

# The Impact of COVID-19 on the Health and Dignity of People with Disabilities and Older Adults:

## A facilitated discussion regarding next steps for the LTCCC.

In November, the Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) meeting included a presentation by Dr. Chodos to discuss the health impacts of COVID in San Francisco, particularly concerning seniors, people with disabilities, and caregivers. Following that presentation, there were four panelists, each sharing a specific perspective relevant to the presentation including: a caregiver, a consumer, and an assisted living facility operator. Overall, the discussion acknowledged the tension between ensuring safety (either through protocols, shelter in place or limiting services) while also allowing for autonomy and access (minutes and presentation can be found on the LTCCC website [HERE](#)<sup>1</sup>).

The December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a facilitated discussion among LTCCC members and guests to build upon what was discussed in November and ultimately develop tangible policy goals, specific to long term supports and services (ltss), that the body can work on in the coming year. As such, members will participate in smaller breakout groups, using the questions below to guide the conversation and identify one tangible next step per group.

Based on the challenges experienced by seniors, people with disabilities, and their caregivers during COVID, please consider some tangible and specific next steps that the LTCCC might be able to take. Reminder that the LTCCC is focused on policy recommendations as they relate specifically to the long-term care system. Below are some examples the Steering Committee came up with of potential next steps the Council might consider, based on the needs and challenges identified by presenters in November.

### Examples:

- **Identify policy bodies or opportunities that the LTCCC could inform the medical system regarding the challenges specifically faced by people with disabilities, seniors, and their caregivers.** For example, where are these critical decision-making conversations happening? Can the LTCCC share recommendations with the COVID command center, with Department heads, or Board of Supervisors?
- **Influence the Department of Public Health (DPH) Health Orders**<sup>2</sup>: such as specifically addressing the following areas:
  - Residential facility (assisted living or skilled nursing) visitation
  - Social day and day health programs
  - Community Based Adult Services (CBAS)
- **Influence the vaccine rollout in San Francisco**, such as having LTCCC members participate in the vaccine roll-out committee and regularly report back to the full Council.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.sfhsa.org/about/commissions-committees/long-term-care-coordinating-council-ltccc>

<sup>2</sup>a **health order** describes what activities are allowed and prohibited during a public health crisis in San Francisco. The order is updated about every week to 2 weeks and temporarily prohibits certain businesses and/or activities from resuming and limits gatherings with individuals from other households until it is safer to do so. It also allows certain other businesses, activities, travel and governmental functions to occur subject to specified health and safety restrictions, limitations, and conditions to limit the transmission of Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”)

## Breakout Groups.

Participants will have 50min within the breakout groups.

**Roles:** each breakout group should identify the following:

- Facilitator (Steering Committee member)
- A note taker
- Someone to watch the time

1. Thinking back to the presentation and panel in November, **create a list of safety issues brought on by COVID-19** for older adults and adults with disabilities relative to the long-term care system.
2. Thinking back to the presentation and panel in November, **create a list of autonomy and engagement issues brought on by COVID-19** for older adults and adults with disabilities relative to the long-term care system.
3. **Identify action items to mitigate these issues** that fall within the scope of the LTCCC, as a policy body focused on long-term services and supports.
4. **Prioritize one action item/policy recommendation** (from this list you just created) and a spokesperson to share with the full Council.
5. Please **email your notes and additional actions** to Valerie ([Valerie.j.coleman@sfgov.org](mailto:Valerie.j.coleman@sfgov.org))

Meeting facilitator will provide a 10min and 1min reminder for groups to wrap up.

## Next Steps:

The Steering Committee will review, organize and recommend next steps based on each of the breakout groups notes. All LTCCC members are welcome to join the Steering Committee meeting on Wed, December 11-12:30pm. Please contact Valerie for Zoom meeting info.