

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 2, 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, Orlene Grant, Nadia Hoonan, Allegra Joffe Fahringer, Allilsa Fernandez, Steve Gurney, Jill Jacobs, Anita Light, Steve Morrison, Doris Ray, Patricia Rohrer, Diane Watson, Ron Wiersma and Pat Williams.

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. It is affirmed that the duration of the meeting is hereafter extended to two hours, as was the time established when the committee first formed.	
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 Diane Watson 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 Anita Light.</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</p>	<p>The motion carried.</p> <p>The motion carried.</p>

	<p>physical presence of the public, cannot be implemented safely or practically. I further move that this committee may conduct this meeting electronically through a dedicated video and audio-conferencing line. The motion was seconded by Jan Buchanan.</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>Diane Watson passed the virtual gavel back to the Committee Chair.</p>	<p>The motion carried.</p>
<p>Approval of Summary Notes from January 19, 2021 Meeting</p>	<p>The summary notes from the January 19, 2021 meeting were reviewed.</p>	<p>The summary notes from the January 19, 2021 meeting were approved as written.</p>
<p>Information Update: Health Department COVID-19 High Risk Community Task Force (HRCTF)</p>	<p>Patricia Rohrer provided an update from the Health Department’s COVID19 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. From the committee recommendation, flyers are available that can be downloaded from the county’s COVID-19 website to distribute in hardcopy format and that an insert has been created to be included in the February issue of the Golden Gazette publication. By request, the Health Department will print for circulation in neighborhood organizations that do not have access to printers. Some other changes, based on the committee’s feedback, are: 1) allowing one caregiver to accompany someone to their vaccination appointment; 2) wheelchairs and extra volunteers were made available at vaccination sites; 3) for those that are truly homebound, when their turn comes up after registering, they can request to be placed on a list for an at-home vaccination. There may be a screening to determine homebound status. Additional suggestions made by the committee are being worked on. One such suggestion is messaging on Channel 16 and radio stations. The County is promoting vaccinations in various language and ethnic-specific TV channels and radio channels. They are working on messages for Channel 16. Another issue that is being worked on is transportation options for those who can get out and do not have a ride or cannot afford a ride by services such as taxi, Uber and Lyft. The HRCTF is working on partnerships to be able to vaccinate independent senior-specific apartment complexes on site. She noted that for long term care facilities with nursing care and assisted living, they are being</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>vaccinated on site by the Federal Government through a partnership with CVS and Walgreen pharmacies. To address and inform vaccination hesitancy in communities of color, most notably in the African American community, targeted education and outreach is being done through the Health Department's robust multi-cultural outreach team. Patricia added that vaccination dissemination continues to be determined by supply and demand and that now the demand is much greater than the supply. Next, she asked committee members for additional concerns to take back the HRCFT. The following suggestions were offered: 1) If someone assists an adult with disabilities register on-line, they would like a place to list an alternate email, so they can be notified in addition to the registrant. 2) What alternatives other than "sweeping the parking lot," have been put in place for those that don't use text or don't have a cell phone? 3) There are scammers calling saying that they are from a Fairfax County's vaccine center. Is there a specific phone number that shows up on phone as an identifier that says, Fairfax County? 4) What is the communication plan to reach older adults with dementia and home bound older adults and adults with learning challenges? We understand that there will an option for the homebound to sign up for a vaccine at home, however, this question is about how to reach these people so that they can register? 5) Can mailers be sent to older adult households (in several languages) to give them a chance to get on the vaccination list now? We believe that there are older adults not connected who are not finding out how to sign up, creating in-equitable access to vaccines.</p>	
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<p>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 the item is: “Leverage LTCCC organizations already doing social isolation activities to partner with other LTCCC organizations to expand and increase the impact. This will be led by committee members whose organizations are already doing some of these activities.” To advance this action item, six presentations were made by LTCCC members whose organizations have initiated activities to address social isolation during the pandemic. The purpose of these presentations (and future ones) will be to give LTCCC members awareness of what is being done for social isolation. The presentations hopefully will encourage collaboration, expansion of services, partnering, and information sharing. A chart detailing each organization’s mission, population served, partnerships, role of volunteers, and the specific programming and outreach methods offered to alleviate social isolation was provided to committee members in advance of the meeting. This chart served as the basis for the presentations.</p> <p>1.) Let’s Connect, LLC – Allegra Joffe Fahringer presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission: “To connect socially with older adults through intergenerational relationships and programs.” • Participation and connection from all ages is encouraged. Programming includes phone chats (safety checks 7 days a week), video chats, online programming with Zoom games and singing club, mailed care packages, pen-pals, variety show performances at a distance in publicly accessible spaces. • Staff is trained with emphasis on technique of active listening with empathy. Referrals and information provided for community resources connect members to available services (like food and transportation.) • Weekly, Friday online presentations with topics concerning senior health and education feature guest experts from partnering organizations. • Questions included: the role of volunteers, what services are provided with fee, the structure of individualized private funding contracts, and the impact of the pandemic on the organization’s operational and fiscal health. <p>2.) Village Connector Experience – Orlene Grant presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission: “To improve the lives of 50+ through economic development, education, and training.” • Developed in direct response to the pandemic as a resource hub 	<p>It was decided that additional social isolation alleviation program (during COVID-19) presentations will be made at future committee meetings.</p> <p>At the next meeting a discussion will be held about these presentations to talk about the types of collaboration and expansion of services that could be initiated. A decision was made to invite all LTCCC members to hear the presentations.</p>
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	<p>website with a structured program reaching to community connections to address social isolation and dealing with loneliness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassadors and volunteers with extensive 16-hour curriculum conduct member phone calls that assess mood and tone to motivate social connections. Programming includes virtual small and larger group activities, mailed greeting cards, and pop-up packages delivered with useful items. • Partnerships with Prince George Parks & Rec and Goodwill program help to match the member to an ambassador. • Questions included: accommodations for individuals with health impairments and cognitive disabilities, referral sources for membership, the role of volunteers, and the impact of the pandemic on the organization’s operational and fiscal health. <p>3.) Spring Hill Community Caring Group (village) – Diane Watson presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission: “To provide temporary or intermittent help for those over age 55 when they need assistance.” • Village in Lorton for community members. Residents volunteer to provide all services organized with the Caring Group, block captains, and neighborhood watch. Services include check-in phone calls, transportation to medical appointments, meal preparation, and pet walking. • Monthly meetings of the Caring Group and block captains also feature guest speakers from County and non-profit agencies presenting pro-aging topics. • Questions included: seeking community partnerships, if the pandemic has diminished social programming offered, and the impact of the pandemic on the organization’s operational and fiscal health. <p>4.) Virtual Travelog – Pat Williams and Steve Gurney presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission: “To create free travel parties to address pandemic social isolation.” • Goal to offer a program to bring seniors a fun way to connect and participate that fosters comradery with shared travel experiences and alleviates loneliness and travel deprivation in the pandemic. • Format continues to evolve, with elements of introductions and presentation with photos and shared stories followed by open socialization, polls, and giveaways. • Companion and caregiver engagement and support is encouraged. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve shared virtual resource website links supporting social interaction and virtual platform troubleshooting. • Questions included: the in advance planning needs for the program format, and the impact of the pandemic on the organization’s operational and fiscal health. <p>5.) Mount Vernon at Home (village) – Jan Buchanan presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission: “To support members 55+ who chose to age-in-place, to remain safe, secure, socially active and engaged.” • Village organization as an incorporated non-profit serving South County/ Mount Vernon/ Alexandria area with membership. With the pandemic, the provided services and programming pivoted for continuity. • Programming includes virtual activities with book and movie clubs, coffee chats and happy hours, and topical presentations. The Sherwood Regional Library served as a center for connecting. • The National Council on Aging College Partnership provides sponsorship and support. • Questions included: what services are provided with fee, and the impact of the pandemic on the organization’s operational and fiscal health. <p>6.) Health Quality Solutions – Christine Amorosi presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission: “To foster a holistic living environment that allows older adults to live healthy, productive lives.” • Developed from a clinical practice with a focus on engaging older adults with physical and mental disabilities. With the pandemic, the traditional in-person model adapted to move programs and workshops to online platforms. • Programming includes a virtual community with coffee clutch groups, faith based and bible studies groups like Women Living with Purpose, adapted exercise and wellness workshops. • A scheduled family education series provides information on health and safety topics for accessing medical appointments. • Questions included: if pandemic has diminished programming offered, accommodations for individuals with health impairments and cognitive disabilities, and the impact of the pandemic on the organization’s operational and fiscal health. 	
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Future Committee Actions	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 whether to add to the Committee Action Plan; and 3) Lend assistance to certain initiatives in the BOS COVID-19 Response Plan.	For the next meeting, there are some additional organizations in LTCCC who may want to present, so that more presentations will be on the agenda. At the next meeting, Carolyn will report on her meeting with the Director of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging regarding the BOS COVID-19 Response Plan
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.	

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