**Age Friendly Louisville**

**Social Participation, Respect, & Inclusion Work Group/Domain**

**Meeting Notes**

**August 13, 2019**

**Attendees: Chris Clements (Louisville Metro RSVP), Lettie Heer (SilverSneakers), Rita Morrow (AARP), Sarah (Metro Louisville DADC) Teeters, Robin Pittman (Harbor House), and Norm Minnick (Lost Sheep).**

**Location: Harbor House, 2231 Lower Hunters Trace, Louisville, KY 40216**

Brief Introductions by all Attendees and recap was made by Rita Morrow of July 9, 2019 meeting and the progress made to date with the Domain.

Update status and discussion of the next steps on “improving community cohesion to guard against elder abuse” through putting together a bookmark with website information, contact numbers and other resource references. Draft of this bookmark will be worked on in August and shared at the September meeting and final product with printing of it will be done in November. It appears that AARP has found a sponsor to cover the print costs to do this Sarah Teeters did comment that there was some confusion with some of the site and information and if it will be more readable and flow better and make sure all these whom helped with it get credit or some type of recognition. Rita Morrow and Chris Clements replied that they along with the other facilitator, Nick Hamilton-Cotter would look over this.

**Presentation and Background by Norm Minnick about Lost Sheep** organization and the issue of Homelessness in Louisville. Norm used a laptop computer to show a brief PowerPoint slide show about Lost Sheep Ministries as well as provided insight about them. He stated that 20 outreach groups every day help with caring and assisting the Homeless community. A lot of the myths or unknown factors about Homelessness was shared by Norm Minnick. This included why many of the homeless do not go to shelters. They are afraid to lose what limited belongings they have as they may confiscate or taken. And while Lower Barriers have been established and newer concept, its not the only answer and actually short-term solution. Other Homelessness persons are simply uncomfortable or afraid to go to shelter for a wide range of issues. Norm Minnick then discussed about the past and current Homeless camps that have been in Louisville. He provided personal reflection on the CSX (Butchertown area) site that is the future home of the Louisville City FC stadium. He did state that Louisville City FC did provide a lot of support and compassion, event helping to put for hotel costs and other expenses to move the people away from their camp. However, there remains a lot of different and new camps that pop up. They are less visible and not as large as in the past but remain a concern in the community. Short discussion was done with the group about the ongoing medical and mental concerns with the Homelessness population and how more resources need to be put in this area. Norm Minnick gave a timeline history of the Lost Sheep organization and how it started at St. Simon & St Jude location and then moved to the First Jefferson Church location near Shelby Street. He continued that the ministry provides not only a meal in the evenings to some 150 persons but also promotes itself as weather break place, wash up, music/worship place and just socialization with others. The effort is to treat everyone with dignity and respect and be a friend or caring individual to all. The meals are given out at the current location each Thursday from 6 to 8 in the evening. Often volunteers are needed to help with not just set up, serving and cleaning up but sitting and doing dialogue with the homeless population. Norm Minnick invited others to visit and help out with Lost Sheep’s ministry. Norm Minnick then provided a key listing of groups that help serve Homeless besides Lost Sheep. They include: Street Reach, Wayside, Lord’s Kitchen, South end Street Angels, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, St. John’s Center for Homeless Men, and Up for Women. These organization whom help out as well as the Homeless are in constant need of water, toiletries, blankets, coats, socks, backpacks, sleeping bags and tents. The discussion then went about the new panhandling or loitering City Ordinance that was approved and which could have impact on those whom are Homeless and stand at the corner of intersections seeking out money or some form of assistance. No one in the group had officially read the Ordinance but a copy of it would be obtained and shared with the group to see what it all involved and consisted of. The group all agreed that there is available meal and food everywhere in the city. The willingness to go and understanding of where they are remains the issue. But certainly “Congregated Sites” and “meals on wheels” programs are successful measures that have helped homebound seniors not fall victim to homelessness. Everyone agreed more work needs to be done and efforts must be continued to assist this population. As it stands right now, Louisville has close to Homeless Population of 7000 and the shelters that do exist could help or aid up to 5000 meaning there remains 2000 or so that have to live on the streets or other places. The misconception is that this is not a city or government problem or issue, the church or faith-based community needs to be more involved. It’s a community issue. We all must help. Larger cities like San Francisco have it worse as their homeless population is 16,000. The homeless population dominantly remains two age groups: 35 to 40 and 60 to 65. Solutions to the problem include more “intergenerational involvement” and simply doing more socialization and less inclusion. One such exampled shared is what teacher, Ben Kresge with St. Xavier High School, had done for years in having St. Xavier High School students help bury and attend funeral services for deceased homeless persons.

Another presentation was to be done by Inez Moore (the Program Coordinator with Kentucky Refugee Ministries Services to Older Refugees) especially with tie in how older refugees and youth groups/volunteers work together. This was to focus on the Domain’s “intergenerational” aspect. She had scheduling issue and plans to come to the next gathering in September.

The Harbor House located at 2231 Lower Hunters Trace, Louisville, KY 40216 was a good site and the second time the Domain group has been here in 2019. Although the attendance was smaller, its important to move the group around to different areas of Louisville. To explore another area of the city, Chris Clements added he will look at other free public libraries as sites for fall season including the two newer branches, Northeast and South Central. The St. Matthews Eline had been a good site in the past and libraries are always welcoming community spots for all. Next Domain session will be determined soon and shared with the group. As of now the following sessions have been secured.

* September 10, 2019 will be at Northeast Regional Library, 15 Bellevoir Circle, from 2 to 4 PM
* October 8, 2019 will be at South Central Regional Library, 7300 Jefferson Blvd, from 2 to 4 PM