Lehigh & Northampton County Aging & Disability Resource Network
Collaborative Partner Meeting
Minutes of September 14, 2011

Present: Amy Beck (LV Center for Independent Living), Josh Bridges (Lehigh County Information and Referral), Cynthia Corbin via phone (PA Dept of Aging Office of Long Term Living), Ed Curran (Sacred Heart Hospital), Annette Dennison (UDS/Angels at Your Service), Tom Dye (Lehigh County Veterans Affairs), Julia Folk (St. Luke's Hospital-Allentown), Kristy Gehman (LV Center for Independent Living), Anne Grogan (Warren Hospital), Kathe Hammes (Good Shepherd), Christina Kilduff (LV Behavioral Health & Aging Coalition), Gus Liadis (Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services), John Mehler (Northampton County Area Agency on Aging), Kim Melusky (Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services), Velda Mescher (St. Luke's Hospital-Bethlehem), Ann O'Keefe (Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services), Judy Rex (Northampton Community College), Erinn Rinn (JEVS Support for Independence), Cori Rolon (LV Alliance on Aging), Gary Ruschman (Northampton County Information and Referral), Maureen Sawyer (Lehigh Valley Health Network), Barry Siegel (Jewish Family Services of LV), Regina Stewart (Abilities in Motion), Margaret Sunny (Lehigh County Conference of Churches), Brittany Tranquillo (Angels at Your Service), Bob Wittman (Partnership for a Disability Friendly Community and Local Housing Options Team), Donna Zimmerman (Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services)

I. **Welcome and Introductions**
    Donna Zimmerman welcomed everyone and thanked them for their interest in becoming a collaborative partner with Lehigh and Northampton County's Aging and Disability Network (ADRC).

II. **Presentation on ADRC Concept**
    Ann O'Keefe gave an overview of the ADRC concept. Lehigh County LINK and Northampton County LINK, an Aging and Disability Resource Center Program (ADRC), is a collaborative effort funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of Long Term Living to provide information and linkages to long-term service and supports for people over 60 and persons between the ages of 18 and 59 with disabilities. Each county in PA is required to have an ADRC. Lehigh and Northampton Counties are committed to working together on this initiative.

    The ADRC is comprised of collaborative partner agencies that work together to best meet the needs of individuals seeking long term care information, services and supports. The concept is to have a "no wrong door" entry point to receive information and assistance on long term care services and supports.

    Goals of the LINK network are to provide simplified access to long term living services and supports, integrate and coordinate aging and disability service systems, establish formal partnerships among aging and disabled groups, and create a collaborative network of agencies with a common goal to have target populations living as independently as possible for as long as possible.

Agencies and organizations in Lehigh and Northampton Counties that work with aging and disabled populations already work closely together. This process hopes to expand on what we currently do develop a seamless process to make information and referral easier for consumers.

The ADRC is comprised of Core and Collaborative partners. Core partners are the Lehigh County Office of Aging & Adult Services, Northampton County Area Agency on Aging, Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living (CIL), UDS Angels at Your Service, and Jewish Employment and Vocational Services (JEVS).

III. Role of Collaborative Partners

Collaborative partners will participate in a collaborative committee of LINK Network Partners and consumer representative of the targeted populations. Collaborative partners will develop and strengthen working relationships; engage in problem solving and making referrals; benefit consumers we serve by providing a full range of long term care information, programs, services, and supports; participate in cross training or partner agencies; and assist in the development of a website to include all core and collaborative partners services and programs. Collaborative Partners will be listed on the LINK brochure.

IV. Kick Off Event

The ADRC initiative in Lehigh and Northampton Counties will hold a kick off event at Lehigh County Senior Citizens Center, 1633 Elm Street in Allentown on October 12, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Discussion took place at the meeting to include a kick off event at the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living, 435 Allentown Drive in Allentown on September 28, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at their Annual Membership meeting.

V. Future discussion on collaborative partner cross trainings and meetings

Maximus should be a collaborative partner. Maximus is the agency that holds the statewide contract for screening, eligibility, and enrollment for persons 18 to 59 years of age with disabilities looking to receive waiver services. Cynthia Corbin, PA Department of Aging Office of Long Term Living is working to have Maximus participate in this collaboration.

Suggestions to have approximately five agencies provide information at cross training sessions. Agencies can always invite an organization to their agency to provide additional information to their staff if interested.

Suggestion to tape cross trainings to include on the ADRC website. Possibility of using college students to video tape.

Collaborative partners should link from their agency website to the ADRC website. In Lehigh County, the ADRC page can be located at www.lehighcounty.org, listed under Human Services on the Aging and Adult Services home page. Information will also be available on the Northampton County website in the near future.

The possibility of rotating cross trainings and meetings between the Lehigh County Government Center in Allentown, the Fowler Center in Bethlehem, and Northampton County Area Agency on Aging's office in Bethlehem was discussed.

Next meeting will be in November at the Lehigh County Government Center, 17 South 7th Street in Allentown in the Public Hearing Room on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. First cross trainings will be the core partners.