

January 2015 Access Task Force Meeting

In Attendance: Ella Roush, Kathy Laws, Anthony Johnson (Chair)

Volunteer Driver Program:

Members acknowledged a slow start to the program. No volunteers have yet to sign up for the service. Chief concerns on the volunteer's part might be the idea of assuming all risk on his/her automobile insurance. Marketing materials might put too fine a point on the risk, too. Kathy said her father participates in a similar program and it has helped him to thrive and stay socially connected in his later years. Meals on Wheels discussed as a similar model except drivers are not transporting other people. Ella said additional push needed to the faith communities to help enlist drivers. North Penn Ministerium might not have been the most embracing but maybe Indian Valley Ministerium will be? Also, greater push needed to local retirement communities, RSVP, local chambers of commerce, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) group and companies that offer volunteer time to employees. Once regional coordinators are designated by the county commissioners, each geographic area might become more responsive to the Volunteer Driver Program.

ACTION ITEM 1: Anthony will send Kathy marketing materials for review.

ACTION ITEM 2: Ella will meet with Indian Valley Ministerium to ask their participation.

ACTION ITEM 3: Anthony will talk with St. Stanislaw's Church about providing volunteers.

ACTION ITEM 4: Anthony will ask Homestead Taxi and Riders Club for free or at-cost vouchers.

ACTION ITEM 5: Anthony will ask NPUW and PennSuburban Chamber about local companies that offer volunteer time to their employees.

ACTION ITEM 6: Kathy will check with DAV to see if its members will participate.

ACTION ITEM 7: Kathy will ask two friends who are ordained ministers/affordable housing advocates about volunteering.

Mobility Hotline:

Discussion on how to market this toll-free number to providers throughout the County to help answer their clients' transportation questions.

Veterans' Services:

Members agreed more needs to be done to link returning and retired veterans with services. It could range from transportation to the appointment or actual help applying for services. Ella said studies have shown trauma can stay with an individual for many years after the occurrence, so a spectrum of supports might be needed for just one person. Collaborative might move toward addressing trauma as a key focus of 2015 or 2016.

ACTION ITEM: Ella, Kathy and Anthony will draft and distribute a one-pager to each of the County Navicates that will help them to link veterans to appropriate agencies (one call-one click).

Other Items:

--Kathy said it is important to have the voice of younger people represented in actions that will affect them. NAMI is recruiting 18-26yo to help shape transportation and other concerns. The participants might also be ideal for advising the Task Force on issues of importance to them.

--Sherry Sikora as an Access Task Force member?

--Angela Nunez of the VNA has experience in the Personal Navigator program.

--Anthony will give brief update at January general meeting and invite others to join.

--New Harleysville Senior Center director as Access Task Force member?

--Safe Routes for Seniors – what are Peggy's thoughts? Will State Farm sponsor?

-end-