

Age Friendly Louisville Social Inclusion Workgroup Meeting Agenda
February 10th, 2026 | 2:00 - 3:30 PM | 701 W Ormsby Ave, First Floor Conference Room, Louisville, 40203

Attendees:

Diane Clark Curtis, Julie Hartmann, Sandra MacGuire, Sondra B, Jo Ann Orr, Caison Black, Kate Schiavi, Greg Willet, Pam Yankeelov, Sophia Banks.

Facilitators: Diane Clark Curtis, Julie Hartmann.

Item	Discussion
Meeting Focus & Summary	<p>Meeting focus: Speaker recap, give subcommittee updates, review the action plan to assess progress and identify next steps for intergenerational initiatives and connections (Goals 1 & 2) and the Village Movement (Goal 3), as well as new opportunities;</p> <p>Summary: The meeting focused on last month's presentation on loneliness among older and younger generations and potential interventions. Participants shared updates on research, intergenerational programs, and community partnerships. The group discussed promoting Older Americans Month at libraries and exploring collaborations with libraries and school groups, scouting groups, and the KY Senior Games. The Connectedness Advisory Council was highlighted as a potential partner to support isolated seniors, with plans to gather more information. The meeting concluded with reminders about a wheelchair repair event and the AARP Community Challenge grant deadline.</p> <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Recap of last month's speaker presentation and learning about the "Connectedness Advisory Council" (CAC) that offers volunteer support and events.● Older American Month (OAM); Kate (LPFL) will be a key contact for intergenerational programs, 2026 Growing Up and Growing Older: Books for Young Readers booklist has examples to submit for the GSA Krout and Elmore Children's Book Award for Best Portrayal of Aging.● Update on Loneliness Research: A pilot study found Russell has the highest senior loneliness, while Fairdale has the lowest. Phase 2 interventions begin in March/April, pending IRB approval.● Updates on current intergenerational programs were highlighted and new opportunities include Assumption High School students volunteering at the Jefferson Senior Center and seniors reading to Cochrane Elementary students.● New Initiative: The group will explore an intergenerational Kentucky Senior Games, a qualifying event for the 2027 nationals, as a way to engage youth.

<p>Item 1: Speaker Presentation Recap</p>	<p>Presenter Bob Tiell presented <i>“Is There a Social Isolation & Loneliness Epidemic in the US?”</i> → A speaker's observation that neighborhoods are less active outdoors prompted a discussion on community connection. The group discussed loneliness among younger people specifically, noting the disconnect caused by social media and lack of community engagement. They explored ways to address this issue, including forging stronger connections with neighbors and organizing events for seniors.</p> <p>In this context the "Connectedness Advisory Council" (CAC) was introduced as a potential partner by Jo Ann Orr. Mission: Combat senior isolation, especially among homebound individuals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motivation: Address the high senior suicide rate in one local neighborhood (12 in 2020). ● Capacity: Offers volunteers for events but has no funding.
<p>Item 2: General Workgroup Updates & New Opportunities</p>	<p>The group was asked to highlight new opportunities as well as give an updates on current projects and initiatives:</p> <p>Caison provided a brief overview and gave an update on the Humana-Funded Loneliness Study by UofL’s Envirome Institute and Simmons College, surveying adults 50+ last summer on neighborhood factors and loneliness; More info at UofL.me/ubn2</p> <p>Goal: Identify and intervene in neighborhoods with high senior loneliness.</p> <p>Methodology: Data mapping of health risks, resources, and demographics across Crescent Hill, Russell, Fairdale, Springhurst, and Beardale to pinpoint at-risk areas.</p> <p>Key Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Russell has the highest senior loneliness. ● Fairdale has the lowest. ● Springhurst shows lower loneliness (likely due to higher income/family demographics). ● Beardale has the lowest awareness of available resources. <p>Phase 2: Shared hobby groups and support groups launching March/April (pending IRB approval).</p> <p>Fund for the Arts Collaboration: “Senior Cultural Path” events currently reach a narrow, high-income demographic (mostly white women 70+). The study team will help diversify recruitment (e.g., transportation support, partnerships with assisted living) to reach more isolated seniors.</p>

AARP Community Challenge Grant 2026:

The group also touched on an AARP CCG deadline on **March 4th**. Sandra mentioned that she connected to Nicole from 50.50 Mentoring Collaboration to ask if she will resubmit last year's proposal for the senior lawn care project. A webinar can be accessed here: <https://virtualevents.aarp.org/2026GrantWebinar/en>

Sandra Mc Guire gave an update on the **2026 Growing Up and Growing Older: Books for Young Readers** has been updated. It can be accessed here: <https://library.lmunet.edu/booklist>

This booklist is up in time for people to look at 2024-2025 books that might be eligible for the **GSA Krout and Elmore Children's Book Award for Best Portrayal of Aging**. Information about the award, making nominations, and previous award winners is available at the website. Nominations are open through **March 31**. Sandra and her team started the award back in 2009 and she is on the Award Committee.

<https://www.geron.org/Membership/Member-Center/Awards/Society-Wide-Awards/Krout-and-Elmore-Childrens-Book-Award-for-Best-Portrayal-of-Aging>

Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2026 Krout & Elmore Children's Book Award for Best Portrayal of Aging - Sandra can help submitting nominations. Reach her at smcguire@utk.edu;

Main Street Underpass Mural RFP: Debbie Tuggle connected us to an artist that is very experienced with large projects. [Laurie Blayney](#) and she is doing the Floodwall Mural Pilot Project Waterfront Park. Sandra McGuire connected [Charles Williams](#) (intergenerational artist and AARP volunteer) to Laurie. Laurie wrote up proposal and engaged two more artist for an intergenerationally themed art piece. Gallery: Louisville, past, present and future. Proposal was not accepted but Laurie want to take it back up for future initiative.

New topics: Service Learning Program (Assumption HS) <https://www.ahsrockets.org/faith/service-learning>, Old School, "Why Teach About Aging" handout, "Senior Nutrition Site" handout, 2026 AARP Community Grant

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Key Findings:

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<p>Item 3: Subcommittee Breakouts: Followed by a quick recap in the large group.</p> <p>++ Please assign note taker in subcommittee ++</p>	<p>Focus: Assess progress and identify next steps</p> <p>Goal 1 & 2: Intergenerational Initiatives & Connections - Engagement & Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intergenerational Library Project <p>Kate (Youth Services Manager at LFPL) will serve as a contact for intergenerational ideas. The plan is to develop book displays and storytime themes for Older Americans Month (May). Idea: Engage seniors to read to children at LPL storytimes.</p> <p>They explored ideas including book displays, storytime programming, and involving seniors in reading to children, with Sandra sharing book lists that could be incorporated into these activities. The group also discussed the possibility of involving RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) participants in future events, though this was left for further discussion at the next meeting.</p> <p>Jo Anne: Bring up the RSVP program and idea of seniors reading to children at the next meeting, and coordinate with Kate on how to present this. Joanne said in initiatives she is involved, she liked to have kids reading to seniors opposed to the other way around.</p> <p>Senior Nutrition and Neighborhood Programs</p> <p>In this context the group discussed Senior Nutrition Program, including congregate meals and home delivery options. Jo Ann explained their facility's activities, such as Zumba classes, bingo, and crafts, and mentioned their involvement in teaching seniors new skills like crocheting. The conversation then shifted to a study called Universal Basic Neighborhood,</p>

	<p>which aims to identify and highlight positive aspects of different neighborhoods in Louisville to promote overall improvement.</p> <p>➤ New Intergenerational Initiatives</p> <p>Kentucky Senior Games: The group will explore an intergenerational version of this event; 2026 is a qualifying year for the 2027 national games, potential partners could be Norton Center (Lyndon Pryor), Boy Scouts (Dave Kuda).</p> <p>Group members interested in the Assumption High School/Jefferson Senior Center intergenerational program: Ascension High School APPS Program: A new 10-week program where students volunteer at the Jefferson Senior Center. Sandra let us know that Julie Geurin (Jefferson Senior Center) is available to share details on this program. She typed up an overview: Cochran Elementary School likes seniors to come and read to classes.</p> <p>Goal 3: Village Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highland Community Ministries Updates, new workgroup member Sondra as the representative of HCM that is involved in spearheading the creation of a Village in Louisville. • HCM Senior Center: A local center in the Highlands serving seniors 60+ with daily activities and meals. • New outreach opportunities were discussed
Item 4: Upcoming Initiatives and events	<p>Wheelchair Repair: On February 28 at the Louisville Central Community Center for a Wheelchair Repair Affair, hosted in partnership with SOS. The event will take place from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and will offer free wheelchair repairs and assistance. Diance will share the flyer when it is available.</p>

Next Meeting: March 10th, 2026, 2 PM
 Meetings are always the 2nd Tuesday of every month.
Location: 701 W Ormsby Ave, First Floor Conference Room, Louisville, 40203

Item 4.1: Sharing of Current Events & Resources

Opportunity for members to highlight relevant programs, events, and tools that could benefit the group's work. Send any event and resources to agefriendlylouisville@gmail.com to share in the newsletter and with workgroup members.

- The **Episcopal Retirement Services** Center for Memory Support and Inclusion offers a **free dementia guide** with practical information on understanding dementia, supporting brain health, effective communication, and navigating day-to-day safety and caregiving challenges. Access the

guide at episcopalretirement.com/corporate/make-sense-of-dementia-guidebook?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery or email Teran Herthel at therthel@erslife.org

- The **2026 AARP Community Challenge Grant**, offering over \$8 million nationwide to fund quick-action projects that make communities more livable across areas like public spaces, housing, transportation, digital access, and disaster resilience. Eligible nonprofits & local governments can apply for grants ranging from a few hundred dollars up to \$25,000 by **March 4, 2026**. <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/>
- The Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) is offering a free, limited-capacity **virtual training series (January–June) led by Dr. Steven Kniffley** through the KY SIX grant, featuring 1-hour sessions on trauma-informed topics to support professionals and community partners across Kentucky.
- Join **Project ECHO**: Care of Older Adults and the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Communities (KCHC) and the Trager Institute offers healthcare providers and community members brief trainings, case discussions, and resources on age-friendly care, lifestyle medicine, and best practices for supporting older adults. Next virtual workshop Social Connection in Aging Well on February 20 at 12 p.m. Register: <https://loom.ly/gigBLs4>
- The UofL Trager Institute is offering a free virtual six-week **Diabetes Self-Management Program** on Tuesdays, **Mar. 3 – Apr. 7 (10:00 am –12:30 pm)** and Wednesdays, **Mar. 4 – Apr. 8, 1–3:30 pm** to help individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes build skills to manage their health and prevent complications. More sessions scheduled for Apr. 23 - May 28. Register here: bit.ly/Trager-DSMP
- **The Louisville Metro Office of Aging and Disabled Citizens** updates its **Senior Resource Guide** twice a year, offering a comprehensive list of helpful services and supports for Kentuckians. View the July 2025 Updated senior guide on OADC website at louisvilleky.gov/government/office-social-services/office-aging-disabled-citizens
- **TRIAD Meeting - Communities Educating Older Adults About Crime**
Second Tuesday, Networking 11:00 am, Lunch 11:30 am, Meeting 12:00-1:00 pm, LOCATION: Our Mother of Sorrows Cafeteria, 770 Eastern Parkway
- **The Twilight Wish Foundation**, inspired by a simple act of kindness in 2003, is a national nonprofit dedicated to granting wishes for seniors, having fulfilled over 7,100 wishes across the U.S. to honor, celebrate, and uplift older adults. Find the KY chapter here: twilightwish.org/chapter-locations/louisville-kentucky/ or contact Julie Hartmann at hartmannj055@gmail.com
- A Loneliness study by UofL's Envirome Institute and Simmons College is surveying adults 50+ this summer on neighborhood factors and loneliness; More info at UofL.me/ubn2
- **The Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives (PEARLS)**, free counseling program from UofL Trager Institute for adults 60+. It supports mental well-being by addressing depression, life challenges, and social isolation. Teletherapy available. Call 502-588-3471 or visit tragerinstitute.org/PEARLS
- **MHM - My Health Matters**: Community Health Education and Support → Every **Monday at 6:30 pm**, virtual. More info at <https://centers.louisville.edu/aging/optimal-aging-clinic/wellness-and-lifestyle/my-health-matters>