

Diversity Roundtable
Achieving a Culture that Values Diversity
Greater Lafayette Commerce
Thursday May 2, 2024
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
The Arts Federation (TAF) and Zoom

Minutes

Impacting Change in Issues of Diversity and Inclusion

DiversityTippecanoe.org

1. Welcome/Introductions – Barb Clark, Joe Vanable, Julia Miller, Roberta Schoneman, Stephanie Rambo, Nichole Foster, Bob Falk, Tetia Lee, Bess Witcosky, Don Schieber, Johanna Wu, Ben Carson, Tracy Orbin, Emily Hall, Kristen Whelan, Monica Casanova, Amy O’Shea, Nathaly Orozco, Sana Booker, Nohemi Lugo, Sheila Klinker, Ebony Barrett, Ashley Smith, Jos Holman, Jaquelyn Thomas – Miller, Joan Marshall, Bryan Walck, Carol Clark Elliott, Sara Atkins, Chris Campbell, Ken McCammon, Devon Moore, Linda Swihart, Katy Travis, Penny Keller, Adelia Sorge, Andrew Lane, Deanna McMillan, Audrey Cooks

2. IU Health Assessment – Emily Hall stated that every three years they are required to conduct an assessment as a component of being a NFP hospital. They collect primary and secondary data to put together a community report. She shared a QR code for individuals to access the survey. The results of the assessment are then put together and serve as the health strategies to address the concerns for the following years. The results are published at the end of the year and are available via their website.

3. Program – Alzheimer – Bess Witcosky, Director of Joyful Journey, introduced by Don Schieber. Don introduced himself to the group and stated that he was a caregiver for approximately 3 years. He is a member of the Alzheimer’s Caregiving Coalition. 43M people are providing care for individuals with Alzheimer’s of which 75% are women. It is the 7th leading cause of death in the US. After 65, 1/10 people have Alzheimer’s; after 85, it’s 1/3 people. Every 65 seconds, someone develops Alzheimer’s. African Americans suffer from this twice as much as White Americans; only 34% are diagnosed. Latinx population suffer at a rate of 1.5 times as much as white Americans, only 18% are diagnosed.

Bess stated that education is the key. Every person over the age of 40 is experiencing some level of cognitive change. This is normal. Normal aging declines to mild cognitive impairment then to abnormal aging dementia as someone grows older.

Signs of Dementia:

- Not remembering the names of close friends or relatives

- Frequently forgetting appointments and events
- Trouble verbalizing thoughts and frequent pauses in conversations and substituting common words
- Regularly repeating statement or questions
- Consistently misplacing items

Dementia comes in various forms:

- Alzheimer's, Vascular, Frontotemporal, Lewy Body, and Other

Hearing is the most common neurological disorder. People with untreated hearing loss are 5 times more likely to develop dementia and will begin to notice symptoms of dementia 2-3 years earlier.

Maintaining a Healthy Brain and Body:

- Exercise, puzzles, good diet, word searches, brushing your teeth with your non-dominant hand are all ways to retain mental cognition.
- Check your blood pressure
- Protect your head
- Consult with your physician to determine what type of sleep aids are appropriate and healthy for you.
- Be social!

4. Announcements – Barb Clark

- a. The July 4th DRT meeting will be held on July 11th.
- b. Co-facilitator for DRT will be Jackie Thomas-Miller
- c. New Steering Team member is Ben Carson
- d. Coordinators for Summer Festivals are Ben Carson and Joan Marshall
- e. Rabi Rosen will be Zooming at the 6pm meeting at the UU Church. The focus for the talk is the Palestinian and Israeli Conflict. Individuals are invited to attend in person or via the Zoom link.
- f. Toast to Mental Health is tonight at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds

5. Summer Festivals – Barb Clark

- a. Juneteenth – June 15th, noon – 4 pm at Columbian Park
- b. OUTFest – August 17th, 4 pm – midnight at 5th and Main Streets
- c. Hanna Fest – September 2nd, noon – 4 pm at Columbian Park
- d. Latino Festival – September 14th, noon – 5 pm at Columbian Park
- e. Global Fest – September 21st, 3 – 10 pm at WL Chauncey Ave Plaza

6. Future Topics – Barb Clark

- a. June 6 – United Way's ALICE report (Sheila Rosenthal and Harry Targ)
- b. July 11 – Latrice Ligon, District 4 - Health Equity Community Health Worker, COVID 19 vaccine hesitations and any other health disparities that district 4 communities

are experiencing

- c. August 1 - Red Cross – Ashley Smith
- d. Sept 5 – Maternal/Infant Health Disparities in Tippecanoe County, Lindsay Mputubwele, founder of Transformed Birth Services
- e. October 3 – Rhonda Stein, Harm Reduction Advocate (Sheila Rosenthal)