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| Long-Term Care Facilities COVID-19 Advisory Group | **August 12, 2020**8:00am-9:30am |
| **Zoom Mtg.**<https://dshs-telehealth.zoom.us/j/94012329434?pwd=UE1kNzVhdytsRkJOWEhEWVd3TjBTZz09> |
| **Meeting SPONSORED by** | Bill Moss |
| **SCRIBE** | Chelsey Smith, Kristi Knudsen, Debbie Anderson |
| **Attendees** |

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|  | **Name** | **Representing** |
| **X** | Amy Abbott | DSHS/ALTSA/RCS |
| **X** | Bryce Anderson | Office of Financial Management |
| **X** | Walt Bowen | WA State Senior Citizens Lobby |
| **X** | Robin Dale | Washington Health Care Association |
| **X** | John Ficker | Adult Family Home Council |
| **X** | Charissa Fotinos | Health Care Authority |
|  | Madeline Foutch | SEIU 775 |
| **X** | Candace Goehring | DSHS/ALTSA/RCS |
| **X** | Amal Grabinski | Supported Living Providers |
| **X** | Patricia Hunter | Long-term Care Ombuds (LTCOP) |
|  | Andy Joseph | Colville Confederated Tribes |
| **X** | Kristi Knudsen | DSHS/ALTSA |
| **X** | Amber Leaders | Office of Governor Jay Inslee |
| **X** | Scott Livengood | Supported Living Providers |
| **X** | Cathy MacCaul | AARP |
| **X** | Shannon Manion | DSHS/DDA |
| **X** | Bill Moss | DSHS/ALTSA |
| **X** | Deb Murphy | LeadingAge Washington |
| **X** | Betty Schwieterman | Developmental Disabilities Ombuds |
| **X** | Art Swannick | State Council on Aging (SCOA) |
| **X** | Ingrid Ulrey | Public Health – Seattle & King County |
| **X** | Sabine von Preyss-Friedman | Washington State Society for Post-Acute and Long-term Care Medicine |
| **X** | Anne Soiza | WA Dept of Labor and Industries |
|  | Sara Podczervinksi | WA Dept. of Health |
|  | Jaime Bodden | WA State Assoc. of Local Public Health Officials |
| **X** | Chris Blake | House of Representatives Policy Staff |
| **X** | LeighBeth Merrick | Senate Policy Staff |
| **X** | Mary Mulholland | Senate Policy Staff |
| **X** | Maria Hovde | House of Representatives Fiscal Staff |

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| **Presenters & guests** |

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| Agenda topics |
| **8:00am-8:10am** | **Intro to group** | **Bill MOss**  |
| **discussion** | * Virtual meeting protocols and meeting rules of engagement
* Welcome and setting stage of meeting by Bill
	+ Charter – DOH/DSHS COVID-19 response
	+ Define who are we advising? We are advising the agencies that are working together on COVID-19 in relation to long-term care facilities and HCBS: Health Care Authority, Department of Health/Local Health Jurisdictions, Department of Social and Health Services
	+ Hopeful news about vaccine
	+ Define short term and long term expectations and goalsShort-term emerging topics like re-opening, testing, PPE and longer-term issues like fall and winter surge, flu season, etc.
	+ Begin with 1 hour weekly meeting; will adjust as needed
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| **Action items** | * Scheduled Weekly 1 hour virtual meetings – **ALTSA**
* Update Charter with recommendations - **ALTSA**
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| **8:10am-8:40am** | **Updates/status of recent action** | **RCS/Gov OfficeCandy Goehring** |
| **discussion** | * Reopening Update
	+ Today, August 12th, is the first day of the LTC Safe Start plan.
	+ Visitation is top priority, but must balance of safety with quality of life, dignity and choice.; equity and disparity
	+ Weekly DOH call – focus on Safe Start plan (Q&A session)
* Testing Update:
	+ Charissa Fotinos - Discussed transfer methods for testing kits. There is not a statewide standing order yet to get provider orders for testing.
	+ NH testing done and Memory care completed/provided.
	+ CMS information regarding testing equipment: 14 locations in WA meet requirement.
	+ Residents and clients can refuse testing or treatment. Consent is required.
	+ In terms of ongoing testing, there is still discussion over who will cover that cost, but as of today the state is covering the cost.
* CNA Training and Testing Update:
	+ Pearsonvue has reopened training. Skills testing and written test. Not imposing disciplinary action due to COVID on testing or training without Certification.
	+ There is a large backlog of CNAs that need testing.
	+ It is estimated to take 9mo-12mo to catch up.
* Update on Admiral Bono’s role:
	+ There is a public-private partnership formed for PPE and testing. The first meeting is this week and they are embarking on a 10-day PPE sprint. The testing sprint will follow.
	+ Admiral Bono is not taking a leadership role but is making sure there is coordination, alignment, and completion of activities.
	+ Elena Madrid from WHCA is part of this group and can perhaps keep this group up to date on activities.
	+ ALTSA also has a representative on the public/private partnership group that is focused on the in-home provider population.
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| **Action items** |  |

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| **8:40am-8:50am** | **N-95 Mask Availability and Fit Testing** | **Group** |
| **discussion** | * Related to LNI – If you have COVID in your building, you need N95 masks. NH have been fined over this issue. These masks require fit testing, otherwise they are not valuable. Fit tests are expensive and require a trained staff person to give the test.
* What were the citations related to? KN95 or N95? Fit testing or both? We need help from LNI to conduct N95 and fit testing.
* We could pursue train the trainer in three or four months, but that is not available now. We need to figure out a plan in the interim.
* AFHs are having this same problem, but with less resources and access to PPE and fit testing.
* Additionally, OSHA regulations require multi-page questionnaires filled out by employees to be reviewed by SNF medical directors who aren’t trained to do this. OSHA regulations regarding N-95 mask fit testing prevent staff from getting N-95 protection. We need an emergency exemption.
* LNI provided this resource: <https://www.lni.wa.gov/forms-publications/F414-161-000.pdf>
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| **Action items** | * Have LNI address this as the first topic at the next meeting.
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| **8:50am-9:15am** | **Open Discussion** | **Group** |
| **discussion** | * The consensus is that the guidance from Federal, State, and local levels are confusing and delayed in response. What applies to one facility is often a barrier for an AFH or Home Care Agency.
	+ LTCOP would like to see discussion about crisis standards of care for long-term care to address PPE, quarantine, access to visitation, staffing levels, hospice care, and resident rights so that we are prepared for fall/winter. Some indicators and/or criteria to help decision makers provide consistency and transparency.
	+ There needs to be a communication flow between DOH, LHJs and DSHS that also gets communicated to this advisory group (there needs to be a communication channel) DOH has 9 regions across the state with 35 LHJs. Perhaps we can tap into the 9 regional groups for statewide representation?
	+ Need clear guidance on topics such as: Transportation, visitation, isolation concerns, quarantine requirements and how to apply them in all settings, acquiring PPE, test kits, and who will pay for these items.
	+ Facilities can contact L&I DOH for free consultation services regarding worker health and safety issues: <https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/preventing-injuries-illnesses/request-consultation/>.
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| **Action items** | **Responsible Party** |
| Please provide agenda topics to: kristi.knudsen@dshs.wa.gov  | Kristi Knudsen |
| Survey the group with a Doodle Poll to determine the best day for these meetings | Chelsey Smith  |
| Research the 9 regional DOH/LHJ representation for possible addition to this group. | DOH is gathering statewide reps |
| What are the guidelines for vans/shuttles in terms of disinfecting/safety practices regarding COVID?  | ALTSA is checking with the Health Care Authority in regards to this question. |
| There is no statewide standing order for testing. ALFs may get an order from the LHJ or another practitioner. DOH has the statewide standing order drafted and it is being reviewed at the Secretary’s level at DOH. There was a question as to whether advocates could do anything to help get that statewide standing order in affect.  | DOH |
| Are state surveyors being tested at the same frequency as staff? We have policy drafted that is in review with HR and is aligned with the Everlywell testing system.  | RCS |
| WHCA would like to ask LNI for help with the N-95 mask situation. Facilities with a positive case are required to immediately utilize N-95 masks for all staff providing services to residents. These masks are hard to acquire (are backordered) and require fit testing to work properly. Fit testing is costly and requires someone who is trained to provide it but companies are hard to find. Facilities would also have to have a regular supply of masks and ongoing contract for fit testing for new staff who become employed at the facility. So far a few SNFs have been fined by LNI for N-95 mask related citations.We will have LNI address this as the first topic at the next meeting.  | LNI |
| SCOA – We should take a look at how we make visitations more available (using additional PPE, etc). Jaime Bodden is a good representative in Eastern WA for LHJs. jbodden@wsac.org Action item to add Jaime. | Bill Moss/Candy Goehring  |
| Can someone comment on the pull back of COVID funding to LTC? Pricing of PPE has increased 6-8 times the cost prior to COVID. Is there a plan to adjust the COVID add-on?  | Budget |
| There is a lot of discussion on a tactical level. Can we have a section focusing on long-term impacts and budget? Action item to add to agenda. | Meeting organizers |

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| **9:15am-9:30am** | **Closing of first meeting** | **Kristi/Bill** |