

River Valley Aging and Disability Resource Connection Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2018

Persons Attending

Joretta K. Brown, Farrfield Manor
Elizabeth Young, RVRC/AAA
Kaleena Morgan, LTC Ombudsman
Cat Young, LTC Ombudsman
Anita Holt, Columbus Housing Authority
LaCarole Lloyd, RVRC/AAA
Chandra Wilson, Georgia Legal Services
Susan Krochmahy, Alzheimer's Association
Nichole Davis, Access 2 Independence
Kirk Holcombe, Access 2 Independence
Ashlea L. Clark, Georgia Legal Services
Jonathan Evans, Columbus Housing Authority

The meeting held at the offices of the River Valley Area Agency on Aging in Columbus was opened by Elizabeth Young. The minutes of the past meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion made by Cat Young and seconded by Nichole Davis. Elizabeth 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.

Elizabeth then introduced our speaker, Frank Sheppard, CEO and President of Feeding the Valley. He shared that Feeding the Valley has been in operation for 35 years and they serve approximately 47,000 people a year. They cover 14 counties, 13 in Georgia and Russell County in Alabama. It was discussed that they cover 11 counties of the River Valley Region and the remaining counties are covered by the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank. Feeding the Valley receives their food from donations; donations from retail, direct from manufactures and the community. They even receive donations of fresh produce from farmers. They distribute the food through partner agencies such as churches, shelters, Kids Café and Back Pack Programs. He also shared that they distribute food directly to the communities in their 14 county area through Mobile Pantries. The communities that they distribute them in have limited access to emergency food resources. He explained that they range from neighborhoods in the city to rural communities. He informed that they have 41 sites and distribute approximately 8,000 boxes of food each month. He explained that those interested should

contact Enrichment Services to get more information on how to get on the list for pick-up. When asked about getting these food boxes to those that are homebound, he stated that they can have someone pick it up for them or the partner agencies may have volunteers that can deliver it to them.

He shared that Feeding the Valley also partners with 4 churches, St. Paul Methodist, St. Mark Methodist, Edgewood Baptist and Summerville Baptist (Phenix City), to provide home delivered meals. Feeding the Valley provides the food and the churches prepare the meals and distribute. Those interested need to contact the individual churches to get more information. Frank also extended an invitation for any organization to use their meeting room at their facility and to contact them to make arrangements.

Elizabeth reviewed the ADRC Report for the months of March, April and May. She reviewed the age groups, disability types, contacts and numbers added to the waiting list for each month. She reviewed discussed with them how the report was broken down into several different parts.

Elizabeth 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. The floor was opened up for any concerns about unmet needs of the community and transportation was brought up. It was shared that Metra-Dial-A-Ride is becoming overwhelmed with the number of applications coming in. It was discussed that there needed to be other options due to Metra-Dial-A-Ride's limited route area. Access 2 Independence shared that they are starting an advocacy group for Transportation. It was also shared that Logisticare (Medicaid transportation) would not just arrange transportation but they could also reimburse family/friends of clients for transportation provided as long as they do not live in the household with the client. Options such as Lyft and Uber were discussed but those are limited to only more urban areas, the person has to have access to a smart phone and they are not wheelchair accessible.

Partner Reports:

- Nichole from Access 2 Independence would begin a wait list for those in need of Home Modifications in the Muscogee County area at the end of July and the other counties in October.

The next meeting will be held on October 25, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. If anyone would like to host this meeting, please contact Kia Barrow at kmorris@rivervalleyrcaaa.org