

LTCCC Social Engagement Working Group
Thursday, August 22nd
11-12pm

Agenda

Introductions. Attendees introduced themselves and briefly mentioned their interest in this topic.

Background. As the first meeting of this workgroup, Cindy discussed the background and effort of the LTCCC, including the focus of this workgroup.

Policy Statement: Discussion about the topic area and what the parameters of this focus may include:

- SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT opportunities provide meaningful connection and enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities, older adults, and their caregivers in the long-term care system. The current project or mission is to identify and advocate for social engagement opportunities for those who are socially isolated due to long-term care needs and/or placement.

Discussion included the following themes & considerations:

- Social isolation and loneliness are not necessarily the same
- Can/do social engagement services or opportunities follow a person from site to site? (from home to SNF placement, etc.) Or could people have a point person? Various models that utilize this approach were discussed
- How to identify folks that are lonely or socially isolated?
- Does social engagement involve “health advocacy”?
- What policy solutions around preventing or addressing loneliness or social isolation might look like
- Discussion of the current loneliness survey that’s conducted and possibility of using that data
- Social isolation vs. “stressed” isolation
- Was noted that being surrounded by people may not actually address isolation
- One on one approach (such as staff following an individual) is incredibly resource intensive and expensive
- Rather than focusing on models, this group should be focusing on principles
- Important to consider that if reducing isolation can demonstrate dollars saved, this could be considered preventative and increase funding likelihood
- Next steps might include a broad survey of currently existing social engagement opportunities: who are they directed to, who uses them, etc.

- How do we connect important community networks that may not be on the radar, identified through the opportunities survey
- What are the barriers to accessing social engagement opportunities such as accessibility, transportation
- Important to consider caregivers as well (as a support system and/or their engagement)

Broad themes that may frame this effort included: Safety, loneliness, navigation and identification, following people through the cycle of the “system” (system undefined at this point)

Discussed the project plan framework as a way to structure and guide the workgroup, including to develop a timeline, identifying resources needed and to ensure milestones, deliverables and project/group success.

Discussion about future members/partners, including a list of agencies that have expertise or experience in this area.

Next Steps:

- Share meeting minutes and additional reports/research that were mentioned at meeting and relevant to topic
- Schedule a second meeting sometime in September

Next Meeting: TBD