

Age-Friendly Maple Grove Leadership Team Meeting

March 10, 2023 | 8:30am-10:00am

Webex Meeting

MINUTES

Attendees: Liz Faust, Carrie McLachlan, Cheryl Theuninck, Deb Stock, Jim Betzold, Kara Melvin, Kristin Hollinger, Len Langkau, Lydia Morken

Introductions

Team Updates

Kristin Hollinger, Beehives Homes - introduced herself via chat as the new Resident Services Director at BeeHive Homes in Maple Grove.

Kara Melvin from CROSS

- Kara began in Aug. 2022 and her position is new there - senior outreach director; she is a licensed social worker who has worked primarily with older adults. She runs CROSS' Meals on Wheels program, among other things.
- CROSS is primarily known for being a food shelf but it is so much more than that and provides a wide variety of services and programs for low-income families and people of all ages.
- Since the pandemic, there's been an explosion of need. People who wouldn't need services now come in and use them. People are losing homes, jobs, livelihoods.
- CROSS is in the middle of capital campaign right now; they will either be tearing down a current structure and rebuilding, or adding on.
- Kara is updating the Meals on Wheels program and is doing home visits with clients to try to get to know them and ensure they feel cared about as individuals. That will also help her be able to understand what other resources they might benefit from being connected to.
- Kara is also exploring expanding Meals on Wheels to people of different ages, such as new mothers.
- Carrie McLachlan suggested connecting Kara with new community health workers on staff with North Memorial/Maple Grove Hospital.
- Carrie will try to connect community health workers (name?) with CROSS
- Jeremy Berger from Maple Grove FD goes out once a month to Meals on Wheels recipients in Maple Grove. He checks smoke detectors, among other things. Great connections.

Jim B/Rotary:

- Assembling and delivering beds to families who need them; they partner with CROSS on this, too
- Rotary is planning for summer – cleanup around roads, buckthorn eradication, etc. City wants to play \$10K worth of trees in Central Park; Rotary will help with that.

Deb S/Alzheimer's Association

- Caregiver support groups going well; starting a third one because of increased demand!
- Memory Café – about five couples who generally attend – nice group that's been together for a while now.

Carrie M/North Memorial Health System

- Continued work on community health needs assessment. Two major areas identified, and now continue to work on those priorities. Racial disparities and health, and adverse experiences.
- By May both hospitals will have plans in place with specific strategies related to the two priorities. They are big issues, there's lots of work to do.
- Planning a summit in the fall for community members and North team members to educate people about adverse childhood experiences and adverse community environments (ACEs).
- Looking at becoming a trauma-informed organization. Lots of grant writing lately, mostly related to racial disparities and health and Black women and cancer. Great disparities for Black women in mortality rates and cancer and more Black women are behind in their screenings.
- Will be looking at a racial equity toolkit. Applying that to policies/practices at NMH/MGH and getting staff to use that to help people focus on inequities.
- *Some group discussion about disparities in care, particularly related to lack of culturally-responsive care and services and lack of geriatricians and other care with special knowledge of older people. Carrie noted that a new Blaine clinic has a focus on older adults.*
- Carrie will share some more of the CHNA findings at an upcoming LT meeting.

Cheryl Theuninck:

- Wanted to note that MG Transit services now serve Plymouth, as well. May want to help publicize that.

Community Needs Assessment Update:

- Liz, Patty Anderson, Jane Warren and Lydia attended a city department directors' meeting on March 7 at 9 am. Liz and Lydia presented, and then asked the directors to participate in a round-robin discussion to talk about what issues and concerns they see, or what issues they are working on in their departments related to aging and older adults.

- There was great engagement and energy in the discussion with many new ideas and much helpful information shared.
- Next steps: Request from directors that they share staff names with whom AF MG can have conversations about what they see in their particular roles. These conversations will be virtual or in-person and will happen over the course of the next month or so.

Liz F/City Parks & Rec

- Summer Senior Guide went out on Monday – big accomplishment!
- Kara asked if Liz could bring some out to CROSS.

Any Other Business

Think about an in-person meeting for the spring – maybe April or May. Could pick from a number of locations—back to Community Center, otherwise Hindu Temple, library, etc. Group expressed interested and set this temporarily for May.