

Ontario Association of Councils on Aging
Submission to the Long-Term Care COVID-19
Commission

December 15, 2020

Lilian Wells, President, and

Dominic Ventresca, Member, Board of Directors

Overview of Presentation

1. Introduction
 - Ontario Association of Councils on Aging
 - Lilian Wells and Dominic Ventresca
2. Context for Systemic Improvement of Long-Term Care
3. Urgency and Interrelationship of Reform Measures
4. Conclusion

Discussion

Ontario Association of Councils on Aging (OACA)

- Voluntary non-profit organization incorporated by the Province of Ontario.
- Some member Councils have roots and experience in addressing issues affecting older adults that date back up to 45 years.
- Current members: Burlington, Cambridge, Frontenac-Kingston, Hamilton, Grand River, Greater Arnprior, Grey-Bruce, Niagara, Ottawa, Toronto and Windsor-Essex.

Ontario Association of Councils on Aging (OACA)

Vision: An Age-Friendly Ontario

Mission: Provide leadership, provincially, to enhance quality of life as people age with a focus on the interests, strengths and needs of older adults

Goals (one of five): Represent the collective voice of older adults (i.e. on key systemic issues)

OACA Representatives

Lilian Wells

- President, OACA
- Social work leadership in LTC and home care
- Professor emerita Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto with focus in gerontology, health and disability
- Served in the development of Toronto's Senior Strategy and on its subsequent Accountability Table
- Experience as a family caregiver and currently have friends living in LTC and retirement homes

OACA Representatives

Dominic Ventresca

- Board of Directors, OACA
- LTC Home Family Council member
- LTCH and Community Support Services Director for 36 years
- Board of Directors, Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors (OANHSS, now AdvantAge Ontario)
- Board of Directors, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN

Systemic Improvement of Long-Term Care

Context

- long-standing **systemic shortcomings** in long-term care
- a corresponding **systemic approach** with bold, integrated, and rapid reform measures are needed, as identified:
 - level of care standards
 - health human resources (HHR) enhancements
 - adequate personal protective equipment (as part of infection prevention and control measures, but with mitigation for social isolation impact)
 - improved building design standards to support infection prevention and control
 - improved accountability of long-term care operators.
- Circumstances dictate urgent implementation

Urgency & Interrelationship of Measures

- Commission commendably has recognized the **urgency** of identified key reforms in two preliminary reports
- **Success** of key measures to achieve systemic reform is contingent on the recognition that the proposed measures are:
 - **Interrelated and concomitant**
 - **Concurrently** implemented
 - **Coordinated** with all related sectors to plan toward the desired state (e.g. upstream education required to train appropriate numbers of workers with the needed skills to meet the immediate and future need in LTC homes and in the community)

Conclusion

OACA respectfully asks the Commission to:

1. Thoughtfully address in tandem the broader long-term care system (i.e. home care and community support services) to effectively achieve **systemic and sustainable reform**
2. Request the government to:
 - Take **concerted and coordinated action** on all of the identified measures with profound urgency to succeed and truly “fix the system”
 - Identify **clear and specific fiscal allocations** as line items in the budget for all proposed measures
 - Publicly identify **clear timelines with achievement milestones** reflecting the coordinated urgent implementation of all interrelated measures
 - **Ensure accountability to monitor progress** and ultimate achievement of desired reform

Thank you.

Discussion