

River Valley Aging and Disability Resource Connection Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2018

Persons Attending

LaCarole Lloyd, RVRC/AAA
Susan Krochmahy, Alzheimer's Association
Oree Crittenden, Access 2 Independence
Kirk Holcombe, Access 2 Independence
Jonathan Evans, Housing Authority of Columbus, GA
Zonia Tate, Housing Authority of Columbus, GA
Sharon Bass-Crawford, Housing Authority of Columbus, GA
Katie Howard, RVRC/AAA
Natalie Prater, DBHDD Region 6
Robin Young, EDWP Case Management Agency
Kia Barrow, RVRC/AAA

The meeting was held at the offices of the River Valley Area Agency on Aging in Columbus and was opened by Kia Barrow. The minutes of the past meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion made by Susan Krochmahy and seconded by Robin Young. Kia discussed the No Wrong Door Policy with the group. It was explained to them that anyone should be able to contact our agency and receive assistance.

Kia then introduced our speaker, Matthew Gunnels, EDP Specialist, Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He gave a presentation on the services offered through their program. GCDHH is a statewide service center for deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, deaf blind and those with whom they interact. The Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (GATEDP) is a program under GCDHH. Funding for this program comes from a surcharge on all Georgia residents who have a land line phone. It is a state funded program that provides specialized telecommunication equipment to Georgians with hearing and/or speech impairments to enable them to communicate over the telephone.

The eligibility requirements are as followed: proof of income, proof of phone service, proof of GA residency and proof of hearing loss or speech impairment. The program offers amplified cordless phone, standard corded amplified phone, CapTel and TTY, among other devices. The minimum age for the program is age 5. The income requirements are \$24,00/less (single) and \$42,000/less (married couple).

Kia reviewed the ADRC Report for the months of June, July, August and September. She reviewed the age groups, disability types, call topics, contacts and numbers added to the waiting list for each month. She discussed with them how the report was broken down into several different parts.

Kia asked if there were any specific cases that needed to be discussed and reminded the group of the confidentiality agreement but no one had anything to share or discuss. Kia also asked the group to like our ADRC Advisory Council page on Facebook and to add the Georgia ADRC link to their agency's website.

Partner Reports:

- Kirk from Access 2 Independence informed the group that Verizon Wireless offers \$40 discount for active and retired military.
- There is a FEMA Meeting on October 26th in Americus and it is open to the public.
- There is an event at Arbor Point Cottages on October 29th.

Katie asked the group about resources that clients may need but are not available. There were no comments. She also asked about speaker suggestions. Natalie suggested DFCS.

The next meeting will be held on February 28, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. If anyone would like to host this meeting, please contact Kia Barrow at kmorris@rivervalleyrcaaa.org