

**Age- Friendly Louisville**

**Social Participation, Respect & Inclusion**

**Meeting via ZOOM**

**August 11, 2020**

12 Attendees: Lettie Heer Tihisha Rawlins

 Chris Clements Sameera Jackson

 Paul Troy Akosua Boachie

 Rita Morrow Shirley Fuqua-Jackson

 Avery Crews Jennifer Helgeson

 Marji Pilato Terri Thomas

There was one new attendee besides guest speaker (Ms. Jennifer Helgeson), Akosua Boachie with WellCare and was invited to the first meeting by coworker, Sameera Jackson. Her email is Akosua.boachie@wellcare.com

Introductions were made by everyone stating their names and affiliated group/organization and what their post COVID 19 wish or goal would be.

**Highlights from July 2020 Meeting:** Rita provided an overview of the July meeting: 12 attendees participated in July meeting. There has been 4 Zoom meetings to date and they each have been between 11 to 15 attendees for them. Rita reflected on last month’s highlights which included guest speaker Dr Gwendolyn Goffner, Manager of Family Resource & Youth Services Center (FRYSC) with JCPS and what shared with everyone about FRYSC program. Also, emphasis was made on the two “4th of July Parades” (caravans) to various identified senior housing communities in the downtown and southwest areas of Louisville and that there are plans for these to continue this Fall and Winter around certain holidays. And the domain continues to work on increasing and building on intergenerational partnerships and collaborations in the community.

**Guest Speaker/Presentation: Ms. Jennifer Helgeson (Boys & Girls Club of Kentuckiana)** Chris Clements introduced the guest speaker today. He relayed that he has personally known her for nearly 15 years, and she was his wife’s former boss when she was St. Joseph Children’s Home Foster Care Program. Jennifer has been both the President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Kentuckiana for 10 years. She then provided a background overview of the Boys & Girls Club of Kentuckiana. She stated the program has been around since late 1950s and has three official sites in the Shawnee, Newburg and Portland areas with three others affiliated with JCPS schools. The Boys and Girls Club serves kids between the ages of 6 – 18 (elementary, middle and high school). On average the program serves 70,000 a meals through Dare to Care and JCPS a year and helps nearly 200 kids a day. However due to COVID 19, the number of kids per day is closer to 50. The Boys and Girls Club offers a variety of programs and special places. These include Gym/Recreation area, Cafeteria, Academic/Tutor Room, Computer Lab, and TV/Media/Movie Room. Primary focus of the program is for wellness/health as well as academic enrichment. The Boys and Girls Club did close for few months due to COVID 19 but did open in July but has had to restrict only 50 kids a day and implement 10 to 1 kids to staff ratio with maintaining healthy protocols due to the pandemic. Jennifer stated that she was open to “inter-generational” opportunities with Age Friendly Louisville. She talked about things they already had which could be enhanced such as “ZOOM Count”, Reading Program (with Scholastic Books). Other ideas that were brainstormed included Special Trades and Skills mentorship program especially in the area of arts/crafts, industrial arts, cooking, and public speaking/interpersonal. It was suggested to do a local mural near the Boys & Girls club between older persons and the youth. Another idea considered was to have seniors be judges for Halloween costume event. Jennifer was encouraged to come back and that follow up would be done by attendees to continue to explore this partnership and build on it.

**Follow up on the next steps with JCPS and “Intergenerational Flyer” with schools:** Terri Thomas lead the discussion the “Inter-generation Projects for School Age Kids” flyer that the facilitators had created and how it would be promoted within JCPS schools especially to Renea Murphy whom Dr. Gwendolyn Goffner recommended for communication purposes. The flyer was shown and short discussion was done it. The flyer emphasized “Pen Pal” project, “Oral History” project and “Veterans History” project. The flyer would also be distributed to the Archdiocese of Louisville schools and other educational venues and groups too. It was also suggested to reach out to the Louisville Urban League for their engagement and interest with the project too.

**Next steps with Parades (Intergenerational focus with Senior Housing areas)** As noted earlier, the 4th of July parades were very successful and the plan is to do them again for the Fall and Winter seasons especially around certain holidays. A brief discussion was made on when and where these would take place. Chris Clements suggested doing a Fall-Halloween parade at the Nazareth Home campus site off Newburg Road and partner with Bellarmine University. It could be done by going through both campuses and engage college students and older residents together as they are neighbors to each other. Everyone felt that was good idea and Chris Clements would investigate this and help lead this parade. Although other parades can happen in different areas of the city and be led by others. This will be a big agenda item for September meeting. Also plans would be under way to do a November/Veterans Day and even Election Week Parade too.

**Review of Goals and Objectives for 2020 and 2021:** Rita reminded the group of the three objectives for the domain. Its three aspects: (1) Elder Abuse Awareness, (2) Intergenerational, and (3) Community Collaboration. The domain has remained focused on all three of these and will continue to do so.

**New Business and Updates:** As for new business, Chris Clements noted the upcoming National Senior Citizens Day which is August 21st. He shared a flyer or media release he drafted about it. He stated that while the day has been around since 1998, its more important than ever to be kind and respectful to older persons and do something special for them that day and show kindness. Shirley Fuqua-Jacksons shared a bit about the Backpack Success Program and encouraged to reach out to Principal or FRSYC on this for more. Rita talked about the Senior to Kid Book Day event and idea with the group. With no other new business, the meeting finished at 3:00 PM.

**The next Age Friendly Louisville Social Participation, Inclusion and Respect Domain will be on September 8th (Tuesday) from 2 PM to 4 PM. The same ZOOM link and either communication phone numbers of 312-626-6799 and 646-876-9923 will be provided.**