

**Nursing Home and Assisted Living Oversight Working Group**  
**Socialization, Visitation and Caregiver Engagement Subcommittee**

**Vision Statement:**

A diverse group of elected officials, professional advocates, family advocates, government agencies, providers, professionals, and individuals that collaboratively met to address the impact of visitation and socialization COVID-19 restrictions on residents of long-term care communities, inclusive of Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Communities, as a basic need.

**Mission:**

Develop recommendations that address the impact of COVID-19 visitation, socialization and caregiver engagement restrictions on residents of long-term care communities.

**Goals:**

Identify primary areas of focus and interventions that can be implemented to address the current and prevent future social and emotional negative impact to residents of long-term care communities.

Recommendations that protect residents' rights and social/emotional needs of long-term care residents in balance with the medical wellbeing. This person-centered approach will meet individualized needs and goals in a holistic manner.

Further incorporate Assisted Living Communities and outline their role in the long-term care continuum.

**Objectives:**

To provide recommendations broken down into primary areas of focus and interventions that can be implemented to address the current and prevent future social and emotional negative impact to residents of long-term care community when facing a pandemic or other wide spread public emergency.

**Policy Initiatives:**

1. Require that residents, family members, and responsible persons are given input on living environment and any changes that would impact rights or status in their communities. All development of policies regarding visitation, use of technology, and family access and other change in regulatory frameworks must be available for review and input prior to implementation.

2. As such develop statewide LTCF visitation guidelines that are not subject to facility interpretation and ensure that even in the event of an outbreak, all LTCF residents are able to elect a support individual, both a primary and secondary, who is able to visit safely by adhering to guidelines used with staff. Visitation protocols must be person centered and must include wishes of the resident or their representative.
  1. Support individual vs EC – define
3. Strengthen the residents Bill of Rights to ensure any restrictions or impacts are including a way to petition for redress.
4. Stand up and reinforce resident councils which will have a voice by law in statewide actions by either the executive branch or legislative branch in development of policies that impact day to day living
  1. Impacted group to be heard within \_\_7\_\_ days
5. Require that family and their councils voices are heard on issues revolving family members who chose long term care or need long term care facilities to take care of physical, mental or emotional issues. Ensure that family councils are given a position on statewide task forces that determine the development of policies that impact the day-to-day living of residence.
  1. Include Family and resident councils
6. Develop an Essential Caregiver Program. ECs are not subject to the interpretation of a facility. They are to be allowed at all LTCF and not subject to closures or quarantines due to infection or any other impact that limits LTCF activities.
  1. We all agree this should move forward, want to ensure that we voice this to have protections like staff of the SNF.
7. Develop a definition of an Essential Caregiver to be incorporated into law.
8. All who live in a LTCF have the right to install smart speakers that may/may not include video (i.e. 'echo show').
  1. Want to maybe combine 8 + 9 and add that all residents have the right to the use the most up to date technology as an accommodation and improve the quality of life.
  2. Association concerns - for the purpose for visitation only
  3. Association concerns - privacy and rights of others for consideration
9. All who live in a LTCF have the right to install a camera device as are used in many home settings, daycares, schools, hospitals, etc. Many states already include such policies.

10. Increase the ombudsman program include in their review impact on socialization, visitation and general resident support.
  1. To grow that RA program
  2. Change Increase to Enhance
  3. Add to include review of the impact on socialization, visitation, and general resident support.
  
11. Ensure all LTCF staff are educated regarding best practices to address the social-emotional and mental health needs of residents as well as all components of person-centered care.
  1. How is staff defined – all staff or hands on staff what is the expectation here.