



**Lehigh-Northampton LINK to Aging and Disability Resources
Partner Meeting and Training
Minutes of November 12, 2014**

Present: Sarah Andrew, Esq., Tom Applebach (Lehigh County Veterans Affairs), Ellen Baca (Epilepsy Foundation), Lisa Bachman (Griswold Home Care), Cindy Bonney (Pathstones by Phoebe), Kathye Ciralo (Good Shepherd), Beth Dilts (Student Intern), Jeff Fields (SDHP), Eileen Ginther (JCS Healthcare), Valorie Hinkle (LINK), Seth Hoderewski (LVCIL), Ryan Jandrisavits (JCS Healthcare), Joe Mancini (ARC of Lehigh & Northampton), Steve Mays, John Mehler (Northampton County Area Agency on Aging), Kim Melusky (Lehigh-Northampton LINK), Vanessa Miller (CARIE), Cindy Mosser (Pathstones by Phoebe), Ray Murphy (Northampton County Mental Health), Shelly Newell (Right at Home), Jessica Pahountis (Lehigh County ID), Kristina Petronko (North Penn Legal Services), Mirka Picone (Northampton County ID), Stephanie Quigley (Abilities in Motion), Deborah Raddock (Lehigh-Northampton LINK Advisory Committee member), Ashantia Rhoomes (Student Intern), Terry Rives (Northampton Community College), Jill Rothrock (SeniorCorp RSVP), Marybeth Saporita (North Penn Legal Services), Eileen Segal (Northampton County AAA Advisory Council), Veronica Sheehan (St. Luke's Center for Positive Aging), Judith Stanczak (Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services), Rebecca Strobel (LVCIL), Patti Strupp (St. Luke's Center for Positive Aging), Michele Tyson (Allegiance Nursing), Kristen Wenrich (Bethlehem Health Bureau), Laura Wisser (Lehigh County Adult Mental Health)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Kim Melusky, LINK Coordinator welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the training for Lehigh-Northampton LINK.

II. Balancing Incentive Program (BIP)

Valorie Hinkle, Northeast LINK Regional Coordinator gave a brief overview of the Balancing Incentive Program. BIP is a federally funded program that supports persons with intellectual disabilities, autism, physical disabilities, mental health concerns, and older Pennsylvanians. This program is scheduled to run through September 30, 2015. The State is currently holding "Feedback Meetings" to discuss how to improve knowledge and understanding of community supports and help people gain better access to those supports. Information about BIP and the schedule of Feedback Meetings was emailed to all LINK partners and is also listed on the Lehigh-Northampton LINK website.

III. Training Presentation

Kristina Petronko, Esq. and Marybeth Saporita from North Penn Legal Services (NPLS) provided detailed information regarding Fair Housing and Landlord and Tenants' Rights. Additional information was also provided on hoarding, bed bugs, how to obtain information and assistance from NPLS and several resources to obtain additional information. The presentation and a listing of resources from NPLS is available on the Lehigh-Northampton LINK website.

**Lehigh-Northampton LINK to Aging and Disability Resources
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Page 2**

IV. Open Discussion/Questions

Because of the time needed for the training Kim mentioned additional meeting information would be shared in the minutes.

Lehigh-Northampton LINK Accomplishments for the first quarter:

- LINK completed and submitted its Semi-Annual Report (SART)
- Began LINK newsletter
- Formed an advisory committee
- Attended Regional LINK meeting in Bloomsburg
- Coordinator attended ten various meetings regarding LINK
- Held two trainings (Lehigh County Emergency Management and Apprise)
- Partnered with Healthy Steps in Motion to provide exercise programming and education during Fall Prevention Awareness Month
- Began planning of two workshops

Looking ahead to the second quarter (Oct-Dec 2014):

- Participating in Harvest Full of Hope Conference – a conference that increases awareness of mental health issues and services and reduces stigma
- Participating in PFHA Housing Forum in Easton to inform folks about LINK and what we do
- Attend Phoebe Conference
- Training on Fair Housing and Landlord and Tenants' Rights from North Penn Legal Services
- Sponsoring Aging with Dignity workshop
- Sponsoring Emergency Planning and Partnership Workshop
- Partnering with Apprise to assist with information on available open enrollment sites for Medicare Part D

Please send information on additional resources and flyers for upcoming events to Kim for inclusion on the LINK website.

The minutes to these meetings and the cross training handouts are available on the LINK website.

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>

Please mark your calendar:

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 14, 2015** at 10:00 a.m. at the Fowler Family Southside Center, 511 E. Third Street, Room 605 in Bethlehem.