



LTC 100 Coronavirus Task Force Summary – Call #3

Preparing for the COVID Surge: Not IF, but WHEN

March 30, 2020

Through weekly **LTC 100 Coronavirus Task Force** conference calls with top experts and providers on the front lines, we aim to provide you with **best practices in crisis management** and **valuable business-scenario planning**.

This week, SNF executives shared how they are creating capacity, utilizing isolation strategies, managing state variations, and working with health systems as Coronavirus hits their geography.

Guests:

Stuart Lindeman, President & CEO, Mission Health Communities (GA, KS, TN, WI, MN, MO)

Valerie Palmieri, COO, Abramson Senior Care (PA)

Erin Hennessey, CEO, Health Dimensions Groups (Senior living operator and consultant)

Kenneth Rozenberg, CEO, Centers Health Care (NY)

Denise Keefe, President, Post Acute Division, Advocate Aurora Health (IL, WI)

Brian Fuller, CEO, Integrated Care Solutions (Care management company working with hospitals, SNF, HH)

Key Learnings:

COVID-19 Patient Isolation

Stuart Lindeman (Mission Health) has added 50 licensed beds to take on more COVID patients and has implemented isolation strategies for patients returning from the hospital.

Valerie Palmieri (Abramson) is in ground zero for the COVID outbreak in PA, and has dedicated a complete floor (19 private rooms) of a facility they have on a hospital campus to COVID patients to help alleviate the surge.

Erin Hennessey (Health Dimensions Group) is exploring onsite sleeping quarters for staff who care for COVID patients within their facilities.

Kenneth Rozenberg (Centers Health Care) is sending very few COVID residents to the hospital, and instead caring for them in place in the SNF while continuously monitoring, cohorting, and isolating.

Hospital to SNF: Options, Barriers, Regulations

The relationship between SNFs and health systems can be at odds in this crisis. Many SNFs want to preserve the sanctity of their facilities (keep CV out) yet health systems need beds.

Denise Keefe (Advocate Aurora Health) initially wanted to channel COVID patients to their own network of SNFs. However, their State Department of Public Health is precluding SNFs from taking COVID



LTC 100 Coronavirus Task Force Summary – Call #3

Preparing for the COVID Surge: Not IF, but WHEN

March 30, 2020

patients. They are following state guidelines, while initiating conversations with SNFs about dedicating a wing or new building to COVID patients.

Brian Fuller (Integrated Care Solutions) is seeing significant variation by state in how skilled nursing's COVID capabilities are viewed. Connecticut initially upheld restrictions on COVID patients going to SNFs, but, following suit with Massachusetts, is now reversing that and actively looking for SNFs to relieve hospitals of their COVID patients.

Centers Health Care Case Study: Going All-In

There are a small, but growing number of SNFs coming up with creative solutions for handling the surge. Centers is collaborating closely with the state of NY, and has made a 600-bed SNF available to them (on a lease basis) for use as an emergency COVID-19 hospital, with the state taking legal control of the building. Maimonides Medical Center (part of Northwell Health), will run the clinical operations while Centers maintains responsibility for security and plant maintenance. **Kenneth Rozenberg** believes this infrastructure is critical because tented hospitals and temporary discharge locations aren't properly equipped for critical care (electricity, water, basics).

■ [LTC 100 COVID-19 Business Planning & Crisis Management Resources](#)

To receive an invitation to participate in task force calls, please contact:

Amy Rafael, VP Marketing, Lincoln Healthcare Leadership: arafael@lincolnhc.com