

R4RTCC Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2020

Introductions / In attendance: See Sign in sheet

TSI staff – Alisa Smith, Special Projects Coordinator / Integrators - Marci Smith

Updates:

- Quarterly Newsletter was sent out electronically
- Created a Provider Directory – passed around and note any changes that should be made.
- Statewide Quarterly Meeting -
 - **Presentation** – Kim Testa with Bureau of Internet Accessibility, Inc. presented
 - Robyn Bernardy, Transportation Coordinator with Dakota County presented on Dakota County's Human Services Innovations Grant to support the county's use of Lyft to provide transportation
 - MCOTA – Statewide Volunteer Driver Committee, one of the first priorities of the volunteer committee will be to update the expired Volunteer Driver Brochure that has been on MCOTA's agenda for some time.
 - **Phase 3: Implementation Grant Application** There will be a 10% local match required in year three (3) of RTCC Implementation. Consensus amongst attendees was positive. In-kind local match will not be allowed. Sue indicated recommendation for year three (3) funding is to anticipate 3% increase to current Phase 2: Implementation grant awarded amount. This discussion should allow RTCC a foundation for what to anticipate as 10% local match.

Tasks updated timelines meeting with County Commissioners

Pope, Stevens, Traverse meetings - Completed
Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail meetings –Completed
Clay, Wilkin, – In Process

Volunteer Driver Committee – All counties have representation

Please let Alissa Smith know if know someone who would be interested in volunteering for this committee.

First Volunteer Driver Committee Meeting – January 14th, 1-3PM at Muhube-Otwa, Fergus Falls

Current Committee Members – See handout 13 members – need Wilkin Co.

Volunteer Driver Committee Meeting

Good turn out – talked about each volunteer driver programs are setup. Looking at handbook, policies and procedures – 1st task to focus on.

Transportation Provider Meeting in Alexandria – weather was unfavorable. Looking to have meetings on Wednesdays. February 12th, 2020 at 1:00AM at Mahube-Otwa, Fergus Falls.

Discussion

Where RTCC originated. Started out as a collaboration with Human Services & MNDOT. Federal requirements 5310 Funding, beyond public transportation. We had 4 plans prior to this, after 2017 ended they wanted to really get the RTCC's involved in the coordination planning with all transportation providers and gaps of services.

RTCC should help make transportation effective and efficient in our Region.

Waiver system – Dakota utilizes Lift for their waiver services, and they are looking for partners in Greater MN possibly in Moorhead.

Presentation: Tiffany Collins – Central Community Transit, Willmar, MN includes Meeker, Renville and Kandiyohi counties.

Started off as 3 separate counties, in 2016 combined, now have 23 buses all are handicap accessible. Have a volunteer driver program, seeing a decline but has remained very active for volunteer driver program. Received a grant with title 3 funds for senior transportation, 60 or older. Helps fill in the gaps when they don't qualify for other assistance. They have assisted transportation which allows drivers to go through the door to make sure they are ready for their ride. They provide 1, 2 & 3 mode types of transportation. Do not do STS but do provide youth transportation with volunteer drivers. 5 and older to ride by self on bus same with volunteer drivers. Other region requires the age to be 18. Reviewing policies on age for youth transportation. Recruitment for volunteer drives have declined in the last few years. Recruiting by going out to talk to community groups is where they get the most volunteers. Face to face is the best way to recruit new drivers. They are included in the RSVP program. Insurance is also an issue. There is an amendment that is coming out in MN – good definition of volunteer driver, 2nd piece – Insurance should not increase if you are a volunteer driver 3rd – Tax subtraction in MN. Bus program 5310 for 60 and older riders. They have 54 drivers they have been utilizing a Verizon connect program and send information on a tablet. Average age is 70. This keeps confidentiality and helps with billing.

Questions:

How is the CCT doing compared to our RTCC – who's providing transportation in their area. What are the needs? Talk with County Commissioners with unmet needs and challenges. Working on the organization structure.

Need a match for year 3 it's 3% = \$26,800

\$10,000 Grants available from Douglas Machine & WCIF (Changemaker's)

Have done needs assessment and we need specific gaps to see if we can close some of them by networking.

Meeting Adjourned 3:00 PM

Next meeting February 24th, 1- 3PM Otter Tail County Government, Fergus Falls, 1:00PM – 3:00PM