**Make Health Happen Steering Committee – 7/11/23**

**Present:** Dr. Jerrica Ampadu, Lettie Hicks, Bhagya Kolli, Rima Abusaid, Caroline Mitchell, Greg Witherspoon, Viktoria Zolman (guest)

**Debit Card:** Rima and Bhagya will be going to the bank to get a new debit card with Rima as an approved user. The old card was lost when Joey transitioned out of his role. Next Thursday, Rima and Bhagya will meet at Carlton Bank on Green Mount Road where we have our account.

**BRIC Updates:**

* Lalumier garden has 18 beds planted and is getting good produce. We have had 2 groups volunteer. The water faucet has been installed with an underground pipe repaired. However, there is work being done on the driveway, parking lot and plumbing for the school which has caused the water to be turned off for about 3 weeks. The water was turned on today (7/11/23). We would welcome volunteers. New volunteers can drop in 10AM-12PM on Saturdays or contact Viktoria to schedule a time.
* Viktoria requested input on the shed and/or tool storage. Healthier Together has offered funding for a shed. Lettie offered to share the options and get more input. Viktoria and Rima will also ask for public input. Greg suggested getting a shipping container instead. Greg will provide information to Rima and Viktoria about cost and process for securing a shipping container.
* The garden network has been meeting and offering each other assistance. Viktoria created a document to track monthly progress at each garden.
* Viktoria can help with other food security projects. Please reach out to Rima and Viktoria with any needs. WeCare will be hosting a meeting to identify additional needs in St. Clair and Madison County.
* Mt. Zion is working with the Urban League to host free weekly meals for the community. They are using the cold storage they received from BRIC to support this service. Rima, Viktoria and Greg will be going to visit on Saturday to see the program in action and complete the BRIC evaluation. They will invite the church to reconnect with the Lalumier Garden

**Heat Maps:** We have not received a response from the professor who was leading this work with us. Greg reached out to Amy Funk because he had received questions from local officials wanting to be able to review this information. They noted other municipalities tracked that information as part of their city planning. Greg will reach out to the cities of Belleville and O’Fallon to see how they track/update their information.

**Strategic Planning:** Healthier Together is hosting a leadership retreat with the Chronic Disease Work Group. They invited Make Health Happen to participate if interested. Greg suggested that we do our own strategic planning before trying to do strategic planning with another group. Sterring committee members were in agreement

Would like to complete strategic planning in August at our Steering Committee meeting. Caroline will look into a possible facilitator.

**Transition Planning:** Caroline proposed Marla Guggenheim take her place on the Steering Committee. The Steering committee was open to a transition process in which both people attend on behalf of the Y as the group gets to know Marla and completes current projects. Caroline will continue working with Rima and Viktoria to support our participation in the Americorp program and to support the Lalumier garden. She also proposed inviting Curly from the FAN Innovation Center to join the Steering Committee. Nzinga has moved out of the area and as such has left the Steering Committee. Dr. Jerrica shared that it is important have multiple perspectives on the committee.

**Reflection on Post COVID/BRIC:** Reducing meetings may have allowed our time to be committed to other things. Finding ways to reconnect including possibly changing the meeting schedule is important.

**National Diabetes Program:** in partnership with IPHI, the regional Y is reaching out for support with their National Diabetes Prevention Program. The steering Committee is in agreement to support their effort. Rima suggested Connecting them with Dr. Jerrica’s efforts with the Mobile health Unit and Dr. Jerrica agreed to support

**Closings;** a few of the steering committee members had to leave the call. It was suggested that we do a doodle poll to meet again for a strategic planning meeting in august. Rima agreed to send one out and Caroline will be reaching out to a few of her contacts to see if she can have someone come out and do a strategic planning meeting with us.

Meeting adjourned