



# **Integrating PACE Programs and Housing in the Age of COVID-19: A New Normal for Frail and/or Nursing Home Eligible Older Adults**

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# Summit ElderCare® : An Overview



Fallon Health's newest PACE site located in Worcester, Mass.

- 7<sup>th</sup> largest PACE program in the country, largest in New England
- 5 PACE sites located in Massachusetts and one in Western New York
- 1,323 participants as of June 1
- **We are** celebrating 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020



# Mission of Summit ElderCare-Fallon Health

- Mission:
  - Making our communities healthy
- Organizational Focus of Summit ElderCare
  - Our participants with complex needs will live with the dignity and independence they want to have, with health care needs met reliably and well, and with a sense of well-being and inclusion in personal relationships and in the community – and with the costs being sustainable



# Participant Needs During the Pandemic

- Sense of Urgency due to COVID-19 Related Challenges
- How were we going to meet the needs of our participants if they could not come into the center?



# PACE Going into the Community and Home: The New Normal

- Adjusted to deliver care and social services to participants in their homes, housing sites and Assisted Living Facilities
- Daily telephonic check ins, rounding weekly by members of the Interdisciplinary team
- Use Telehealth to support our participants



# Summit ElderCare Housing Model

- ❖ Housing Sites in particular were a focus for our efforts
- ❖ 15% of our population living in Public Housing, 25% living in Assisted Living
- ❖ Supportive Housing Model of Care 32 Units
- ❖ What is the Value Proposition for Our Housing Sites?



# Value Proposition of Housing Partnering with PACE

- Same organizational focus regarding outcomes
- Allows older adults with complex needs to age and stay in place through integrated health care, behavioral and social supports
- Resident directed care based on “What Matters Most” to them
- “Total Cost of Care” is known-outcomes of care are better at lower cost
- Who else provides this??



# Summit ElderCare® Infirmmary



- Goal was to meet the needs for community care
- Implemented a 22 bed skilled care unit
- Opened April 22 closed June 5<sup>th</sup>
- First participant admitted April 23
- 11 participants served
- Longest stay 23 days
- Shortest stay 7 days



# Lesson Learned



Participants enjoy a socially distant music therapy program while receiving care at the Summit Infirmary.

- PACE can uniquely transform to meet the needs of frail older adults in novel ways
- Now more than ever, PACE **should be available** to all eligible older adults in the community
- Having engaged housing partners is necessary



# The Future of PACE and Housing Integration: The New Normal is Now

- Growing Need
  - 45% of Middle-Income Seniors Will Have Insufficient Resources For Housing And Health Care
  - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05233>
- Missions are aligned
- Total cost of care is known so value of housing integration can be shown as a driver of outcomes
- Allows for business case to be developed for low income housing that is integrated with comprehensive healthcare
- Social determinants of health drives health outcomes and housing is the essential foundation

