

BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

Bloomington Commission on
Aging

Community and Family Resources Dept.
Beverly Calendar-Anderson
(director)
Sue Owens
(liaison)

Commission members 2020

Jennifer Burns
Lori Clendening
Robert Deppert
Jenny Donegan
(secretary)
Kelsey Haislip
Jack Kahn
Yonda Snyder
(vice chair)
Phil Stafford
(chair)
Leanne Zdravecky

JOHN HAMILTON, MAYOR
&
BLOOMINGTON COMMON COUNCIL

March 1, 2021

The City of Bloomington Commission on Aging is
established to:

- Develop study committees addressing concerns of seniors in health and wellness, housing, transportation, employment, social services and recreation
- Encourage the development of programs of particular benefit to senior citizens
- Apply for grants as may contribute to the strengthening and refining of a coordinated program to benefit senior citizens, upon approval of such grant applications by the appropriate city official (s)
- Serve as a catalyst to promote positive public and private remedies to the multi-faceted challenges confronting seniors in our community and the resulting effects on the entire community · Network with like-minded groups such as the AARP, Active Aging Coalition, Area 10 Council on Aging, RSVP, and other relevant local agencies, sharing ideas, information, data and future plans
- Celebrate the contributions seniors make to the Bloomington community



We are pleased to provide this annual report of activities conducted in 2020 and look forward to serving the city in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Stafford, Chair

WHO WE ARE

The Commission is a dedicated group of individuals with considerable professional and personal experience in the field of aging in our community and beyond. While functioning with a less than whole membership, our commission nevertheless accomplished a good deal in 2019.

2019 Members included:

Jennifer Burns:

Jennifer grew up in Princeton, Indiana and moved to Bloomington in 2001. She is currently working as a Finance Manager with the Office of the Vice Provost for Research at Indiana University. Jennifer is passionate about giving back to the residents the community. She currently volunteers with Monroe County United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program as well as with Brown County Humane Society's Cat Care program. Due to pandemic related family health issues, Jennifer offered her resignation in the fall of 2020.

Lori Clendening:

Lori Clendening, a born and raised Hoosier, is the Director of Resident Care for independent seniors at Meadowood Retirement Community. She is a dedicated individual for the senior population and passionate about keeping seniors healthy, happy and active. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana State University in Elementary Education. She taught Kindergarten for several years before returning to school to earn a degree in nursing. She has been a nurse for 12 years, and is currently actively involved in several committees and groups that strive to provide the best opportunities for older adults to age successfully in their community. As director of resident care, Lori brought innovative spirit to resolving the challenges of social isolation and social distancing during the COVID 19 break out.

Robert Deppert

Robert is a graduate of Indiana University and has, for 14 years, been Agency Manager at Senior Solutions, a full service insurance firm offering a wide range of products valued by seniors, in addition to senior-specific financial counseling. He assists seniors with access to valuable Medicaid benefits in long term care and provides counseling for access to Medicaid waiver benefits enabling individuals to age in place.

Jenny Donegan (secretary):

Jenny is a Technology Consultant who arrived in Bloomington in 2018 from Palo Alto, CA, where she worked closely with Dr. Phil Zimbardo and established the pilot Tech Heroes program, which has as its goal the inclusion of older adults and other marginalized groups in the digital world. She has brought TechHeroes to Bloomington and is conducting successful programs at Bell Trace and the Monroe County Public Library. Jenny is an accomplished artist and photographer. In the fall of 2020, Jennifer took on grant-related work supported by the Smithville Charitable Foundation in partnership with the Area 10 Agency on Aging and the CoDesign Commons.

Kelsey Haislip

Kelsey was born and raised in Petersburg, Indiana. She attended the University of Evansville for her undergraduate education completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science. Immediately following graduation, Kelsey moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky to pursue a graduate degree in Healthcare Administration at Western Kentucky University. She and her husband, Rob moved to Bloomington in 2013 to begin their careers.

Kelsey has worked for CarDon and Associates for nearly seven years; five of those in Brown County and the past two as the Director of Community Engagement at Bell Trace. She is a 2020 graduate of Leadership Bloomington Monroe County, is a member of BNI Powernet chapter, and serves as a Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Ambassador. During her free time, Kelsey enjoys traveling, reading, exercising, IU Sports, and spending time with Rob and her one-year old son, Briggs.

Jack Kahn (Parliamentarian):

Jack Kahn has lived in Bloomington for 12 years, coming from Woodstock, NY with his late wife Eunice. He was born in Germany and is a Holocaust survivor. Jack attended high school at Brooklyn Tech and received his B.S. from Drexel University and his M.S. from University of Pennsylvania. He worked for IBM as a Computer Programmer and Engineer in upstate NY for 36 years. Jack is a committed community advocate and volunteer. In the fall of 2020, the Commission on Aging and the City of Bloomington were delighted to share in Jack's reflected light as a recipient of the Golden Hoosier Award, presented to Jack in a virtual statewide ceremony in September. Jack is a founding member of the Commission on Aging.

Yonda Snyder (vice chair):

Yonda Snyder is a partner in Sage Squirrel Consulting. Sage Squirrel Consulting works with human service organizations and systems that provide long term services and supports to seniors and people with disabilities. In this capacity, Yonda and her business partner provide consulting services nationwide to non-profit organizations and governmental aging services programs. Previously, Yonda was the Director of the Division of Aging in the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration and was the Director of Human Resources for CarDon & Associates, a Bloomington-based provider of senior living and nursing care services through central Indiana.

Phil Stafford (chair):

Phil is the retired director of the Center on Aging and Community at IU, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology and actively involved with the development of services and supports for older persons and families for over 40 years in Bloomington and around the U.S. He has been a leader in the international age-friendly community movement and recently became Co-Design Director for Commons Planning, Inc., of Atlanta, GA.

Leanne Zdravecky:

While Leanne relocated to Pennsylvania to support her parents at the close of 2020, she provided valuable experience and service to the Commission during her tenure. As a librarian at Monroe County Public Library (formerly) she participated in assisting the Commission to establish new working ties with the library, including important recommendations for the MCPL Strategic Planning process in the summer of 2020.

Finally, we bring an assortment of community service connections to our work. These are very useful, since we are committed to helping Bloomington increase its capacity to support its aging population. Such work never is really “done,” nor can it be advanced effectively by any one group on its own. Our collective network includes:

- American Society on Aging
- Area 10 Agency on Aging- Endwright East
- Bloomington Meals on Wheels
- Dementia-Friendly Bloomington
- IU Mathers Museum of World Cultures
- Memory Bridge Foundation
- Monroe County Historical Society
- Monroe County Public Library
- National Association of State Units on Aging and Disability (NASUAD)
- TechHeroes
- WTIU Annual Conference on Aging
- And others

WHAT WE DID IN 2020

February

- Appointment of 3 new Commission members
- Initiated discussion around the idea of convening senior service providers to discuss needs and concerns.
- Meeting with Endwright East staff to discuss tech needs at the new senior center
- Planned for participation in Senior Expo (cancelled)
- Discussed, tentatively explored proposals for an Intergenerational Choir (later postponed)
- Developed agenda for Service Provider Roundtable and created initial invitation list
- Applied for table at the Bloomington Street Fair (later cancelled)

April

- First virtual meeting of the Commission
- Discussed Old Hospital site development and the prospect of Commission on Aging involvement
- Attended meetings of the Hopewell citizens group involved with hospital redevelopment issues
- Reviewed examples of surveys that could be employed locally to better understand senior needs.
- Linked local home care agencies to online COVID training for national certification in COVID care.

May

- Participation in Stakeholder meeting regarding old hospital redevelopment
- Annual Sponsorship and participation in annual Dementia Friendly Community Conference (cancelled)
- Discussed alternative strategies for building a digital presence with seniors, with special attention to linking seniors with resources and surveying their opinions.
- Publication of Editorial column by our Chair in response to the COVID crisis and ageism

June

- Set dates for provider roundtables, reviewed agenda and distributed responsibilities for making direct contact with invitees.
- Provided ideas and opinions in first public forum for old hospital redevelopment plan

July

- Held three successful online roundtables with 20 senior service providing organization representatives. Social isolation emerged as a primary concern and issue for the community.
- Presentation by Chris Jackson of MCPL and extended discussion of potential library services for seniors in Bloomington.

August

- Roundtable debrief with discussion of future actions, including continuing a roundtable series on a regular basis in the coming year (quarterly is a goal)
- Continuing involvement with public participation opportunities for hospital redevelopment
- Continuing participation with Dementia Friendly Founders group and planning for 2021 conference in May

September

- Completed and distributed roundtable report to participants, with announcement of our desire to convene the group on a regular basis
- Accepted nominations for officers for 2021 October (notes, no quorum)
- Guest presentation by Brent Molnar, lead for WTIU Conference on Aging, extended discussion of digital connections being explored by WTIU
- Reviewed testimony provided by Commissioner Jenny Donegan in meetings organized for City of Bloomington Digital Divide survey and planning, and reviewed tentative results
- Continued participation with hospital redevelopment planning. December
- Presentation by Rick Dietz, with City of Bloomington, on Digital Divide Survey. Discussed planning for 2021 roundtable on the digital divide

OUR PLANS FOR 2021

- Convene area service provider roundtables for networking and collaboration
 - Session One: Addressing the Digital Divide and Seniors (winter/spring)
- Continue to participate in the annual WTIU Conference on aging
- Continue to actively advocate for Lifetime Community and Dementia friendly framing for Hospital Site Redevelopment Planning efforts with a focus on zoning and other planning concerns
- Study and research best practices in health, social and community services, including new models of aging in place care for older adults with chronic illnesses and disabilities.
- Continue to work towards a senior survey and/or roundtables for seniors
- Provide leadership for and continue to support community efforts around improving digital access and digital literacy for seniors