

# LAWRENCE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVOCACY COUNCIL ON AGING

Independence Inc., 2001 Haskell Avenue, Lawrence, KS 6044

Minutes of May 16, 2017

**Attending:** Mary Johnson, Ellen Paulsen, Brenda Nunez, Tamara Cash, Artie Shaw, Michele Dillon, Michelle Meier, Bob Russell, Tracy Harmon, Judy Bellome, Walter Moon  
Guest speaker: Andrea Bozarth, AARP Kansas Assoc. State Director of Community Outreach

Mary opened the meeting with introductions all around and then introducing our speaker Andrea Bozarth, AARP Associate Director of Community Outreach. Andrea provided the group with highlights of the work that AARP does on a state and national level.

AARP is known for advocacy, information, and education. There are over 38 million members across the nation. 320 thousand members in Kansas and 53 state AARP office. There are 2 publications, the AARP monthly magazine, the AARP bulletin (2 each month), the website, [www.AARP.org](http://www.AARP.org) provides information on a variety of subjects including a job site. The AARP Tax-Aide program is provided through the AARP foundation and assists many of our Douglas County citizens with their tax returns each year at no cost to the tax payer.

Andrea provided the group with information about the “livability umbrella” which includes where we live and the neighborhoods we live in.

Eight Domains of livability are as follow:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings, safe streets, accessibility.
- Transportation and streets – sidewalks and curb cuts.
- Housing – aging in place- programs to help people modify their homes. Dan Burden assisted the Barker neighborhood in a walking audit with 100 people.
- Social participation – free movie screenings – movies for grownups. Pop-up coffee – pay for coffee for 2 hours at various coffee houses.
- Respect and inclusion – social isolation – intergenerational events. Basic financial literacy, fraud watch network participation.
- Civic participation and job opportunities.
- Community information – website –[www. create the good.org](http://www.create the good.org)
- Health and wellness services – access to services – close to service and has transport to get there.
- The grandparents’ park in Wichita is an example of making a neighborhood more livable.

Senior Resource Center – Michelle Meier – update

After the summit last month, SRC is working with agencies to build a comprehensive database of available services in the county. SRC has been tasked by Douglas County to get this done. A couple of facts: senior population is up 24% since 2010. In Douglas County, senior population is up 7%. The database is to include everyone, all agencies. The group had a good discussion of the issues.

Announcements:

5/16 at 5:45 the City Commission will talk about the bus hub.

5/18 at 11 am League of Women Voters –will have program on transportation in the city.

5/20 Shred Fest sponsored by AARP at the KLWN parking lot on west 6<sup>th</sup> street. Watch the Journal World for announcement of times but probably morning (9-12noon).

The next meeting will be June20th at 11:30 for eat and greet so bring your lunch and visit.

– Guest Speaker: Sheldon Weisgrau, Director, Health Reform Resource Project.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Johnson

## **Breakout groups:**

**Transportation** – Brenda, MaryJ, Ellen, Dawn

**Caregiving** – Michele D, Tamara, Artie, Judy

**Accessibility** – Saunny, \_\_\_\_\_?

**Affordable Housing** – Tamara, Brenda, Dawn