

MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Fairfax Mayor and City Council

FROM: Andre Lee, Fairfax City Representative to the Fairfax County Advisory Social Services Board (ASSB)

SUBJECT: Quarterly Report from the ASSB, November 2022 through January 2023

DATE: January 24, 2023

The ASSB continues to monitor the formation and implementation of social welfare programs, hearing from representatives of the Department of Family Services (DFS) to provide feedback on its various service performances and future plans. I attended the November meetings, but I was unable to attend the December and January meetings due to being overseas for the international adoption of my son. I am thus reporting on the December and January meetings through the minutes. The ASSB meets virtually every month and has done the following:

- In November, Assistant Division Director for Operations in Child Welfare Sandra Slappey Brown provided updates on the Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) Program.
- Division Director of Public Assistance and Employment Services Lisa Tatum and Division Director did the same on Public Assistance and Employment Services (PAES).
- In December, Amy Carlini (Director of Communications, Fairfax County Department of Family Services) shared the draft of the annual report of the ASSB on the services provided by the Department of Family Services (DFS) as a record of the outcomes DFS has achieved.
 - A full version will be made available to the ASSB by the end of January.
- Marijke Hannam (DFS Deputy Director) briefed the ASSB on personnel hiring, job vacancies, and retention initiatives, and on the governor's proposed budget amendments.
 - Notable topics covered include reductions to the Children Services Act budget and new/increased funding for tech, programs, foster homes, TANF, and the VA Initiative for Education and Work.
- In January, DFS Director Michael Becketts provided announcements to the ASSB on the unwinding of Medicaid and SNAP's pandemic waivers and the status of the DFS workforce.
- Melanie Fenwick (Senior Manager of Strategic Initiatives) provided an update on the 2022 Annual Report, and board members weighed in on edits.
- ASSB will be nominating members for vice chair and secretary in February.
 - ASSB Chair David Jonas will also no longer be available to serve as Chair due to scheduling conflicts.

MEMORANDUM

To: City of Fairfax Mayor and City Council

From: Carolyn Sutterfield, City Representative to the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging

Re: Quarterly Report, November 2022–January 2023

Date: January 26, 2023

The Fairfax Area Commission on Aging (COA) continues to meet via Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month. The pre-Covid custom of designating a “host district” for each meeting continues with an invitation to a local official to welcome the Commission online at the start of the meeting. The City of Fairfax is the scheduled “host” for the February 15, 2023 meeting. Invitation will follow.

Commissioner updates

The COA welcomed two new members: Irvin Katz, a retired social worker, representing Mason District, and Jim Kirkpatrick, a volunteer with the county’s Citizen Corps Council, representing Springfield District. Hunter Mill commissioner Joanne Collins now represents the COA on the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC).

PACE facility serving Northern Virginia

The COA heard from staff of [Cherry Blossom PACE](#) (Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) in Alexandria. Fairfax City zip codes are in the area covered by Cherry Blossom, which offers a combination of daytime on-site and in-home care as an alternative to nursing home placement for area residents (55+) living alone and requiring assistance with five activities of daily living. Services are free for those on Medicaid or both Medicaid and Medicare. Medicare-only patients pay a fee.

SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan

Health Management Associates, project manager for SHAPE, completed its outreach schedule in December after conducting 4 town hall meetings, 11 magisterial district meetings (including City of Fairfax), and 11 focus groups representing the disabilities, caregiving, housing, and faith-based communities, plus speakers of six foreign languages. The COA and Supervisors Herrity and Walkenshaw reviewed and commented on a preliminary outline for the plan. HMA will submit a first draft for review in early February. The goal is BOS approval in time for Older Americans Month in May.

Medicaid and SNAP updates

With Covid-related federal adjustments and supports ending next month, Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will see changes. Medicaid renewals that would have been completed between March 2020 and February 2023 will be processed over the next 14 months; the first forms will go out to participants in March. The supplemental pandemic benefits provided on the 16th of the month to SNAP recipients will cease with the February payment. Fairfax County and local nonprofits are working to communicate this change to the public and preparing to address need, but it will not be possible to replace lost federal support with local funds. Some Social Security recipients who are receiving higher benefits in 2023 may also see their SNAP benefits reduced.

Legislative priorities for the county's Adult & Aging division, including the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging AAA officials are focusing on the following bills in the current General Assembly. Budget amendments have also been introduced to fund them.

- [HB 1446](#) (Orrock). Sets nursing home staffing standard at 3.08 hours of case-mix adjusted nurse staffing hours per resident per day; sets out administrative sanctions for noncompliance, and exemptions to the sanctions. Has industry support; based on “Value Based Purchasing” initiative; amendments underway.
- McPike [SB1140](#). Directs the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to develop and provide training for guardians of older adults; requires guardians and staff performing guardianship duties to complete initial training developed by DARS within four months of appointment.
- Bennett-Parker [HB 2050](#); Deeds SB 1309 – Allows, with certain exceptions, local and regional public bodies to convene as many all-virtual public meetings as each such public body deems acceptable in its individual remote participation meeting policy.
- [HB2207](#) (Tran). The need for digitally accessible platforms/websites/information became all the more apparent during the Pandemic. Designating an employee to serve as subject matter expert and to ensure websites and county documents are fully accessible will be imperative as we move toward a more digital-based world.
- Bulova [HB 2099](#) – Increases from \$1 million to \$2 million the aggregate cap of tax credits allowed by the livable home tax credit in a fiscal year. Increases from \$500,000 to \$1 million credits allocated by Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to purchase or construction of new residences and retrofitting and renovation of existing residences. New amendment adds \$1 million for HCD to support home modification for low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities through the Emergency Home and Accessibility Repair program.

MEMORANDUM

To: City of Fairfax Mayor and City Council

From: Sandra Slappey Brown, Fairfax City Representative to the Fairfax/Falls Church CSB Board

Re: Quarterly Report from the CSB Board, July through September 2022

Date: January 25, 2023

The Community Services Board (CSB) Board and its committees are meeting in person. The CSB Board did not meet in December, 2022.

CSB Workforce Crisis Is Easing

The CSB is continuing to see reductions in the number of vacancies. There were 116 general merit position vacancies at the end of December compared to the high point of 181 vacancies in April, 2022. However the agency continues to be challenged by high numbers of vacancies in operational services such as data and fiscal support. The CSB has employed many strategies to strengthen their workforce such as position reclassifications and salary increases as well as creative recruitment and selection practices.

Meeting with Members from the VA General Assembly

The CSB Board met with eight members of the Virginia General Assembly on October 26th, 2022 to discuss legislative issues and priorities. Key issues were the psychiatric hospital bed crisis and the workforce needs.

Virginia Plan: Transforming Behavioral Health Care for Virginians

The Governor's proposed budget language amendments for 2024 include more than \$230 million to support six pillars including same-day care, reducing law enforcement burden, increasing the capacity of the system, providing more targeted support for substance use disorders, prioritizing the workforce, and implementing evidence-based practices.

From: [Michael Borash](#)
To: [Abashian, Lesley](#)
Subject: Fairfax ASAP Policy Board Quarterly Report
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 7:54:01 PM

CAUTION: External Email

Memorandum

To: City of Fairfax

From: Michael H. Borash, Fairfax City Rep. to the Fairfax ASAP Policy Board

Re: Quarterly Report from the Fairfax Alcohol Safety Action Program

Date: January 27, 2023

Debbie Sausville was nominated, accepted the nomination and was voted in as the new Chair- woman of the ASAP Policy Board.

Linda Perlstein was nominated, accepted the nomination and was voted in as the new Vice Chair.

ASAP Director Elwood Jones reported that all ASAP position vacancies created by retirement as well as the Covid epidemic, had been effectively filled. He was particularly pleased that the new hires brought invaluable experience to the positions filled.

Director Jones mentioned that ASAP referrals were slightly below projected numbers when the annual budget proposed and passed. He added that reserve funds would make up the difference between income and expenditures.

Director Jones further reported that the Alexandria ASAP had essentially collapsed due to Court referral levels being too low to support itself. The VA state ASAP Commission was continuing to work on viable solutions for the future.

There were no other substantive issues discussed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael H. Borash

Fairfax City Representative to the Fairfax County ASAP Policy Board

Memorandum

To: The Honorable Mayor Catherine Read and Fairfax City Council

CC: Lesley Abashian

From: Frank Franz, Fairfax City Board Member, Fairfax County Domestic and Juvenile Relations Court Citizens Advisory Council

Date: January 27, 2023

Re: Report for January 2023

- At our December meeting, Judge Thomas Sotelo and court administrator Matt Thompson shared their concern about the rising number of juveniles with opioid addictions and the lack of a residential treatment center in Fairfax.
 - Recently, a juvenile overdosed in court and was revived by sheriff deputies.
 - I sent an email to all Fairfax City Council members as well as all members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, expressing my concern about the lack of a residential treatment center for juveniles. (The CSB has a residential detox facility for adults, but not for juveniles.)
 - I received a response from Councilmember Bates and Board of Supervisors Chairman McKay.
 - A copy of my email and Chairman McKay's response are included at the end of this memo.
- Our January meeting was conducted as a site visit to the Juvenile Detention Center, Shelter Care, and Stepping Stones.
 - This was the CAC's first site visit since the beginning of the pandemic.
 - The CAC had several new members in the past few years, so a site visit was welcome by all.
- I was re-elected at our December meeting as the CAC Chairman.

Dear Chairman McKay,

My name is Frank Franz and I serve as the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Citizens Advisory Council Chairman. At our council meeting last month, Chief Judge Thomas Sotelo shared with the council that Fairfax County does not have a juvenile residential detox program. The Community Services Board has a residential detox program for adults, but not one for juveniles.

The rise of opioid overdoses and deaths by youth has been rising, which should not be surprising information for those in elected office or CSB staff. In fact, an article posted on the Fairfax County Government's website states that "Fentanyl-involved deaths are fastest growing among 14-23-year-olds."

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/opioids-learn-how-get-help-and-prevent-overdoses>

In Fairfax County Juvenile Court recently, a juvenile overdosed in the courtroom. The juvenile was revived by sheriff deputies and transported to the hospital. Once the youth was stabilized, they were discharged. If Fairfax County had a juvenile residential detox facility, the juvenile's parents could have had an option that would have been better than taking the youth home and hoping they avoided opioids.

The need for a juvenile detox facility for juveniles is extremely important for our community. Since 2016, there have been 1,773 non-fatal opioid overdoses in Fairfax County, and 120 of those overdoses happened to people ages 19 and under. The number of juveniles overdosing may seem small, but unless juveniles who use opioids get clean on their own, which is extremely hard to do, those juveniles will become adults with opioid addictions.

Additionally, placing a juvenile into a private residential detox facility would be a financial hardship for many families in Fairfax County. Providing a CSB juvenile residential detox facility would provide greatly needed services for our community.

As you are starting to think about the upcoming Fairfax County budget, please consider funding for the CSB to create a juvenile residential detox facility.

Respectfully,

Frank Franz

Chairman, Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Citizen Advisory Council

4027 Woodland Drive

Fairfax, VA. 22030

703.835.5896

Good morning Mr. Franz,

Thank you for reaching out to my office, and I appreciate your concern about our youth population and the substance

abuse issue we have in our County.

Our partners at the Community Service Board have established a partnership with two providers that provide detoxification and residential treatment services to our juveniles. The great staff at the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) work hand-in-hand with our courts and the families to ensure any youth that needs these services can have access to care.

In addition, our CSB staff is seeking an outside partner to provide treatment services. Their goal is to release this request soon, this would allow our board to seek for more partners that can provide detoxification and residential treatment services to youth and adults.

The Opioid Abatement Authority will be accepting applications to provide treatment services over the next few months. The goal for our Board is to use this funding as a resource to pay for expanding residential needs. Our director Daryl Washington is working with our director Matt Thompson from the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court to gather more information of our available resources to provide to you.

Thank you for reaching out to our office and please let me know if there are any additional questions or concerns, I can address.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. McKay

Chairman

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

703-324-2321

- The Library Board of Trustees has adopted a new five-year plan. We are required to file this with the state, and you can read it here:
- <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/sites/library/files/assets/documents/pdf/fcpl-sp2023-0113-interactive.pdf>
- I delivered the FY 2022 Annual Report of the Library to City Council this month. You can find it here:
- https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/sites/library/files/assets/documents/pdf/fcpl-annual-report_2022.pdf
- National Library Week will be celebrated April 23-29. We are planning to accept a proclamation at the City Council meeting on April 11.
- Library Book Sale is scheduled for May 4-7. May 4 is the preview sale which will require a donation.
- The Library Board is following proposed bills in Virginia which may affect student access to materials in both public and school libraries. (HB 1379; HB 1448; SB 1463) Both house bills have passed the house; the senate bill was sent to a subcommittee on the 25th.
- As always check the library website for upcoming programs.
- January 26 was the 15th anniversary of the Grand Opening of the new Library building.

TO: Mayor and Fairfax City Council
FROM: Judith C. Turcott,
City of Fairfax Representative to Fairfax Area Disability Services Board
SUBJECT: Fairfax Area Disability Services Board Report
DATE: January 2023

The Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (FA-DSB) vision: To include people with disabilities into mainstream community life by identifying, communicating, and advocating their diverse capabilities and needs to state and local governments and the private sector; and to help and provide resources to meet the needs of persons with physical and sensory disabilities.

The Board met September and November 2022. The meetings are now in person with two pre scheduled virtual meetings per year.

The FA-DSB continues to work on the following priorities for 2022

1. Educational campaign regarding reasonable accommodations and lease-breaking measures
2. Increased housing for residents with disabilities– particularly multi-bedroom housing
3. Increased employment by county government of people with disabilities, with putting needed supports in place. Governor Glenn Youngkin- announced the implementation of an alternative hiring process for individuals with disabilities.
(<https://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/docs/default-source/hrpolicy/policyguides/alternative-hiring-process-guidance.pdf>)
4. Improved regional transportation options (public and private/rideshare) for people with disabilities- Starting in September there will be a “Wayfinding system” installed within Metro stations for individuals who are blind or with low vision. It will allow accessibility via an app called WAYMAP.
There is a new app that helps disabled individuals with pumping gas: Fuelservice
Fairfax County has an initiative called TOPS Pilot that is a limited time program to introduce older adults and those with disabilities to TOPS, a program that issues subsidized funds on a transportation debit card to access a range of transportation options and services. Visit: fairfaxcounty.gov/NCS (search TOPS PILOT)
5. Ongoing collaboration with Fairfax County Board of Elections on Accessibility for voting.
6. Resilient Fairfax- Resilient Fairfax is a program to help Fairfax County become more resilient to changing conditions and climate change-related hazards such as extreme heat, severe storms, and flooding. They asked for input from the Disability Services Board.
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resilient-fairfax>
7. Training other boards- we are looking at having a disability awareness/etiquette program that would be available to all the boards/commissions in Fairfax County.

Martha Glennan Disability and Inclusion Equality Awards- In December the FA-DSB recognized Stephanie Davidson, Director of Langley Residential Support Services (LRSS) and Marian Homes, Inc. a non-profit organization created to address the need for group homes in Fairfax County for adults with intellectual disabilities.

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Anita Light, Fairfax City Representative to the Fairfax County Long Term Care Coordinating Council
Re: Quarterly Report from the LTCCC, July to December 2022
Date: January 29, 2023

This report will cover Q3 and Q4 of 2022.

The LTCCC committee continued to meet virtually July 13, 2022, September 14, 2022, and November 9, 2022. In addition to these meetings of the LTCCC, the Social Connections Sub-committee of the LTCCC also met virtually on July 6, 2022, September 7, 2022, November 2, 2022, and December 7, 2022. The following information is a summary of the LTCCC and the Social Connections Sub-committee meetings.

July 13, 2022 LTCCC Meeting:

1. With a new Chair of the LTCCC, Steve Morrison, past Chair was honored with a plaque and his long list of accomplishments as a member of the Council since 2008 and its Chair thru the pandemic were noted.
2. A presentation was made by Mahadere Getachew, Project Manager, about the Health Literacy within Communities of Color program that is being funded by a grant from the Fairfax County Health Department. The goals of this new program, entitled "Stronger Squared," are to improve the health outcomes and decrease health inequities among Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American in Fairfax County, increase trust and partnership between the government and community, and create a more resilient and empowered community able to act on and take advantage of the many health resources available in Fairfax County. "Stronger Squared" works through twelve "trusted voices" partners to train and educate and access volunteer providers as well as targeted residents.

"Stronger Squared" is a two-year program, funded from July 2021 through June of 2023 in the amount of \$3.875 million from the Federal Office of Minority Health awarded to the Fairfax County Health Department. "Stronger Squared" hopes to be funded beyond June 2023, but if not, anticipates its work will continue through its partner agencies.

3. A presentation was made by Cynthia Alarico, Mobility Manager and Mary Jo Hensler, Management Analyst with Human Services Transportation Unit, Department of Neighborhood & Community Services about the No Wrong Door (NWD) Report: TOPS Transportation Program. The TOPS Transportation Program (Transportation Options, Programs and Services) is part of the transportation outreach of Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, an effort that also includes the existing Fastran bus service. TOPS replaces the prior paper coupon Taxi Voucher programs, combining three programs into the one, expanding service. TOPS utilizes a VISA credit card that eligible persons can use for taxicabs, rideshare services such as Uber and Lyft, public transportation, and Capital BikeShare rentals. To be eligible, in addition to being a resident of Fairfax County, or the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, participants must meet one or more of the following criteria: 1) Be 50 years of age or older with an annual income of \$50K or less per individual; 2) Be registered user of MetroAccess; or 3) Be a recipient of Social Security Insurance (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI.)

September 14, 2022 LTCCC Meeting:

1. Cynthia Bailey, Deputy County Attorney presented about the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) changes for BAC (Boards, Authorities, Councils & Commissions) meetings to go into effect when the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) lifts its local pandemic emergency order. These changes were in-acted in the 2022 VFOIA Open Meetings Amendments (House Bill 444.) The statute provides some changes to the already approved by vote LTCCC Remote Participation Policy and adds an All-Virtual Public meetings option.

The policies are designed to provide public access to the greatest extent possible, and therefore encourage public bodies to provide access to meetings for the general public through electronic communication means. House Bill (HB) 444 added a new reason for a BAC member to participate remotely which is if the member's principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location. The other reasons remain the same: a member's disability or other medical condition preventing their physical attendance; a member's family member's medical condition or disability requires the member's care; a personal matter prevents attendance (and is identified with specificity and recorded in the meeting notes.) It also remains that remote attendance due to a personal matter is limited to two or 25% of meetings per calendar year, whichever is greater; and that a quorum must be physically present.

It was moved and seconded that the LTCCC adopt the All-Virtual and Remote Participation Policies for the LTCCC and its committees, as drafted with support from the County Attorney's office. Motion carried.

2. A presentation was made by Susan Sanow, Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax (PFHF) Project Manager, Fairfax County Health Department and Jesse Ellis, Prevention Manager, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS.) about the Social Isolation & Loneliness Report. PFHF is an independent community coalition housed in the Health Department

and is in its twelfth year. It is guided by a five-year Community Health Improvement Program (CHIP) - [Community Health Improvement Plan 2019-2023 \(livehealthyfairfax.org\)](https://www.livehealthyfairfax.org) Jesse Ellis, co-chair of PFHF Behavioral Health Committee reviewed the committee's task related to Social Isolation and Loneliness (SIL) to identify prevalence, impacts on health, risk factors and approaches to prevention." The committee identified fourteen recommendations for how the Fairfax community, can help prevent and address SIL. See report for more details - bit.ly/PFHFSILreport. Committee contact: Jesse Ellis, jesse.ellis@fairfaxcounty.gov

3. A presentation was made by Tara Turner, Director Fairfax Area Agency on Aging and Jacquie Woodruff, Legislative and Policy Supervisor on the Shape the Future of Aging (SHAPE) Update. A Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults, mailed in February 2022, is now complete and the results analysis is underway. There will be a presentation of the survey data to the Board of Supervisors' (BOS) Older Adult Committee the end of September. Phase Two of the SHAPE planning will include community input groups. Health Management Associates (HMA) is a vendor that will conduct the focus group, including one for LTCCC members at the November meeting.

November 9, 2022 LTCCC meeting

1. A presentation was made by by Dr. Ben Schwartz, Director of Epidemiology and Samantha Christensen, Epidemiologist, Fairfax County Health Department about the COVID-19 Update & Infectious Disease Management Changes in Long Term Care Facilities

Highlights of the presentation are noted next.

- The number of COVID-19 cases in Fairfax County has been similar to national trends, however, it is assumed that many positive cases tested at-home are not reported or were asymptomatic.
- Locally, COVID-19 cases have declined since July 2022 but have plateaued in the past month. With the holidays and winter, there is a concern that the number of positive COVID-19 cases will increase.
- The new variants are more transmissible, the number of variants increasing, and monoclonal antibodies are not as effective in fighting them.
- The new COVID-19 booster is available in Fairfax County however, only about 12% of eligible county residents have received this booster.
- Conversely, all Fairfax County Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) and nursing facilities report that staff and residents have had or are scheduled to receive the most recent booster vaccine.
- In long-term care (LTC) facilities, hospitalizations of those testing positive for COVID-19 are higher for residents than for staff, the younger age of staff being a factor.
- Since COVID-19 infectives began in 2020, each wave of infection has decreased in relation to the previous wave. This can be attributed to variants in subsequent waves being less severe and to more persons being vaccinated.

- Hospitalizations and death rates were higher in earlier outbreaks. On March 16, 2020, the first COVID-19 case in a LTC facility was identified in Fairfax County. Since then, the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) has made over 1,500 site visits to LTC facilities in response to cases and outbreaks. Included in their visits are reviewing facility processes and procedures, how they were implemented, and physical facility inspections.
- Contact tracing with isolation/quarantine for cases and contacts were reviewed, number and type of facility interactions noted, infection prevention and control protocols analyzed.

2. Sally White of Health Management Associates (HMA.), conducted a **Shape the Future of Aging (SHAPE) Focus Group**. HMA was selected by Fairfax County Department of Family Services, Adult & Aging Division, to assist with the Shape Future of Aging Strategic (SHAPE) planning process. Ms. White led the LTCCC members through several questions to provide input for the Plan.

As a reminder, the following clarifies the goal and objectives of the Social Connections Committee of the LTCCC:

Social Connections Committee Goal: To enhance the lives of older adults and adults with disabilities by increasing social connectedness and decreasing social isolation.

Objective 1: Gather and disseminate information to LTCCC members and others about the role social connectedness plays in the well-being of older adults and adults with disabilities

Action Steps:

- Locate existing data that demonstrates that social connections among older adults and adults with disabilities is a positive social determinant of health.
- Locate existing data that defines the impact and extent of social isolation among older adults and adults with disabilities.
- Identify existing research that defines the causes of social isolation among older adults/adults with disabilities.

Objective 2: Educate LTCCC members and others about social isolation prevention strategies including existing programs and solutions for gaps in services in the Fairfax Area

Action Steps:

- Learn about existing programs and services that support social connection for older adults and adults with disabilities.

- Identify gaps in social connection programs in the Fairfax Area and help create solutions.
 - Identify what barriers exist to eliminating social isolation among older adults and adults with disabilities in the Fairfax area
 - Are there equity barriers?
 - Are there technology barriers?
 - Explore partnerships among community-based organizations to fill the gaps.
 - Explore use of volunteers to fill gaps.

July 6, 2022 Social Connections Committee:

1. **Committee work: Step One is Identification of the Target Population.** The goal is to identify who the target audience of socially isolated older adults, adults with disabilities and care partners is, and how to connect them with social connectedness activities. The following categories were identified and agreed to by the committee: 1) Older adults aged 50 and older; 2) Adults with disabilities aged 18-70; 3) Older adults temporarily isolated/not long term; and 4) Care partners of any age.

The committee worked as a group to have agreed upon definitions for Social Isolation and Social Connection. The following are what was agreed: Social Isolation defined as: A lack (voluntary or involuntary) of physical and emotional connections and engagement (real or imagined) that are needed to provide a sense of wellbeing and belonging. Social Connection defined as: Engagement that provides belonging and trust, resulting in wellbeing and a sense of health.

The objective is to disseminate information and strategies to LTCCC members and others about social connectedness.

For Engagement, the following first draft definition was agreed upon: Successfully implement person centered strategies and provide interactions that result in what a person wants and/or needs for wholeness, well-being, and trust. Other input included ensuring exchange of information via a conversation, in writing, or in person. A “buddy” approach provides one on one transmission of information.

2. **Committee work to discuss how to engage older adults and adults with disabilities.** There are those who are not aware that they are socially isolated. To find people’s interest areas, it is important to seek input from individuals, groups and community resources that eliminate barriers such as such as language, transportation, accessibility, and cost. Also, it is important to meet community members where they gather such as faith communities, recreation, and senior centers. It was also suggested to consider using focus groups to gather information and to explore methods to do them such as Zoom, personal visits, phone conversations, or letters. SPARC (Specially Adapted Resource Centers) finds challenges most frequently with transportation and access, especially if they do not have private transportation. If they cannot get there, it is inaccessible. Volunteers can be utilized for those who don’t feel comfortable reaching out to people they know. The National Institute on Aging (NIH) has a list of best

practices for engagement as does Stanford University. George Washington University Center for Aging Health and Humanities has a resource list that includes activities for seniors facing loneliness. There are benefits of using virtual senior centers and many older adults are using this resource. Volunteering is a way to reduce isolation because it provides a sense of purpose, good health, good mental health, and intergenerational interactions. The new Wellness Center for Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities, a collaboration between Fairfax County, Service Source, Inc., and other community organizations, was mentioned as another opportunity for social connection. Addressing the issue for those with language barriers and people in communities of color is an important piece of the work.

3. For homework, committee members were asked to list organizations for Committee Objective One, including a sentence of what the organization provides. These can be national, regional, or local. Committee objectives can be found on the reverse side of the agenda.

September 7, 2022 Social Connections Committee:

1. Karen Hannigan, Supervisor from the Fairfax County Aging, Disability & Caregiver Resources (ADCR) Program presented about the resource line (703-324-7984), the programs available and calls they have been receiving around social isolation. She noted that there are eight multilingual social workers working the phone lines and that Adult Protective Services (APS) calls are also handled through this line. She shared the program's call stats for the 2022 fiscal year. Karen noted a new program called "Safety Check" operated by the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging's Volunteer Solutions Program. The program provides social phone calls and home visits. Callers are also connected to a social worker; it is free, and the program is operated regionally. Karen noted that all county operated senior centers are back to full capacity, following the pandemic, and that the county's Adult Day Health Centers are still not at capacity.
2. Two members of the Social Connections Committee participated in the "engAGED and Commit to Connect: Virtual Social Engagement Summit" held on August 2 and 3, 2022:
3. Carolyn Cukierman, Committee Chair, reviewed talking points, presentation slides, and assigned committee members questions to ask during the presentation to foster engagement and discussion. The presentation will be about the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax (PFHF) report about social isolation and loneliness and will be made at the September 14, 2022 LTCCC meeting.

November 2, 2022 Social Connections Committee

1. S. Orlene Grant, LTCCC Vice-Chair & Equity in Aging Disabilities Committee Chair presented about "The Intersection of Social Isolation and Equity." She

spoke about a national program called the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness that is sponsored by Reframing Aging, Gerontological Society of America (GSA), and the National Council on Aging (NCOA). Her discussion points included the national perspective has its focus at high levels of change. Those identified areas can guide local efforts for where work is needed. She also referred to the LTCCC Equity in Aging and Disabilities Committee and their work.

The discussion began with the suggestion that legislation is necessary to codify support for those that experience isolation and that there was a groundswell of social isolation vulnerability during the COVID-19 pandemic. The question was posed, "How do professionals approach social isolation?" The best approach is to connect with people where they are through faith leaders and trusted community messengers, rather than expecting people to come to programs.

Orlene Grant and Carolyn Cukierman discussed the possibility of having a joint committee meeting of this committee and the LTCCC Equity in Aging & Disabilities Committee for a discussion about equity regarding social isolation for older adults and adults with disabilities.

2. The discussion regarding advanced readings for the committee began with the article from The Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax (PFHF), where they agreed that generations should interact with each other, trading skills like technology. A question was posed if there was a difference between people that feel isolated and those that self-isolate. It was said that traumatic experiences could cause someone to self-isolate. There needs to be a focus on transportation and long-range urban planning to accommodate older adults and adults with disabilities getting to places they need to go. The committee then discussed the Generations United report and its recommendations, specifically on page fifteen, where the focus is on those with dementia, and the isolation that it causes, and how falls and frailty effects older adults. Next, they discussed the website for a Social Isolation and Loneliness Outreach Toolkit. They agreed it provides a different perspective because it is from the United Kingdom. For this toolkit, stakeholders, local governments, and their national government were consulted to create a national policy.

The committee questioned where the funding would come from. Committee members were encouraged to read all the articles and websites to be informed for mutual work to meet the committee's goals.

3. To learn more about best practices for social engagement activities, it was discussed to invite transportation providers to present at a future committee meeting. The focus will be about how invaluable their services are for social engagement for older adults and adults with disabilities.

December 7, 2022 Social Connections Committee

1. Emily Braley of NV Rides provided a brief overview of the program and the impact it has made in the last few years. She reported over 20,000 rides in 2021 but stated that demand greatly outnumbered drivers, and that with more volunteers, they could have provided closer to 60,000 rides. On any given day, 54% of older adults who no longer drive don't leave their house. Transportation, which NV Rides provides for older adults, is closely connected to social isolation. Emily noted that there is a social benefit to both the drivers and riders. The "hub and spoke model" of NV rides provides the community connection individuals are looking for. Season Zellman and Diane Watson spoke about the Aging-in-Place Village model in meeting transportation needs and addressing social isolation with programming and friendly calls. A suggestion was made to gather a list of organizations addressing social isolation and collect data on what's being done to advocate for more to be done. It was decided that this list would be very difficult to gather and maintain.
2. Committee Work: the *Foundation for Social Connection Framework and Key Components* document was shared with the committee. The committee will use these tools to help prioritize areas of need in our local communities. Also, discussed at length was a chart that was established for documenting committee work. It was agreed to add volunteering to the chart and discussed the benefits to volunteering. The Zoom Platform opened opportunities for many people but there is a need for more access to technology. A big issue is community awareness about programs offered by Fairfax County, many of which provide social connection. Concern was expressed that the Fairfax County website is not easy to navigate and can be overwhelming for older adults.