

MEETING INFORMATION: Fairfax Area Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC)

Committee Name:	Long Term Care Coordinating Council
Meeting Location:	Held Virtually, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
Date & Time:	July 29, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Notes-taker:	Jennifer Disano

ATTENDEES:

LTCCC Members Present: Steve Morrison-Chair, Christine Amorosi, Doug Birnie, Matriona Busch, Chip Cagle, Sharon Canner, Lyn Crawford, Ken Crum, Carolyn Cukierman, Tisha Deeghan, Jennifer Disano, Carol Edelstein, Rikki Epstein, Nancy Fiedelman, Allegra Joffe Fahringer, Orlene Grant, Denise Hyater, Dorothy Keenan, Susan LeFande, Anita Light, Rose Mario, Robin McGlothlin, Courtney Nuzzo, April Pinch-Keeler, Ayeshia Quainoo-Terera, Doris Ray, Cheryl Rodakowski, Catie Ruth, Bob Sargeant, Judy Seiff, Chuck Thornton, Diane Watson, Ron Wiersma, Pat Williams and Marie Woodard.

LTCCC Members Absent: May Al-Barzinji, Tom Bash, Phil Beauchene, Melanie Bush, Renuka Chander, Christi Clark, Cathy Cole, Janelle Ellis, Sonia Gow, Megumi Inoue, Suheir Kafri, Heisung Lee, Susan LeFande, Albert McAloon, Terrence McCormally, Peggy O'Reilly, Mary Jayne Panek, Elana Plotnick, Aaron Rebuck, Nancy Scott, Joan Thomas, Michael Toobin, and Linda Watkins.

Guests: Beatrice Claiborne (CRI, Inc.)

Staff: Trina Mayhan-Webb and Patricia Rohrer.

AGENDA ITEMS ADDRESSED:

1. **Call to Order** - LTCCC Chairman, Steve Morrison, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **Motions to Proceed with Electronic Meeting** - 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.

To assure public access, LTCCC Chairman, Steve Morrison, asked LTCCC members to state their names and where they were joining the meeting from. The Chairman passed the virtual gavel to Vice-Chair, Rose Mario. 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. The motion carried.

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 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 a dedicated video and audio conferencing line. The motion was seconded by Bob Sargent. The motion carried.

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 Orlene Grant. The motion carried. The Vice-Chair passed the virtual gavel back to the Chairman.

3. **Vote to approve LTCCC Government Affairs Committee Recommendations for the County's 2021 Human Services Issues Paper** – April Pinch- Keeler, Chair LTCCC Government Affairs Committee, stated that the committee met three times, reviewed the issues paper and made recommendations. She asked attendees to refer to the recommendations on a document that was emailed to them earlier today. April made the following motion: "I move that the recommendations for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' 2021 Human Services Issues Paper, drafted by the LTCCC Government Affairs Committee, be approved by the LTCCC." The motion was seconded by Doris Ray. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.
4. **Vote for LTCCC Chairman and Vice-Chairman for two year terms** – Steve Morrison shared that the LTCCC Steering Committee appointed a nominating committee to recommend a slate for the next two year terms for the positions of LTCCC Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Dorothy Keenan, Nominating Committee Chair, acknowledged committee members Orlene Grant and Allegra Joffe Fahringer and shared the Committee's recommended slate: Chairman, Steve Morrison; Vice-Chairman, Rose Mario. She asked if there were nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she made the following motion, "I move that Steve Morrison serve as LTCCC Chairman and Rose Mario as Vice-Chairman for a term of two years to end on June 30, 2022." The motion was seconded by April Pinch- Keeler. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.
5. **Adapting to and Navigating through the New Normal – Lesson Learned from Changes Imposed by the Spread of COVID-19** – What Works. What Does Not Work. What We Need to Improve – A discussion led by LTCCC members Carolyn Cukierman & Christine Amorosi.

Carolyn Cukierman introduced herself and her co-presenter Christine Amorosi. She began by conducting a zoom poll to gauge attendees' enthusiasm about the LTCCC having met again and the results were positive. When the COVID-19 pandemic started, we all thought it might be a short-term event and we shifted our perspective and took immediate action. Now we understand that the current circumstances are not short term. With such changes, where do we go from here recognizing the long-term nature of the current situation, the "new normal"?

Carolyn the LTCCC Vision and Mission to remind LTCCC members of the Council's purpose and to think about LTCCC's possible contributions in the "new normal" situation we have now found ourselves. The LTCCC vision for Fairfax County is to be inclusive and provide a supportive community to all ages and abilities in the Fairfax area. The mission of the Fairfax area Long Term Care Coordinating Council is to identify needs and promote solutions that enhance the lives of older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers so all can participate fully in the community. She opened a dialogue with the council by exploring how COVID-19 experiences have affected LTCCC member organizations. What has happened since the LTCCC met on March 11? Through zoom polls and chatroom responses, she asked council members to respond to the following prompts: What worked? What needed improvement? What will propel us forward best? What is missing still? What will the post-COVID climate need? What support could we seek from Fairfax County to enhance our impact?

Carolyn pointed out that actions Council member organizations made to manage the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic started with emergency plans and contingency measures implemented to prevent the spread of the disease. Other actions organizations had to make included implementation of technology for virtual workspaces, acquiring needed funding, supporting staffing needs, obtaining extra cleaning supplies and more and different kinds of protective equipment, as well as dealing with mental health issues such as social isolation. She stated that our best defense is to be ready for action to get what we need to move forward keeping people safe, productive and calm.

Within our Lessons Learned, we have three major categories: Business Operations, Clinical Aspects and Client Interface. Carolyn's expertise focuses on business operations and client interface. Business operations include emergency preparedness, staffing, logistics, supplies and readiness for forward planning.

Christine Amorosi's expertise in healthcare focuses on the second category of lessons learned, clinical aspects. Christine provided an overview of lessons learned in clinical aspects and the effects of COVID-19. She stated that understanding the CDC as the voice from the public health perspective is a resource to understand signs and symptoms, testing, and managing COVID-19 and CDC can be seen as a benchmark of best practice. She recommended going forward that the LTCC continue to monitor CDC website. COVID-19 has impacted the delivery of health care services and caused postponement of elective surgeries, deferred primary care, and chronic management of disease. In the new climate, telemedicine models are taking the place of face-to-face medicine. For some patients, telemedicine may not be inaccessible due to IT limitations or may not be appropriate, especially for those patients with Alzheimer's and other health concerns that require more traditional doctor visits. Due to COVID-19, some patients are only reaching providers for telephonic symptom questions and medication refills and only seeking care for urgent concerns. She also stated that vulnerable patient populations and those with mental health needs are experiencing difficulty accessing care during this COVID-19 crisis. Faith-based organizations and non-profits are helping to fill voids and are collecting information. The LTCCC could help provide additional resources as they chart a course forward.

Carolyn resumed the presentation to discuss the third lessons learned category, client interface. Changes during the pandemic include administering COVID-19 tests (or not), providing virtual activities programming, and managing interactions of seniors with others, and handling of visitors, volunteers and guests. She discussed new norms such as virtual huddles for interaction among staff and leadership teams, trainings & webinars now being recorded for future use, telehealth, transparency in virus testing data, contact tracing and concerns of staff when connecting with isolated, vulnerable people. In this same period of time and equally important, an emphasis on equity, diversity, and inclusion has moved to the forefront.

Carolyn asked the following questions: What is the most positive action so far? What strategy worked the best? What is missing still? Will we be ready for post-COVID? What can LTCCC do? Carolyn outlined probable next steps. She recommends that the council intelligently and safely move forward to find out what is sustainable, relevant, and necessary. What paradigm shifts are we facing? What opportunities lie ahead? She emphasized planning with council members and non-profit organizations to identify best practices and ideas to address issues and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. This work will be work included in a new committee.

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A new LTCCC Committee will be formed to collect more data, compile answers to these questions, and compile a report. The committee will temporarily be called “The LTCCC New Normal Committee.” If you want to join the committee, send your name to Patricia Rohrer at patricia.rohrer@fairfaxcounty.gov. The committee will be staffed by Patricia. All LTCCC members who want to participate are welcome. The meetings will be held virtually via Zoom and will be held monthly or whatever time frame works best. All organizations or individual are welcome – including all council member organizations in advocacy, resident based, charity, community-based services, support services, patient care, home care, and brick and mortar facilities.

The Chairman thanked the speakers and said that he has appointed Carolyn Cukierman to serve as the Chair for the committee and Christine Amorosi as Assistant Chair. He thanked them for their presentation and recommendation to form the committee.

6. **Adjournment** – Bob Sargent moved to adjourn the meeting Ellen Crawford seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Next LTCCC Meeting – TBD.