

Age Friendly Louisville Social Inclusion Workgroup Meeting Agenda
September 8th, 2026 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM | Location: Zoom Only

Attendees: Justing Magnuson, Kyra Johnson, Erin Gillespie, Teran Herthel, Julie Hartmann, Joe Dahlenburg, Danny Fortier,
Whitney Boswell, Ruba Musa, Greg Willet, Diane Clark Curtis, Sophia Banks.

Facilitators: Justin Magnuson*, Diane Clark Curtis, Julie Hartmann.

*facilitated the meeting

Introductions, Housekeeping, Meeting Focus

Justin opened the meeting with a round of introductions and stating the main focus of the meeting, which are the first responder and age-friendly comedy/storytelling initiatives

General Workgroup Updates & New Opportunities

The group was invited to share any updates and new opportunities.

- **Dementia Friends Training:** April Carreon (Office for Aging & Disabled Citizens) presented at AFL Housing meeting the week prior, providing an overview of what Dementia Friends are and how the program works. Dementia Friends Training sessions are generally held on the last Wednesday of each month →sessions are canceled until further notice, until the new platform is confirmed and the sessions are launched.
 - April highlighted the following regarding the training/Dementia Friends:
 - ODS can come directly to organizations to train entire staff cohorts as Dementia Friends.
 - The program is designed for the general public, not professionals — it is intentionally basic and accessible.
 - Upon completion, participants receive a certificate (e.g., "I'm a Dementia Friend"); organizations may display a banner or certificate indicating dementia-friendly status.
 - Participants can advance to become Dementia Champions, enabling them to deliver the training independently.
 - Erin confirmed that the Alzheimer's Association and ODS will co-host a Dementia-Friendly presentation this fiscal year, offered virtually due to its statewide scope; she offered to share that with the group.
 - In-person delivery is also available for specific markets or organizations on request.

Action Plan Initiatives

Access action plan on website: agefriendlylou.com/social-inclusion

Goal 1: Foster, promote and create Age-Friendly and Intergenerational programs and activities: Education

- **First Responder Quick Tips Initiative**
 - [First Responder Quick Tips](#) resource on AFL website: Interest on Fire Department side for new recruit training, outreach to law enforcement was initiated; offer to present at Bishop's table
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 - Kyra and Sophia updated the group on the outreach to two instructing officers at LMPD; a Zoom meeting is scheduled within the week.

- The goal of the initial meeting: introduce the concept, gauge interest, inventory existing trainings, and establish that everything is in early stages.
 - Early feedback from LMPD contacts is **positive** — officers noted there has been minimal prior training around older adults, dementia care, and aging-related topics.
 - The broader strategy is **not just to update existing Quick Tips materials**, but to bring first responders (police, fire department) into the process so the final product reflects what they actually need.
 - **Courtney** and **Dr. Cotton/Sam** were connected to work on making the information in the existing Quick Tips more current; Joe may have additional context from Courtney's side.
 - Once materials are updated, the plan is to invite different first responder groups into a study or feedback process before finalizing training content.
 - **Erin** noted that the Alzheimer's Association has a recently updated program specifically for first responders and offered training resources and materials to the group as needed.
 - Next step for Kira: proceed with the LMPD Zoom meeting, gather information, and continue building a scope of what training is needed and wanted.
- **Older Americans Month & Libraries:** Brainstorm ideas to expand next year's initiative and community impact → will be addressed during the next meeting since the meeting time was 30 minutes shorter than usual.
 - Update 2026 [Krout and Elmore Children's Book Award](#): The winner of the GSA Children's Book Award has been published on the GSA website: <https://www.geron.org/Membership/Member-Center/Awards/Award-Info/awardnum/114>

Goal 2: Foster, promote and create Age-Friendly and Intergenerational programs and activities: Engagement

- **Age-Friendly Comedy/Humorous Storytelling Event ("Old Enough to Know Better");** Justin shared with the group that after the initial planning meeting, which had 13 attendees, the group came to the consensus that a lot of good ideas were brainstormed and thrown out but some things needed to be decided and therefore a survey among the planning committee members was conducted to narrow down on some of the details to move forward quicker. The following topics were surveyed:

→ Concept & Framing

- The event originated from spontaneous, humorous storytelling by older adults at a prior event; the initial framing as a "comedy show" has evolved.
- The refined concept: an opportunity for older adults to share humorous life experiences, not a formal stand-up comedy performance, but more akin to The Moth (life storytelling format), with humor as a natural element rather than a requirement.
- An example from the Gold Standard Awards event was cited: a man whose wife of 50+ years had died and who repartnered closed his remarks with "find a wild woman," generating genuine laughter while being poignant, illustrating the event's tone.

→ Target Audience & Format

- Survey results: approximately one-third of respondents favored 65+ only; another third favored 65+ with intergenerational elements; ~11% favored 65+ with occasional intergenerational programming.
- Decision direction: start with 65+ as the primary audience, with the possibility of introducing intergenerational elements in future iterations.
- Intergenerational programming would significantly affect scheduling (e.g., school-age children limit weekday afternoon options).
- Preferred storyteller count: 6–8 community members, recruited initially through personal invitation via committee members and affiliated organizations, with a possible open call later.
- Strong preference for professional MCs: two professional comedians have already volunteered to serve as MCs and potentially as storytellers; one MC knows an additional comedian who performed for AARP and may be recruited.
- Professionals would be interspersed among community storytellers to give the event shape and help participants feel supported without pressure to be polished.
- Whitney Boswell raised The Moth as a useful comparison; Justin clarified the distinction: The Moth is not explicitly comedy-focused, whereas this event centers on humorous life experience.

→ Event Name

- Top-voted name: "Old Enough to Know Better"; the group plans to use this as a thematic anchor, with stories fitting the theme.
- Second popular name: "Laughing Our Ages Off" (noted for its pun appeal).
- Concept of themed events: each event could be built around one of the popular names, giving recurring events distinct identities.

→ Scheduling Preferences for event

- Strong preference for weekday afternoons (e.g., Friday afternoon) or weekends, specifically to avoid evening events, which create parking and accessibility challenges for older adults.
- AARP's prior comedy event (downtown, evening, during heavy rain, one block from a parking garage) was cited as a cautionary example of what challenges could arise.

→ Venue Considerations

- Survey results: top venue preferences were (1) theater or art space and (2) community center or senior center.
- Key criteria discussed: surface parking with ample spaces, easy access, elevator/lift availability, central location (not downtown), and bus line access.
- Downtown ruled out by strong consensus; the Louisville Comedy Club on Main Street was cited as an example of a problematic downtown venue.

Venues suggested and discussed:

Venue	Notes
JCC (Jewish Community Center)	"Center Stage" setup; good parking; on bus lines; checks accessibility boxes; note Shabbos timing on Fridays
J-Town Community Center	Located off Taylorsville Road in Jeffersontown; suggested by Ruba
Highland Community Ministries	Gymnasium with stage, large parking lot, elevator/lift; existing relationship with the group; strong candidate for donated space but has to be confirmed (Justin)
South Louisville Community Ministries	Suggested by Greg Willett; has a gym attached
Nazareth Homes (Highlands)	Chapel space; accommodating parking; Joe confirmed it hosts community engagement events well
Newburgh Community Center	Has stage and parking; suggested by Ruba
The Olmstead	Site of the Gold Standard Awards; existing relationship; Diane suggested via text, cost/arrangement unclear
Passionist Center / Earth and Spirit Center	Holds ~50; Justin knows new co-executive directors; open house coming up
Bellarmino University	Flagged by Diane; Julie noted daytime parking on campus is difficult; Veritas facility off Newburgh Rd (Watterson Medical Building) is a large alternative space, cost unknown
Sun Valley Community Center	In Valley Station (south end of Louisville); suggested for future rotation if event moves around the

→More Thoughts on

- Donated space is a priority: Justin identified Highland Community Ministries, JCC, and area ministries as organizations most likely to be receptive to donating space given existing relationships.
- The group confirmed they do not want to charge admission for the initial event and want to avoid paying for venue space if alternatives exist.
- Food/beverage: early afternoon timing avoids meal expectations; plan is for light snacks and drinks only, keeping costs low; AARP has offered financial support that could cover that.

→ Next Steps for Event Planning

- Justin to follow up with Sophia to schedule the next planning committee meeting within a few weeks.
- Committee subgroups (branding/marketing, venue, emcee, logistics) were identified via Google poll; members self-selected into areas of interest.
- Venue subgroup will begin outreach to shortlisted locations to assess availability and willingness to donate space.

● Seniors Got Talent Recap

Joe shared with the group that [Seniors Got Talent KY](#), was held on Sep 1 at 6:30 pm in Lexington and was great success.

- 342 tickets were scanned; attendees and participants gave great feedback, with some calling it the best iteration of the event.
- The performer added a fun, spirited vibe to the evening, keeping the audience guessing with a cheeky routine that ended on a surprisingly wholesome high note.
- All performers were required to keep content at least PG, enforced during the audition process; acts were capped at 3 minutes.
- The comedian did not place but was a highlight; Joe noted he wrote the comedian's name down and may follow up.
- First-place winner (People's Choice Award and first place overall): a Louisville-based singer called Jerry Newby with a beautiful voice; Joe believes he would likely perform for free for a charitable event.
- A third-place act sang opera; Joe acknowledged it may not fit the comedy storytelling event format but offered to reach out to other acts.
- Justin flagged the Seniors Got Talent comedian as a potential resource for the humorous storytelling event.

● **Goal 3: Village Movement Update**

- Justin, Troy Burton (Executive Director, Highland Community Ministries), and Sondra (senior services coordinator, Highland Community Ministries) visited a village in Lexington to observe how another organization is developing around aging-in-community principles.

- The visit was hosted at a volunteer's home in a subdivision where the developer built housing inspired by the Golden Girls model: four apartments arranged around a shared common area (seating, kitchen), age-restricted, for mostly independent residents.
- A second house in the same subdivision was built using resident feedback from the first — incorporating features like no steps, lever door handles instead of knobs, and other age-friendly design elements.
- The second house currently has two residents and is seeking two additional housemates; cost is approximately \$1,000/month all-inclusive, with private living space, private bath, and shared common areas.
- The Lexington village's volunteer and service programming was less developed than expected; they are building community around a local church for programming and event hosting.
- Sandra will attend the annual virtual Village to Village conference (upcoming in the next week or two).
- In the next fiscal year, Highland Community Ministries will: (1) continue village membership, (2) investigate software costs, (3) begin recruiting volunteers in their service area, and (4) explore what membership would look like.
- Opportunity identified: **sharing presentation

Next Meeting: October 11th, 2026, 2 PM

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Meetings are always the 2nd Tuesday of every month

701 W Ormsby Ave, First Floor Conference Room, Louisville, 40203

The following Current **Events & Resources** were shared at the meeting

Opportunity for members to highlight relevant programs, events, and tools that could benefit the group's work. Share at agefriendlylouisville@gmail.com

- **Gold Standard of Optimal Aging Award Ceremony:** Honoring seniors 85+ on **Tuesday, Sept 8 @ 11:30 AM**. Register to attend [HERE](#).
- **Memory Café:** 3rd Monday of each month at 1:00 PM Northeast Regional Library; Maker Space, 15 Bellevoir Circle. **Next cafe on Sep 2;** Supportive space for those with memory loss and care partners. More info [HERE](#).
- **Music in the Park:** Live music, lunch, ice cream, and vendors for adults 55+. Last event of the series on **September 17th, 11am - 1 pm at Petersburg Park**. Bring a lawn chair! See flyer [HERE](#).
- **Prepare to Care Workshop Series:** AARP Kentucky and KY Elder Law is offering a free, three-part caregiver series hosted at the Oldham County Public Library (Goshen Branch) covering caregiving steps, elder law, and advance care planning on **September 10, October 8, and November 12**. Register online [HERE](#).
- Come join the **Community Safety Fair at Episcopal Church Home** at 7504 Westport Road on **September 16, 2026, from 10 AM to Noon**. Learn about safety, scam, and fall prevention and connect with local resources. Call 502-736-8044 for more information.
- **Seniors Resource Fair:** Essential community services, including Medicare assistance, benefits counseling, veteran support, and social services at the LFPL Parkland Branch on Monday, **September 14, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**. Find out more here: <https://events.lfpl.org/event/seniors-resource-fair-18141>
- **Louisville Metro Parks & Recreation:** Programs including Silver Sneakers, pickleball, chair volleyball, and more at Wilderness Road Senior Center. More info [HERE](#).
- **Project ECHO (Care of Older Adults):** Brief virtual trainings and case discussions. Next session, "*Retirement and Mental Health*," is **Sept 18 @ 12:00 PM**. More info: <https://loom.ly/gigBLs4>

- **Annual County Walk Challenge:** Sept 1–30. A month-long movement and step challenge across Kentucky counties. Learn more & join [HERE](#).
- **2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's Louisville** will be held on **October 18** at Churchill Downs. Participate in the Walk and support your Lou chapter [HERE](#).
- **Caregiver Support Group:** Meets every **3rd Friday @ 2:00 PM ET** (with Alzheimer's Association & Episcopal Church Home). Call 1-800-272-3900 or register online at alz.org/crf.
- **TRIAD Meeting: 2nd Tuesday** (Networking 11:00 AM | Lunch 11:30 AM | Meeting 12:00–1:00 PM) at Our Mother of Sorrows Cafeteria (770 Eastern Parkway). RSVP required—contact Alli.
- **Twilight Wish Foundation:** Grants wishes for seniors. Visit the KY Chapter at twilightwish.org/chapter-locations/louisville-kentucky/ or contact Julie Hartmann at hartmannj055@gmail.com.
- **Free Dementia Guide:** Practical info on brain health, safety, and caregiving from Episcopal Retirement Services. Access the guide at episcopalretirement.com or email Teran Herthel at therthel@erslife.org.
- **PEARLS Program:** Free counseling (teletherapy available) for adults 60+ managing depression or isolation. Call 502-588-3471 or visit tragerinstitute.org/PEARLS.
- **My Health Matters (MHM):** Virtual community health education every **Monday @ 6:30 PM**. Info: <https://centers.louisville.edu/aging/optimal-aging-clinic/wellness-and-lifestyle/my-health-matters>