

## River Valley Advisory Council Meeting

**January 28, 2016**

The quarterly meeting of the River Valley ADRC Advisory Council was held on January 28, 2016, at 9:30am in the River Valley Regional Commission Conference Room.

Present: Ilona Preattle, River Valley AAA; Nichole Davis, Access 2 Independence (CILS); Natalie Prater, DBHDD – Region 6; Kimberly Bellamy, River Valley AAA; Kia Barrow, River Valley AAA ; Cat Young, Ombudsman Program; Katie Howard, River Valley AAA; Cindy Miller, Access 2 Independence; Fonda Rogers; Direct Service Corporation; Demetria Taylor, Adult Protective Services; Dean Nelson, Georgia DCA; LaCarole Lloyd, River Valley AAA; Franetta Miles, River Valley AAA

Total in attendance: 12

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:45am by Katie Howard, Director, River Valley Area Agency on Aging. She announced that the call in option was available for persons who could not attend the meeting in person.

The meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

**Approval of Minutes:** Katie Howard stated October 22, 2015 minutes were emailed to the Advisory Council Members, and copies were also available to those who did not receive them or could not retrieve them. Nichole Davis, Access2Independence, moved to accept the minutes as written, and Cat Young, LTCO Program seconded. Minutes were approved.

### **Guest Speaker:**

Dean Nelson of Georgia Department of Community Affairs informed the council about Georgia's Housing Source.

- Georgia Dream Homeownership Program and Eligible Applicant will:
  - ✓ Be first time home buyers, or have not owned a home in the past 3 years, or purchase a home in a targeted area
  - ✓ Have household income and assets at or below the maximum allowed for the program
  - ✓ Meet mortgage loan credit requirements
  - ✓ All eligible borrowers qualify for \$5,000 in down payment assistance for the payment of required down payment and closing costs
  - ✓ Borrowers employed in public protection, the military, health care or education, or whose household includes an individual living with a disability qualify for \$7,500

Local Governments can assist by offering:

- Community Development Block Grants
  - ✓ This is a flexible program that provides communities with resource to address a wide range of unique community development needs
  - ✓ Works to assure decent affordable housing

- ✓ To provide public infrastructure in vulnerable neighborhoods
- ✓ To provide adequate building for the provision of services
- ✓ To Create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses
- Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP)
  - ✓ Makes federal HOME funds available to local government, nonprofit organizations, and public housing authorities for housing activities designed to benefit low to moderate income persons
  - ✓ Funds must be used for down payment assistance or rehabilitation of owner occupied housing
- Georgia Initiative for Community Housing
  - ✓ Create a community housing team
  - ✓ Develop new ideas about meeting local housing needs
  - ✓ Learn about approaches and available resources to meet housing needs
  - ✓ Produce a community housing plan
  - ✓ Begin implementation of the plan

Developers and Non-Profits:

- Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)
  - ✓ CHDO is a private nonprofit 501©(3) or (4) organization that organized under state or local laws and has among its purposed the provision of decent housing that is affordable to low-income and moderate-income persons
  - ✓ Maintains at least one-third of its governing board's membership for residents or representatives of low-income neighborhoods
  - ✓ Provides a formal process for low-income program beneficiaries to advise the organization in its decisions regarding the design, location, development, and management of affordable housing
  - ✓ Demonstrates a capacity for carrying out activities assisted with HOME funds
  - ✓ Has at least a one year history of serving the community within which potential housing will be located
- Housing Tax Credit Program
  - ✓ Encourages both new constructions and housing rehabilitation
  - ✓ The program primarily serves working families, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and veterans in both urban and rural areas of Georgia
  - ✓ The program engages local communities, bolstering local development objectives
  - ✓ Incentivizes developments that set people up for success through access to transportation, quality education, and jobs
  - ✓ DCA set these rules for credit allocation in the State of Georgia Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP)
- HOME Rental Housing Loan Program
  - ✓ This program lowers loan payments and makes reduced rents feasible by offering free construction loans and very low-interest rate permanent loans

- ✓ Owners agree to keep the property in good condition and rent the units to low-income residents
- ✓ Loan funds may be used for rehabilitation, new construction, or adaptive reuse of existing buildings for rental housing
- ✓ Must be used in conjunction with an allocation of Housing TA Credits

#### Homeless & Supportive Housing:

- Emergency Solutions Grant Program
  - ✓ This program is designed to be the first step in a continuum of assistance to enable homeless individuals and families to move towards independent living as well as to prevent homelessness
  - ✓ Provides funds to nonprofit organizations and local governments for services to homeless persons and persons in danger of becoming homeless
  - ✓ Funds must be used for outreach shelter services, homelessness prevention, and/or rapid re-housing
- Georgia Housing Search
  - ✓ A FREE online rental housing listing and locator service
  - ✓ Landlords and owners of rental properties are encouraged to advertise the availability of units and highlight important features about their properties including rent ranges, number of bedrooms, accessibility features, access to public transportation, and other amenities
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS
  - ✓ Provides housing and supportive services to low income persons living with HIV/AIDS
  - ✓ Funds may be used for rental assistance and operating subsidies
  - ✓ Recipients may also use HOPWA monies to offer fair housing education, homelessness prevention programs, and technical assistance
- Section 811 Project Rental Assistance
  - ✓ Provides long-term project-based rental assistance and support services to eligible persons with disabilities
  - ✓ Provides 150 units of apartments housing to extremely-low-income persons with disabilities, ages 18-61 who have severe and persistent mental illness or are eligible under the Money Follows the Person Program because they are inappropriately housed in nursing home
- Shelter Plus Care
  - ✓ Provides affordable permanent housing with supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness and their eligible family members
  - ✓ The program offers stable housing where individuals with disabilities can receive support services to address issues associated with their disability, increase their income, and learn skills to positively affect their lives
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)
  - ✓ VASH is an inter-agency collaborative effort that helps eligible homeless military veterans secure a decent, stable, affordable place to live by combining DCA housing choice vouchers

rental assistance with care management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs at its medical center and in community

Nicole Davis of Access2Independence stated that this agency is a non-profit organizations led by people with disabilities serving people with disabilities.

- Information and Referral
  - ✓ Gain an understanding of information and community resources available to those with disabilities
- Peer Support
  - ✓ Connect with other people with disabilities for support and the opportunity to share valuable life experiences
- Advocacy
  - ✓ Find empowerment to advocate in one's own life and for the rights of all people with disabilities
- Independent Living Skills Training
  - ✓ Receive guidance and training to enhance one's knowledge and develop skills to lead a more productive and independent life
- Transition
  - ✓ Receive assistance with relocating from a nursing home, school, or other institution into one's own community

**New Business:** Ilona Preattle of River Valley AAA shared the most recent ADRC Report, covering the last 3 months (Oct-Dec), with the Council.

- 359 unduplicated client calls: of these 345 were 60+ years of age, 12 were under the age of 60, and 2 did not disclose.
- Callers by disability type: 67 had no disability, 2 had MR/DD/ID, 41 had physical disabilities, 1 had mental illness, and 242 did not disclose any disability.
- There were 705 contacts made by the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (formerly known as Gateway), of which 111 were new contacts and 594 were follow-ups. Also, 167 were consumers, 117 were caregivers, 1 was a professional, and 416 did not disclose.
- Highlights of referrals broken down by source: 101 from family/friends, 121 from social services, 52 from medical providers.
- ADRC served clients by providing 10 with options counseling and 73 with case management.

#### **Partner Updates:**

**Katie Howard of River Valley AAA** shared information regarding the DDB Project (Dealing with Dementia Behavior Project). She stated that the agency has partnered with the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) to offer a new tool: The Dealing with Dementia Behavior Guide (DDB). This guide offers information about dementia caregiving and strategies for responding effectively to specific problem

behaviors for dementia patients. For more information contact: Linda Harris, Caregiver Specialist @706-256-2937 or [lharris@rivervalleyrcaa.org](mailto:lharris@rivervalleyrcaa.org).

**Nichole Davis of Access2Independence** informed the council of the Circle of Support Awareness Community Event to be held February 9, 2016, 11:30am-2:00pm at the Columbus Library Macon Road. A Sign Language Interpreter will be provided.

**Ilona Preattle of River Valley AAA** shared information regarding AAA's Evidence Based Programs. She stated that she will be offering a Coaches Class for the Matter of Balance Program on February 22, 2016, from 8:00am-5:00pm. This class is free to anyone interested in becoming a coach for this particular program.

**Demetria Taylor of Adult Protective Services** stated that this is her first ADRC Meeting and is very excited about being a part of the ADRC and looks forward to any upcoming events.

**Closing:**

Katie Howard thanked everyone for attending. The next ADRC Council Meeting will be held on April 28, 2016, at the new River Valley AAA office at 710 Front Avenue in Columbus, Ga.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Franetta Miles, Special Events Coordinator