

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, February 16, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
Note Taker:	Samantha Younts and Patricia Rohrer

ATTENDEES:

Carolyn Cukierman, Committee Chair; Debi Alexander, Christine Amorosi, Doug Birnie, Jan Buchanan, Ken Crum, Orlene Grant, Nadia Hoonan, Allegra Joffe Fahringer, Dorothy Keenan, Anita Light, Steve Morrison, Patricia Rohrer, Kristin Roman, 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 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 Jan Buchanan.</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</p>	<p>The motion carried.</p> <p>The motion carried.</p>

	<p>further move that this committee may conduct this meeting electronically through 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>Chuck Thornton passed the virtual gavel back to the Committee Chair.</p>	<p>The motion carried.</p>
<p>Approval of Summary Notes from February 2, 2021 Meeting</p>	<p>The summary notes from the February 2, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Jan Buchanan requested that the following sentence be removed from the notes and it was agreed to remove it: “The National Council on Aging College Partnership provides sponsorship and support.”</p>	<p>The summary notes from the February 2, 2021 meeting were amended as suggested.</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. She mentioned that this group of staff meets weekly and that she takes the committee’s suggestions to the group. The following report was provided based on the committee’s recommendations: 1) Requested that the phone line number for registration be adjusted to be more visible on the website. 2) An option for an alternative email will not be included on the registration. This was requested from the committee and the answer was not in the affirmative. 3) Transportation can be provided through coordination of the County when scheduling one’s vaccination for individuals who are able to get out of house but do not have a ride or cannot afford a taxi/Uber/Lyft. 4) For those without texting capability, in addition to “sweeping the parking lot”, now when people arrive for their vaccination, they are met with a volunteer at their car who tells them to expect a text and if they do not receive texts, to come to the front of the building at their appointment time. Additional updates from the recent HRCTF meeting included a new handout give at the second dose informing of items such as symptoms, length of time to reach immunity, and why we continue to wear a mask until reaching herd community immunity. Messaging continues to be broadcast on local multi-ethnic media outlets and on Channel 16. By adding more staff, wait times on the county vaccine phone line has been reduced to 3-5 minutes, although some are calling multiple times instead of waiting on hold. Homebound vaccinations are reserved for those truly homebound and serves 10 – 20 individuals weekly. Aggressive clean-up of the vaccination registration list is reducing duplications for those registered multiple times. The County’s new</p>	<p>Committee members should continue to bring issues/concerns related to older adults and adults with disabilities about vaccination communication and dissemination to committee meetings and Patricia will relay back to the HRCFT.</p> <p>For general questions about the vaccine or the pandemic, email Patricia.</p>

	<p>vaccine dashboard shows what date of registrations are currently being contacted for vaccinations. At the time of this meeting, those registered on January 18 are being contacted. Patricia added that there were 41,000 people who registered on that date, so it will take some time to get through them. The federal government has started directing vaccine supply to select pharmacies in Virginia, with one CVS location in Fairfax offering so far that is offering ‘first come, first serve’ appointments and does not keep a registration list like the county does. If individuals receive the vaccine by another provider and are also registered with Fairfax County, they are encouraged to call or email to cancel their registration. A new state registration system is being rolled out, however, to avoid confusion with residents and minimize registration concerns, Fairfax County has received permission to continue with the County registration system separate from the new state system.</p>	
<p>Update: Committee Assistance with the BOS COVID-19 Response Plan for Older Adults</p>	<p>Carolyn shared that Patricia arranged a meeting with the Director of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Director, herself, and Patricia to discuss how the committee might assist with initiatives in the Board of Supervisors’ (BOS) COVID-19 Response Plan for Older Adults. The plan was developed in a coordinated effort with staff from several county agencies and focus groups were convened for input. This committee served as a focus group last fall. The report was completed in November 2020. The report was distributed to committee members. Carolyn detailed the three questions asked during the meeting as 1) How can our committee help advance the Response Plan? 2) Are there gaps identified in the report that our committee can help fill? and 3) How can we avoid overlapping efforts from our committee and those in the plan? The three principal areas of concern in the report are social isolation, technology, and wellness. Carolyn mentioned that she has a particular interest in the COVID-19 Shark Tank Technology Challenge initiative: Fairfax Area Student “Shark Tank” Technology Challenge Family Services (fairfaxcounty.gov) There was a willingness expressed for assistance from the committee for initiatives in the report. Carolyn and Patricia will develop a plan to be presented at the next committee meeting that will include areas for committee assistance. While not in the BOS Plan, during the meeting, it was suggested that the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging’s 50+ Community Ambassador Program might be a possible communication source to reach more in the underserved subset of older adults and adults with disabilities.</p>	<p>Carolyn and Patricia will develop a plan for the next meeting of the specific initiatives the BOS COVID-19 Response Plan for Older Adults for which the committee can assist, and these will be added to the committee’s Action Plan.</p>

Presentations About Existing Social Isolation Programs by LTCCC Member Organizations

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, at the last committee meeting, six presentations were made by LTCCC members whose organizations have initiated activities to address social isolation during the pandemic. Three more 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 information programs to be presented today.

Service Source – Ken Crum, Executive Director, introduced Kristin Roman who presented the Virtual Center for Active Adults that was initiated during the pandemic in collaboration with the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. In response to senior and other center-based programs being suspended, due to the pandemic, in April of 2020, programming was developed for a virtual center with website resources, YouTube activities on demand, and health and wellness activities hosted on Zoom platforms daily. Exercise programs focus on balance and active independence and include aerobics, line dancing, Tai Chi, Zumba, and men and women health programs. Additional virtual activities include brain games, trivia, and Creative Corner Fridays. Discussion groups provide a social aspect and correspond with the lunch hour with ongoing Meals on Wheels services and a caregiver support group. Partnerships with organizations provide expert speakers on topical presentations in areas of healthy eating, art and music, and memory care. Participants receive regular wellness calls and emails. Surveys gauging interest areas demonstrate 94% program satisfaction. Individual walkthroughs assist participants with accessing virtual platforms and connecting to resources. Questions and discussion address the following: The average participant age ranges of 60 – 70 years. Additional supports are provided for participants with cognitive disabilities by working with families and providing activity packets. The monthly county operated senior center membership fee is currently waived for this year and open to all jurisdictions. Attendance tracking and surveys are used to measure outcomes of services.

SPARC (Specially Adapted Resource Clubs) – Executive Director, Debi Alexander, presented. Adults with sensory disabilities currently aged 18 – 50 years old experience ongoing learning support and community volunteer

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>opportunities provided in a team environment that is tailored for each club member’s ability. The 45 currently enrolled members require support to maintain health and safe access in the community. Case management services provide matching services, with a high retention and success rate to assist members with connecting to day programs, mental health services and referrals, and advocate for club members. SPARC’s clubs offer day program serves at four community centers in the Fairfax area. During the pandemic, programming is now virtual and includes social peer groups, film club, art and music therapy, yoga, cooking classes, weekly bingo, and newsletters. Volunteer opportunities are listed on the Social Isolation Presentations Chart that was distributed to committee members. Questions and discussion addressed the following: The staff-to-members ratio is low. The pandemic altered in-person attendance. Sliding scale fees support memberships for those unable to afford the fee.</p> <p><u>GrandInvolve</u>: Dorothy Keenan started and leads the GrandInvolve non-profit program and provided the presentation. By providing classroom learning support to children by older adults, or adults with disabilities, relationships that reduce ageism are formed while students improve academically. During the pandemic, the Fairfax County schools does not permit volunteers to perform their services in person, so a switch has been made to provide virtual volunteer support services for students. Eleven of the 25 schools remain active using the virtual program for students up to sixth grade. Regional meetings occur regularly that includes feedback from the teachers regarding measures of improvement. Questions and discussion addressed the following: At least two children work with one volunteer. Reading and math support and activities provided by the teachers are supported by volunteers. Often newly retired volunteers become involved in the program. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) provided Chromebooks and internet connection assistance to all families and students, providing access for virtual support by Grandinvolve volunteers. GrandInvolve is developing a strategy for the next few years and will continue virtual volunteer support as a permanent offering. A need for volunteer leaders has been identified.</p>	
<p>Pending Committee Actions</p>	<p>The following items will be discussed at future committee meetings: 1) Identify additional actions for the Committee Action Plan; 2) Review LTCCC member survey results, focusing on operations issues, and determine how to add to the Committee Action Plan, since approximately 50% of respondents indicated changes in organizational operations; and 3) Assist with certain initiatives in the BOS COVID-19 Response Plan for Older Adults. Carolyn mentioned that we could continue to have presentations at future committee meetings including the</p>	<p>Committee members to review the LTCCC Member Survey Results and bring suggestions from it for the Action Plan to the next meeting.</p>

	ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia, the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging's 50+ Ambassador Program, and organizations conducting activities to reduce Social Isolation.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.	

Next Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., to be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.