

**Lehigh-Northampton LINK to Aging and Disability Resources
Collaborative Partner Meeting
Minutes of May 8, 2013**

Present: Amy Angelo (everyday Life), Pam Bechtel (Lehigh County Meals on Wheels), Gina Beck (Partnership for a Disability Friendly Community), Carol Taylor Boyle (Northampton Community College), Kathye Ciraolo (Good Shepherd), Rick Daugherty (Lehigh County Senior Center), Tom Dye (Lehigh County Veterans Affairs), Julia Folk (St. Luke's University Health Network), Karen Francis (Sacred Heart Assisted Living), Lynn Heiney (ShareCare Faith in Action), Valorie Hinkle (LINK), Mary Jane Long (AARP Lehigh Valley), John Mehler (Northampton County Area Agency on Aging), Kim Melusky (Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services), Sheila Nemeth (Assisted Transition), Ann O'Keefe (Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services), Lucille Prawl (ARC of Lehigh & Northampton Counties), Nadia Santiago (LV Center for Independent Living), Sharon Santiago (Northampton County I&R), Lisa Schwartz (Haven Behavioral Hospital), Judy Stanczak (Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services/Apprise), Michelle Townsend (ARC of Lehigh & Northampton Counties), Mary Vilter (Self-Determination Housing Project), Tom Walker (Lehigh County Conference of Churches)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Ann O'Keefe welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the cross training session for Lehigh-Northampton LINK. Introductions were made.

II. Update on LINK Collaborative Feedback Survey

Thank you to all partners who took time to complete the feedback survey. All those who responded found these meetings helpful and educational and have benefited from networking with other agencies.

All found the LINK meetings helpful when making referrals. The meetings have increased awareness of programs and services, allowed for networking with others, and many are sharing the information learned with their staff.

Additional topics of interest for future speakers were Benefits CheckUp, housing options for low income and accessible housing, Lehigh County Conference of Churches, local trends and data, mental health and older adults, home and community based waiver, and a national speaker from the LINK program.

A suggestion was made to develop a contact list of LINK partners to be used by the group when needing to contact an agency regarding programs and services. This will be a goal for the group.

III. Request for LINK contact list for agency networking

Taken from a suggestion in the feedback survey, Kim will send an email out to collaborative partners to gather basic information to include in a resource directory for this group to use when networking and/or assisting consumers. The information will include an agency contact person, phone number, address, email address and a short blurb.

IV. New resource page on LINK website

There is a new resource page on the Lehigh-Northampton LINK website. Please check it out and email Kim any additional suggestions to be included.

V. Reminder to email upcoming events and include LINK in your newsletters

Please check out the "Upcoming Events" page on the Lehigh-Northampton LINK website. If you have any events you would like added, please email them to Kim.

If your organization produces a newsletter, please consider adding an article about Lehigh-Northampton LINK. Contact Kim for information. LINK articles have recently been included in Lifestyles Over 50, Lehigh Valley Aging in Place, Partnership for a Disability Friendly Community, and Northampton County Area Agency on Aging.

VI. LINK Sponsorships

Lehigh-Northampton LINK sponsored the Shatter the Stigma event on May 9th and upcoming Caregiver Conference scheduled for June 21st. Information about the conference can be found on the website under "upcoming events."

Cross Training Presentations

Collaborative partner cross training presenters were:

- Haven Behavioral Hospital (Lisa Schwartz, 610-406-4384)
- Lehigh County Conference of Churches (Tom Walker, 610-841-1370 ext 24)

Each shared their mission, contact information, how to make a referral for services, and highlighted programs and services provided by the agency. Handouts were provided and can be found on the Lehigh-Northampton LINK website.

VII. Selection of Cross Training Presenters for July meeting

July presenters will be Robin Rosenau from Benefits CheckUp and Vanessa Miller from CARIE.

VIII. Open Discussion/Questions

Lehigh-Northampton LINK completed its quarterly report. To date we currently have 32 signed collaborative partners and have held 29 cross training sessions.

The minutes to these meetings and the cross training handouts are available on the LINK website. There is also a section on "Upcoming Events" on the site. **If your organization has an event that would be appropriate for the LINK website that you would like posted, please contact Kim.**

Please take a few moments to view the site and provide a link from your organization's web page as well.

<http://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/HumanServices/AgingandAdultServices/LehighCountyLINKADRC/tabid/1265/Default.aspx>

You may also view at www.lehighcounty.org and www.northamptoncounty.org.

Please continue to email Kim suggestions for future cross training presentations. Please email the name of the organization, contact person, and phone number and/or email address.

Please ask any organizations who wish to become **collaborative partners** to Kim Melusky at (610) 782-3096. Emails can be sent to kimberlymelusky@lehighcounty.org or lehighcountylink@lehighcounty.org.

Please mark your calendar:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lehigh County Government Center, 17 South 7th Street in Allentown.

The September meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Fowler Center, 511 E. Third Street in Bethlehem.