey</p>	<p>Carolyn began this item by thanking Christine for helping to develop the survey and for the assistance by Patricia and her colleague in the Health Department, who is a researcher. The survey results were sent to the committee in advance of this meeting. Carolyn highlighted some of the key results in the survey results, which are as follows:</p> <p>Of the 58 members of the LTCCC, responses were gathered from 24 (42%) which is above average for customer surveys which average from 5%-30% response rate. Over 79% of respondents represent non-profit organizations. The nature of the LTCCC members answering was evenly distributed among a wide variety of service areas listed. Education services were provided by 50% of those responding. Almost 96% of respondents stated there was a change in operating status due to COVID-19. with 47% still open but with limited programs/services. Office visits and requests for rides were significantly decreased with "virtual everything" taking their places. Although only 25% reported there was a shift in</p>	<p>In an effort to receive more responses, it was agreed that the survey be sent again to LTCCC members.</p>

	<p>constituencies served, comments were written about the underserved who do not have virtual connections and therefore cannot participate. This confirms sub-committee/work group input that inequity exists with those not able to use current technologies. Over 50% of respondents reported small to large financial losses. Over 50% reported that they did not apply for financial relief. The question is do LTCCC members need financial relief. Reducing services (35%) and working remotely (61%) were part of the adaptations required. Relationship questions showed restriction of guests/visitors was at 63% and reduced socialization was at 79%. This confirms sub-committee/work group input that relationships and social isolation are the hardest hit by far. Rethinking older models and finding innovation through human contact whether by the Village or neighbor concepts were offered as ideas to cope with this change in relationships. Relationships were cited as the biggest challenge (65%). In answer to “What worked?”, virtual programming, being creative, partnering, telemedicine, regular phone calls, and recruiting young volunteers were mentioned. In answer to “Name any opportunities”, 83% stated developing new ways of communication and pioneering new programming (50%) were open to them now. In answer to “What needs to be improved?”, respondents stated that more education, more mailings, more coordinating, more partnering, and more ideas for bridging the gap for those without technology were stated. Additional comments included more about communications in different languages, technology gaps, lack of computer access and a growing concern about the emphasis on “leaning toward technology and not enough toward thinking of other ways of imparting information.”</p> <p>There was discussion about how to obtain a larger response from LTCCC members and it was agreed to resend the survey to LTCCC members with a request for those who had not answered to complete it. Doris Ray mentioned that Survey Monkey, the instrument used for the survey, does not allow respondents to stop and return to the survey without losing what was already answered. Patricia mentioned that for future surveys, she will find out if the County has other survey tools that allow for this that could be used.</p>	
<p>Other Discussion:</p>	<p>(See right hand column)</p>	<p>Carolyn asked that committee members join the Zoom five minutes in advance of committee meetings to be in attendance for the start time of 4:00 p.m. and are</p>

		encouraged to wear holiday attire for the December 22 meeting.
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at p.m. 5:32 p.m.	

Next Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., to be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Next LTCCC Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., to be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.