

**Lehigh-Northampton LINK to Aging and Disability Resources
Collaborative Partner Meeting
Minutes of March 6, 2013**

Present: Laura Adamo (Project of Easton), Amy Angelo (everyday Life), Pam Bechtel (Lehigh County Meals on Wheels), Carol Taylor Boyle (Northampton Community College), Donna Buhosky (Bayada Nurses), Ed Curran (Sacred Heart Hospital), Rick Daugherty (Lehigh County Senior Center), Julia Folk (St. Luke's University Health Network), Karen Francis (Sacred Heart Assisted Living), Rosalind Haglund (Traditions of Hanover), Rebecca Hume (Abilities in Motion), Colleen Kelly (Interim Healthcare), Kim Melusky (Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services), Vicki Luchini (Lutheran Home Care), Velda Mescher (St. Luke's University Health Network), Delores Miller (Northampton County Apprise), Lori Molloy (North Penn Legal Services), Sheila Nemeth (Assisted Transition), Ann O'Keefe (Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services), Jovanny Paredes (everyday Life), Charles Popt (Abilities in Motion), Judy Rex (Northampton Community College), Terry Rives (Northampton Community College), Cori Rolon (United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley), Priscilla Rosado (United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley), Sharon Santiago (Northampton County I&R), Lisa Schwartz (Haven Behavioral Hospital), Judy Stanczak (Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services/Apprise), Susan Storm (OVR), Jamie Tomasko (Abilities in Motion), Mary Vilter (Self-Determination Housing Project)

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 initiative

- Although Lehigh and Northampton County have been working cooperatively since the beginning of this initiative, we officially became "one LINK" in February and are **now known as the Lehigh-Northampton LINK**. The brochure and website have been changed to reflect the new LINK logo.
- Lehigh and Northampton Counties have been moved into the Northeast Region. With this comes a new Regional Coordinator, Valorie Hinkle. David Drezner, the prior NE Regional Coordinator, has accepted the position of Statewide Coordinator.
- Kim provided some background to the group explaining the quarterly reports required for the State. These reports include the number of meetings, trainings, people and agencies attendance, and collaborative partners, along with information on projects the collaboration is working on.

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- **Lehigh-Northampton LINK is working on some special projects.** We will be sponsoring a Caregiver Conference in June, are looking into some possible advertising, and recently submitted an article for the LV Aging in Place March newsletter. The website has been updated and an updated copy of the brochure is also available on this site. The Lehigh-Northampton LINK web page is available from the Lehigh County Aging and Adult Services page (www.lehighcounty.org) and the Northampton County Area Agency on Aging page (www.northamptoncounty.org).
- **Please place a link from your organization's web page to LINK.**
- **If your organization is willing to have an article in an edition about Lehigh-Northampton LINK, please contact Kim.**
- Kim will be emailed out the new Lehigh-Northampton LINK logo, the website, and the updated brochure.

III. Collaborative Partner Feedback Survey

Kim distributed a brief feedback survey. Please take some time to complete the survey and return to Kim as soon as possible. The survey is also available on the Lehigh-Northampton LINK website. Your feedback is important and will help shape future meetings and selection of presenters for cross trainings.

IV. Cross Training

Collaborative partner cross training presenters were:

- Project of Easton (Laura Adamo 610-258-4361 ext. 35)
- United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley (Cori Rolon 610-807-5742)

Each agency shared their mission, agency contact information, how to make a referral for services, and highlighted programs and services provided by the agency. Handouts were provided highlighting each agency or partnership and are also available on the LINK website.

V. Selection of Cross Training Presenters for May

Haven Behavioral Hospital and Lehigh County Conference of Churches will be the cross training presenters at the May meeting.

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VI. Open Discussion/Questions

Mary Vilter shared information regarding PAHousingSearch.com. A free service to list and find affordable homes and apartments across Pennsylvania. Kim will add this information to the **LINK website under a new page titled “Resources.”**

The minutes to these meetings and the cross training handouts have been added to 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 lehighlink@lehighcounty.org.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bechtel Building, 520 East Broad Street in Bethlehem.