**Vermillion – Parke Health Coalition**

**Zoom Meeting – November 4, 2021 – 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

**Attended:** Allison Finzel, Antonia Sawyer, Mary Margaret Rhees, Larry Addison, Jeffrey Galbraith, Judi Barnes, Julie Petit, Karen Hinshaw, Courtney Stewart, Becky Myers, Elaina Smith, Kim Wickens, Amber Smith, Kathleen Clifford, Kiersten Vincent, Cale Stewart, Donna Whitmer, Bethany Goodwin, Sylvia Maixner, Jasmine Lewis, Jessica Taylor, Breanna Tryon, John Etling, Elaine Pastore, Lori Bouslog, Gail Wright

Lori Bouslog opened the meeting.

Introductions

Notes from the last meeting attached to email. Approved.

**GUEST SPEAKER** –Jessica Taylor, Director of Aging & Disabled Operations from Thrive West Central

* Thrive West Central is the new name after official rebrand in January 2021. It is comprised of 3 areas of focus: Economic Development (EDA Grants), Community Development (Rural Planning, OCRA grants) and Aging and Disabled Resources (West Central’s Division of Area 7 Agency on Aging and Disabled Services)
* Aging & Disabled Resources focuses on “Aging in Place” to reduce institutionalizing seniors
* Programs areas include insurance assistance through SHIP training, transportation program available in Parke and Vermillion through Medicare and Medicaid, in-home services, medical equipment/home/auto modifications, meal sites, dementia friends, and more. Website notes all services - <https://thrivewestcentral.com/aging/resource-center/>
* Questions noted - Do they work with veterans? Yes, but often veterans are unable to qualify because of income level
* In response to contact/advertising - Jessica noted they have rack cards for all 3 divisions and Thrive - They are happy to drop by and deliver information
* Jessica’s contact is [jtaylor@thrivewestcentral.com](mailto:jtaylor@thrivewestcentral.com)

**PROPOSED POVERTY WORKING GROUP** – Lori Bouslog

* Mary Margaret Rhees will serve as co-chair.
* Elaine Pastore made a motion to add Poverty Working Group. Donna Whitmer second. Motion passed.
* Discussion over the original thought that Resource Manual Workgroup would transition to Poverty. Individuals from Resource can make that choice depending on availability.

**WORKING GROUPS** – Lori Bouslog

* **Food Insecurity** - Allison Finzel reported still in process with Vermillion Co. Ministerial Association. Community Foundation gave funds to food pantry. Hillcrest is in needs of volunteers. Mindy unable to attend. Gail noted Parke County Food Security Alliance and grant funding through OCRA on track.
* **Connecting Health Care** - Larry Addison - Met on Tuesday, 11/2. 6 present. Will be meeting again soon - possibly in person and evening to attract healthcare providers to do a SWOT analysis to get better understanding of needs. Kiersten Vincent would like to join this Workgroup.
* **Resource Manual** - Sylvia Maixner provided update. They have not met recently - no official update. Sylvia likes the thought of combining efforts with poverty.

**FUTURE IN-PERSON MEETINGS** - Lori led discussion. Hybrid would be good option.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS** - Donna Whitmer and Bethany Goodwin from Children’s Bureau were suggested. Please email Lori or Gail with other suggestions.

**ORGANIZATION SHARE:** Everyone

* Judi Barnes noted a new NEPA has been hired and there is a new senior curriculum. They can offer nutrition classes with youth, teen, adults, and senior.

Lori Bouslog stated the next meeting will be on

**January 6th at 10 AM**