



**CARES Act Task Force Committee to Assist the Most Vulnerable Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, July 8, 2020**  
**4:00 p.m. Virtual Zoom Webinar**

**Attendance:**

**Committee Members Present:** Chairperson Senator Elizabeth Lockman, Co-Chair Marcus Henry, Carrie Casey, Judge Aida Waserstein, Reverend Clifford Johnson, Chuck McCausland, Valerie George

**Committee Members Absent:** State Representative Nnamdi Chukwuocha, Ian McConnel, Renee Beaman, Ashley Christopher, Marihelen Barrett

**Others in Attendance:** New Castle County Attorney Mary Jacobson, County Director of Community Resources Jane Rattenni, County Community Services Secretary Rachel Burton, and five members of the public

**Proceedings:**

- Meeting called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chairperson Senator Lockman
- Roll call
- Opening remarks by Chairperson Senator Lockman summarized the goals of the meeting, these included: creating an effective proposal - to interpret, define and refine the categories of the most vulnerable populations from the presented list - creating subcommittees to provide focus and direct aid to these defined groups.
- Committee members reviewed the presented list of most vulnerable population categories and held discussions defining and refining these population groups.
- Co-Chair Marcus Henry stated that data and/or existing reports to support the impact of Covid-19 on these population groups will be provided.
- Committee members favored groupings based on need and four subcommittees were formed:
  - Housing Access: homeless or risk of homelessness
  - Low-Resourced Households: single parent households, elderly, unemployed or underemployed, persons without healthcare, persons without access to technology, persons socially disconnected
  - Special Populations: persons of color, special needs, immigrants/undocumented, formerly incarcerated, youth
  - Behavioral Health: including persons suffering with substance abuse and persons suffering with mental illness

- Valerie George expressed concern for how to best interact with and get resources to these population groups. Co-Chair Marcus Henry suggested a collaboration with the other CARES Act Task Force committees for possible solutions. Valerie George and Judge Aida Wasserstein separately made recommendation for email inbox and responses designated specifically for public input. Chairperson Senator Lockman suggested a point of contact for public thoughts and resources. Carrie Casey expressed the importance of public input for success.
- Subcommittees were assigned for committee members:  
Housing Access: Chairperson Senator Lockman, Carrie Casey, Renee Beaman (requested)  
Low-Resourced Households: Co-Chair Marcus Henry, Chuck McCausland, Valerie George, Reverend Clifford Johnson  
Special Populations: Co-Chair Marcus Henry, Judge Aida Wasserstein, Jane Rattenni  
Behavioral Health: Chairperson Senator Lockman, Valerie George, Carrie Casey, Jane Rattenni  
Chairperson Senator Lockman, Co-Chair Marcus Henry and/or Carrie Casey will contact the absent committee members for their subcommittee assignments.
- Co-Chair Marcus Henry stated that subcommittees need to access their population groups as soon as possible due to the approximate four-week timeframe for recommendations. All subcommittees will host a meeting before July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Co-Chair Marcus Henry and/or Rachel Burton can provide technical assistance to host the subcommittee meetings. Public notice determined as not required for subcommittee meetings.
- Committee meetings will continue to be held on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. for the remainder of July.
- Chairperson Senator Lockman requested goal-based agendas be provided to subcommittees and one of these goals being to assign a point person for each subcommittee.
- Co-Chair Marcus Henry stated that county emails have been provided for all committee members, along with a shared drive for accessing related documents.
- Valerie George recommended that subcommittee meetings be held through Microsoft Teams. Chairperson Senator Lockman requested that an instructional email be sent to committee members for Teams setup. Judge Aida Wasserstein recommended that a staff member schedule the first meeting for each subcommittee.
- Chairperson Senator Lockman called for public comment.

**Public Comment:**

- Deborah Hamilton inquired about public participation during the subcommittee meetings. The result was that public participation was not feasible, alternatively subcommittees will share a status update report at each committee meeting for public input. Deborah Hamilton also requested special attention be taken for socially disconnected elders, with emphasis on the effects of isolation due to the duration of Covid-19.

- Robert Wasserbach made a comment of praise to the committee members. Robert Wasserbach also brought attention to the risk of unreported child-abuse due to children being distanced from educational settings.

**Adjournment:**

- Chairperson Senator Lockman thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.