

Northwest Georgia Area Agency on Aging
Elder Rights Meeting – Main Group
September 13, 2007
Minutes

Those in attendance according to sign-in sheet were:

Karen Nelson-AAA
Jeff Taylor, GLSP-LTCO
Kerry DeFoe – Georgia Cares, AAA
Freda Herod – Bartow County Social Services
Carol Lockett – AAA/LLP
Dick Sumner – Response Link
Donna Baxley – disABILITY Link NW
Rosie Pearson – DAS/APS
Romona Hambrick - LTCO

New members were welcomed and all who were present introduced themselves to the group.

E-mail issues: Karen briefly went over the new e-mail announcements regarding upcoming meetings and distribution of meeting minutes with announcements. We will no longer send out announcements by regular mail. Minutes of the meetings will be posted online at the AAA website, with link in the upcoming meeting announcements. RSVPs can also be made via e-mail instead of by fax/mail.

SMP Update: Kerry DeFoe updated the group on SMP activities including the formation of TRIADs and SALT councils. Pickens County has an official TRIAD in place. Kerry is working with officials in Bartow, Walker and Catoosa (combined) and Fannin Counties to establish TRIADs in those counties. She will not work toward developing TRIADs in other areas until those are completed.

The October 27 Make A Difference Day project, sponsored by Berry College, was presented. Those in attendance received application forms to apply for funding for proposed Make A Difference Day projects.

Carol Lockett spoke briefly about her new LifeLong Planning presentations. She is currently seeking locations where she can present this information to groups.

The group discussed ways to increase local participation in the Elder Rights Team. Some of topics discussed were:

- Time and budget constraints for people traveling to the meeting
- What do participants get out of coming (i.e. visibility for their organizations, valuable information, etc...)?
 - The AAA will develop an ERT page on their website to provide links to all member agencies who regularly attend meetings.
 - The meeting should tackle specific issues; set & accomplish goals so that meetings are productive
 - Meetings should be informative, and always have a plan B in case a speaker doesn't show up
 - Get state level participation, GBI agents, law enforcement, etc... involved
 - Provide Certificate of Completion when training is provided
- It might be beneficial to do an all-day ERT seminar to increase participation
- Speak on legal issues, i.e. property rights, etc... (someone suggested getting Natalie Thomas to do a presentation)
- Provide HIPAA training
- Change meeting dates to better accommodate schedules (which was done during the meeting)

The group then watched a video on investment scams being sent through US Mail to target seniors.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 30, 2008. 1-3 PM. Coosa Valley RDC Conference Room. This meeting will focus on setting the agenda for training, education in future meetings.