COVID-19 and Long-Term Care: Preparing and Supporting Families and Family Caregiver
Participating in the Webinar

Listen in through computer audio. Headset recommended.

Select Phone Call to see the number to call, Access Code and PIN

Type your questions or just say hello here.
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Conversations with GIA: COVID-19 and Long-Term Care: Preparing and Supporting Families and Family Caregiver

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Most of us will need long-term care
For an average of about 2 years
Considering people dependent on others for 2 of 6 activities of daily living or having serious cognitive impairment (dementia)
  - Half live in the community, assisted by family and paid aides
  - Half live in assisted living or nursing homes
  - More than half of the cost is in Medicaid
Now, Covid-19

- Very contagious – including for many days before symptoms (and after) – and many non-symptomatic cases
- More deadly with increasing age – in China, 17% mortality in 80 y.o.+ 
- Essentially no diagnostic testing – even now, only in hospitals
- No serologic testing for having developed immunity – “coming soon”
- No settings of care had adequate isolation equipment for multiple affected people – not hospitals, nursing homes, home care, etc.
So – what can be expected

▲ People who can completely isolate themselves can (mostly) avoid Covid-19, for a while – all others are at risk, no one has “ebola-type” protective equipment for all contact, and everything else has risks

▲ Nursing homes have no defenses – there will be major outbreaks, probably at most nursing homes – one could expect about 20% of nursing home residents will die, until a vaccine or widespread immunity.

▲ 1.5 million people, mostly over age 65, live in nursing homes in the US

▲ Harder to count, but disabled elders at home face additional challenges
  ▪ Caregiver issues – vectors, protective equipment, caregiver absence, living alone
  ▪ Food, sanitation, connection, other illnesses
Incredibly obtuse!

- Requirements for nursing homes to take in hospital discharges, even if they have not yet had Covid-19 on-site
- Draconian penalties to that first nursing home in Kirkland, WA
- Not in the distribution list for protective equipment until recently
- Guidelines that keep pretending that it is possible to prevent spread, thus making it a dereliction of duty when outbreaks occur
- Guidelines that only deal with infection control, though they have started to say “when possible,” recognizing that protective equipment has not been made available to home care and nursing homes
What would have been (or would be) better?

- Great respect for nursing homes and home care entities that keep providing care
- Keeping Covid-19 out as long as possible
- Expect outbreaks and avoid blame
- Personal protective equipment
- Diagnostic and serologic testing
- Advance care plans for all
- Skills and supplies for end of life care on-site
- Relief from some regulations
- Including home care and nursing homes in disaster planning
What could philanthropies do? A starter set...

▲ Some immediate help – information, rapid response to critical needs

▲ Some intermediate term help – support to aides and nurses, vigorous promotion of serologic testing so we know who is immune, support to worthy facilities and agencies that suffer major setbacks

▲ Longer term – Insist on home care and nursing homes being at the table in disaster planning; develop ongoing management of the community’s performance in eldercare, growing from the public health aspect of the current crisis; value these services and those who perform them – improve the situation for aides; improve retirement financing, disability housing, workforce, supportive services
We can have what we want and need
When we are old and frail

But only if we
deliberately build that future!
Resources

From my writing

▲ https://medicaring.org/2020/03/28/pragmatists-advice/

An example from a philanthropy – Stupski Foundation website

▲ https://stupski.org/changecantwaitblog/supporting-our-communities/

For Planning with Patients and Families

▲ https://TheConversationProject.org
“You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.”

--Buckminster Fuller
LeadingAge: Who We Are
April 7, 2020 Grantmakers in Aging Webinar
Members are on the front line of the pandemic.

Photo Source: https://twitter.com/LeadingAge/status/1245428719126224901
Biggest Challenges for Aging Services Providers

• Access to PPE and testing
• Funding for everything – including to create isolation units
• Staffing
• Being able to create a safe environment for those who are living in affordable housing – they are living independently.
Nursing Homes are in the News
Other Worrisome Settings

- We need to remember other settings, including assisted living, independent living and affordable housing.

- Residents are living on their own, often preparing their own meals, coming and going.

- Many of the instances of COVID 19 I have heard about are in affordable housing. They are trying to convince residents to shelter in place. Closing activities rooms and taking furniture out of lobbies to encourage social distancing.
Adult Day Centers
Inspiring Dedication

Members in all settings
What is happening on the ground

Photo Source: Politico's "How public health failed nursing homes?"
A Day In The Life

Working Together
Staffing Challenges – STILL a Critical Problem

“...public health crisis exacerbates the well-documented workforce shortage faced by nursing homes." Katie Smith Sloan comments on workforce issues during the #coronavirus crisis. #LeadingAgeVoice

WSJ.COM
Coronavirus Hits Nursing Homes Hard, as Staff Combat Infections, Shortages

Photo Source: https://www.facebook.com/LeadingAge/
Mental Health and Wellness

Trauma and Emotional Strain: Needs Addressing

Photo Source: https://www.instagram.com/leadingage/
Connectedness is a Related Issue that Needs Addressing

United Church Homes  @UCHomes - Apr 1
We’re a strong team, united by a common mission -- to keep residents safe and #sociallyconnected. Here are a few of our Chapel Hill Community #superheroes! Yes, all #UCHWarriors are superheroes! #UCHFlex #abundantaging #seniorliving #inthistogetherohio #stayhomeohio #community

LeadingAge  @LeadingAge

#LeadingAgeMembersInspire

Photo Source: www.twitter.com/LeadingAge
Our Members are Part of the Broader Healthcare System

Photo Source: https://www.facebook.com/LeadingAge/
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QUESTIONS