CHARTER
of the
TASK FORCE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR
TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT AGING ADULTS
COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A.   Official Designation

The Task Force on Research and Development for Technology to Support Aging Adults (Tech4Aging) is hereby established by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Technology (CoT).

B.   Purpose and Scope

In the 2016 *Report on Independence, Technology, and Connection in Older Age*[1], the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) focused on the loss of social engagement and connectivity, cognitive change, and physical change that aging Americans often experience. Tech4Aging is to advise and assist the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and the CoT on science and technology policy, procedures, and plans related to research and development (R&D) that will lead to technology that enhances aging Americans' ability to be independent and engage with society as they age. For purposes of this document, the technologies are limited to those that function *ex vivo*. These technologies may be appropriate for anyone regardless of age with the relevant functional limitations.

C.   Functions

1. Prepare a Federal Government research strategy that identifies key R&D priorities for technologies that support aging adults and their care providers in ensuring aging adults' healthy independence and social connections as they age. Priorities will be developed based on identified needs of aging adults and their care providers. Technologies may include home monitoring of various conditions common in the aging population, cognition monitoring and training, advanced mobility (including wheelchairs), prosthetics (including hearing aids), robotics, and communications technologies. Technologies for remaining independent may involve housing, nutrition, transportation, communication, working, and more.

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[1]
https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/PCAST/pcast_independence_tech_aging_report_final_0.pdf

2. Identify gaps and opportunities in R&D that exist between and among Federal agencies and enhance collaboration between and among funding programs. Look for opportunities to coordinate R&D on technologies for functional needs that occur regardless of the user's age.

3. Report to the CoT and to the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology in accordance with prescribed NSTC processes to summarize the activities of the Task Force and set forth recommendations regarding the establishment of Federal R&D priorities and specific agency activities.

In addition, if time allows, the following additional functions will be addressed:

4. Identify research that explicates the role of informal, nonmedical caregivers and supports them in contributing to aging adults' independence and connectivity.

5. Identify Federal Government data that can be released to enhance R&D initiatives.

6. Identify factors that inhibit private-sector capital investment in technology for aging adults' independence.

In support of these functions, the Task Force may convene Fast Track Action Committees (FTACs) as needed to facilitate focused interagency R&D activities, coordinate planning activities with OSTP and budget activities with OMB, task Federal agencies to gather required information and data, and coordinate with other NSTC groups working on related emerging technologies. The Task Force will recommend action on R&D issues to the CoT and/or the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology.

D.   Membership

The following departments and agencies are represented on Tech4Aging:

    Department of Agriculture;
    Department of Commerce;
    Department of Defense;
    Department of Education;
    Department of Energy;
    Department of Health and Human Services (Co-Chair);
    Department of Labor;
    Department of State;
    Department of Transportation;
    United States Agency for International Development;
    National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
    National Science Foundation (Co-Chair); and
    Small Business Administration.

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President are also represented on Tech4Aging:

    Domestic Policy Council;

National Economic Council;
Office of Management and Budget; and
Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Cooperating departments and agencies may include such other Executive organizations, departments, and agencies as the Co-Chairs may designate. Tech4Aging will also strive to enhance the Federal research and development enterprise by embracing diversity, recognizing that inclusion of a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives is critical to achieving robust intellectual dialogue.

E. Private Sector Interface

Tech4Aging may consult with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) to secure appropriate private-sector advice and will recommend to the CoT and/or the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology the nature of any additional private-sector[2] advice needed to accomplish its mission. Tech4Aging may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

F. Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Chair of the Committee on Technology prior to its expiration, the Task Force shall terminate no later than July 31, 2017.

G. Determination

I hereby determine that the establishment of the Task Force on Research and Development for Technology to Support Aging Adults is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:
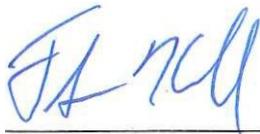
_____   August 11, 2016
Tom Kalil,
Chair, Committee on Technology and
Deputy Director for Technology,
Office of Science and Technology Policy

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[2] The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, does not explicitly define "private-sector," but the phrase is generally understood to include individuals or entities outside the Federal government such as, but not limited to, the following: non-Federal sources, academia, State, local or Tribal governments, individual citizens, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, international bodies.