

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, November 24, 2020, 4:00 p. m.
Note Taker:	Tina Ciambuschini and Patricia Rohrer

ATTENDEES:

Carolyn Cukierman, Committee Chair; Christine Amorosi, Doug Bernie, Allegra Joffe Fahringer, Orlene Grant, Anita Light, Steve Morrison, Doris Ray, 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 4:05 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 Chuck Thornton who covered for the Assistant Committee Chair. 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</p>	<p>The motion carried.</p> <p>The motion carried.</p>

	<p>electronically through a dedicated video and audio-conferencing line. The motion was seconded by Doug Bernie.</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 Steve Morrison.</p> <p>Chuck Thornton passed the virtual gavel back to the Committee Chairman.</p>	The motion carried.
Approval of Summary Notes from November 10, 2020 Meeting	The summary notes from November 10, 2020 meeting were reviewed	The summary notes from November 10, 2020 meeting were accepted as written.
Committee Members Reflections	<p>Carolyn asked committee members to share their reflections on the committee’s work since the last meeting, and any other thoughts they would like to share. Chuck Thornton wished everyone wellness and health. Diane Watson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Doris Ray also said Happy Thanksgiving and shared that the Virginia General Assembly will be hold its session virtually this year and that it will be shorter than usual (30 days.) Doug Bernie mentioned that he is excited about today’s agenda because it will narrow down the committee’s work. He also shared that he was reviewing different sub-committees and that he was on the Operations group but now is on the Relations one. He requested being included on both. Steve Morrison echoed good wishes to be well and keep up the good work. Allegra Joffe Fahringer shared that was able to see her parents and grandparents, including her grandfather who is 98, since the last meeting and she wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.</p>	
Review of Committee Direction, Approach, and Scope of Work	<p>Carolyn reminded committee members that the committee is following a process and that currently we are in the gathering information phase which includes the survey for LTCCC members. She added that the progress report emailed to LTCCC members is another step in the process for the committee’s work and that we are entering the phase of determining priorities.</p>	
Progress on Action Item – Survey for LTCCC Members	<p>Chuck Thornton asked if committee members had completed the survey and how many LTCCC members completed it. Patricia Rohrer reported that 18 LTCCC members had completed the survey so far, averaging 10 minutes to complete. She said that she will send reminder emails tomorrow and early next week. Doug asked if he should complete from the perspective of the LTCCC Mobility & Transportation Committee (which he chairs) because he is</p>	Survey results will be shared at the next committee meeting.

	retired and not affiliated with a particular organization. Patricia said that the majority of LTCCC members represent an organization and would answer for their organization and the few who are not affiliated with organizations can answer from their personal experience. She added that the survey explains this in the directions and that it contains 'skip' functions for questions that are not relevant for respondents not associated with an organization.	
Progress on Action Item: County Resources for older adults during COVID-19	Carolyn said that as additional COVID-19-specific resources for older adults and adults with disabilities become available, they will be added to the committee's resource list and resent. She complimented Patricia for adding holiday information to the list and for the many emails with resources and information that she sends to the LTCCC and added how amazing are all of the resources that Fairfax County offers.	As Resources are added, Patricia will update the list and distribute it to the LTCCC members.
Progress on Action Item – Committee Progress Report sent to LTCCC Members	Chuck asked Patricia if there were any responses about the committee's progress report that was emailed to the LTCCC membership. She said that there were no comments made to her regarding the report. He asked if it would be possible to hold another virtual LTCCC meeting and include, on the agenda, a presentation from this committee. Allegra said it was a good idea. Doris Ray asked if a presentation from the Long Term Care Ombudsman program could be included on the agenda. Patricia said that we could also invite Dr. Ben Schwartz, Director of Epidemiology at the Fairfax County Health Department, to provide updated information and answer questions about the pandemic. Patricia clarified that the LTCCC by-laws require the LTCCC Steering Committee to establish agendas for LTCCC meetings and added that if the LTCCC Chairman agrees, the Steering Committee could meet to set the agenda for a LTCCC meeting for January 13, 2021, which would be the regularly scheduled time for a LTCCC meeting. Steve Morrison, LTCCC, Chairman said that could be done and that he was open to the committee's recommendations.	The recommendation for agenda items for a January 13, 2021 LTCCC meeting will be presented to the LTCCC Steering Committee.

<p>Progress on Action Item – Comments on All Category Groups by November 20</p>	<p>Carolyn reminded committee members that additional recommendations for the four category areas be email to Patricia. Diane Watson suggested that it is important to include on the Wellbeing recommendations, support for the safely and protection of the long term care workforce, especially in facilities. Carolyn responded that this recommendation be included in the next committee progress report. Anita Light suggested looking at the Governor’s COVID-19 Mandates for possible inclusion in a future report. Doris Ray recommended that the statewide COVID-19 ‘strike team’s’ initiatives be reviewed, especially for those facilities being forcibly locked down.</p>	<p>Additional recommendations for any of the four category group reports to be emailed to Patricia.</p>
<p>Progress on Action Item – Priorities for Committee Focus</p>	<p>Carolyn asked committee members to share their top three choices of recommendations from all category group reports and to decide which of the three is near-term (can act on quickly in weeks) and which is mid-term (needs some planning to implement in the upcoming months.)</p> <p>Chuck shared that his short-term priority is for businesses and non-profits to obtain financial assistance, for example from grants through Fairfax County. His mid-term priority is for neighborhood groups to play key roles for those needing assistance with technology. Longer term, he said would be to identify a core group of who can assist with obtaining technology training/equipment where needed. Even longer term, Chuck added that new zoning and master planning take into consideration that the pandemic may change forever how much people attend movies and large entertainment venues.</p> <p>Doug shared that he is interested in establishing neighborhood navigators and the immediate short term task for navigators is assisting vaccine prioritization such as those with underlying conditions in their neighborhoods.</p> <p>Allegra stated that her top priority recommendation is survival-related by getting food to people that need it, and added a second priority which is to develop a comprehensive communication plan that reaches those who do not use computers, such as mass mailings. She added a third which is to meet accessibility needs such as transportation.</p> <p>Diane said, for her, the highest priority is the neighborhood village mentality and getting more neighborhoods thinking this way. Regarding communicating through homeowner’s associations, she said that there are a few areas in the county without associations and communication methods to reach them need implemented.</p>	<p>Committee members to mail priorities to Patricia.</p>

Doris feels that the highest priority is enabling residents to get access to basic needs like food, shopping for food, dry cleaning, and transportation especially for low to modest incomes. She said that one of the greatest things that the county has done, during COVID-19, is the countywide shopping program. Regarding transportation, she said that those who qualify for Metro Access, have been fortunate because they have continued daily service. But for other public transit users, it is a strenuous trip especially for those with disabilities and for older adults. She agrees with Allegra about communication that is accessible for everyone. Doug interjected and said that Fairfax County has Channel 16 which provides a lot of information; however, he feels that a series of YouTube videos could be produced as well. Doris replied that there is plenty of information available but how does one get to it if they cannot afford cable service.

Anita shared that a top priority for her is for long-term care facilities to figure out access for their residents to safely see friends or family again, most especially because of isolation and facilities being locked down. She agrees with Allegra about food insecurity as a high priority. Thirdly, she said that a priority need is to build people's technology skills.

Steve mentioned that his top priority is to identify people in isolation and promote alternate ways to do things without being on-site. A second priority is educating and promoting the upcoming COVID vaccines.

Carolyn provided a summary of what she heard from committee members. Survival first, not just survival for single, isolated people, but survival for services and goods. She asked, "Who can satisfy those need?" and suggested that in these times, it is mostly volunteers. She concluded this agenda item by saying that now is the time for the committee to determine what is the key thing to do next. Most of the subcommittee workgroups have been identifying needs. Next will be for the committee to identify who had the needs, how to communicate to them and what is the best help for them.

Progress on Action Item – Communication Plan	The communication subgroup will develop a near and mid-term communications plan. Diane mentioned there are resources with the county and that messaging must be constant. Putting information out occasionally does not have the same impact.	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.	

Next Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 8, 4:00 p.m., to be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Next LTCCC Meeting: TBD.