

RTCC Region 4 Board Meeting: Phase 3 Agenda

October 26, 2020 1pm via zoom

(Attendance recorded by Marcy Peterson) In attendance: Alissa Smith-WCMCA, Katie Ennen-Grant County Social Services, Marcy Peterson, Cody Rogahn- Pope Co. Com., Liberty Sleiter-Stevens County Human Services Director, Rhonda Porter- Clay County Social Services Director, Matt Magnuson-Primewest, John Prz..WCMCA, Laurie Bonds-Douglas County Director, Beth Heinrich, Stephanie Aasness, Liz Kuoppala-MAHUBE OTWA, Sean Crowell, Gary S BCBS, Cynthia Sprung, Abby Strom, Robin Christianson-Lakes and Prairies Community Action, Joe Akerman-MN Assistance council for Veterans, Wayne Hurley-West Central Initiative, Cherie Rusch-, Heather M. Daryn Toso, Michelle Lichtig-MNDot, Kris, Crystal Zaviska, Lindsey Sand.

Meeting called to order at 1:05pm

1) Introductions/Role Call –Alissa

2) Review and Approve September Meeting Minutes

Cody moved to approve. 2nd by Liz. No opposed- motion carried

3) Review and Approve October Agenda – Alissa

Liz moved to approve agenda. 2nd by Cody. No Opposed- motion carried

4) Transportation Provider Update –

- **MATBUS** -Shawn. Fair free through year end. Ridership down, but steady. No other updates.
- **City of Morris**-Beth Heinrich 60% ridership. Same as previously reporter.
- **Rainbow Rider**-Brenda Brittin- Not much change; 58% ridership. All but one route running, due to GRANT DAC not open currently. Have also been able to use CARES dollars to order the electrostatic sprayers for their busses, but are waiting on the cleaning tabs.
- **Transit Alternatives**- Daryn Toso- 50% estimate of ridership. Uses electrostatic sprayer to use on buses. Still not doing commuter route. Breck/FF/Parkers Prairie/Alex currently. Will possible taking over DAC in Grant/Pope Counties.

Alissa reported other providers are going day by day. Alissa provided updates on the following:

Peoples express-when they spoke to Jan, she reported they are hurting and operating at much lower ridership.

Golden Retriever- last they spoke to Mary, owner, their numbers had gone down so far she sold off buses and was down to one van that her husband was driving. Her hope was by October they would be up running again, however they have not been able to reach her, and all social media and online presence is no longer there.

Handy Express- Family Run, at last discussion, relatives were driving for them and they had also scaled back. Operating at scaled down measure.

5) MNDOT Update -Michelle

Have been working with RTCC volunteers; working on Volunteer Driver Series that will be over next couple of months online. Encouraged to register for MN Road to Volunteer Drivers Virtual Forum Series and encourage others to register as well. You only need to register once, and that will register you for the full series. Currently 100 registered, room for 400 more. They are still fine-tuning speakers and agenda, will send out updates and reminders to registrants. Encouraged to share in the communities, faith communities and other organizations those are in touch with. Link provided for Volunteer Driver Series-

<http://www.coordinatemntransit.org/events/volunteerdriverforum/2020-21/>

Reviewed updated map of COVID-19 Positive Client Transportation Service Area. Rides for those who are COVID + or think they are but still need to get to necessary medical appointments ie)dialysis. Reviewed areas that have providers for this service. Currently has funds through end of the year. Hoping to get additional funding into the next year. Trip must start in Minnesota, but some still serve boarder area ie)Fargo for treatment, no cost to the individual. To connect to service, contact local public health. They also issued a press release with a phone #. # 1-800-528-7622 option 3. Michelle asked what information the RTCC board needs to get this information out to their communities. Second question has anyone had experience using it yet. **It has only been up a few weeks.**

There were questions and discussion on how these rides are being done in our region specifically as well as how to become one of the transportation providers as those providers on this board had not been contacted regarding this. Questions regarding this should be directed to Tom Gottfried. Tom's contact info: 651.387.3579 (cell) Tom.gottfried@state.mn.us

In summary a 24-hour notice is requested for rides, a consumer would contact the main dispatch phone number (1-800-528-7622 option 3) Some intake information would be taken by the coordinator, but otherwise paperwork should be minimal. The contract is with the main coordinator, and the main coordinator contracts additional transportation providers. Rides would be paid for through Grant funds. This is arranged through SEMCAC and the transportation providers. Currently funds only run through the end of this year, but they are hoping they will be extended into 2021.

Michelle did not know who the names of local providers off the top of her head, but stated she could get back to people individually if they contacted her.

6) **MCOTA Update –Heather**

Heather- Working out logistics; wanted draft of performance measures by November meeting for MCOTA to review; they have been meeting regularly. Difference between TCAPs and RTCCs. Will Share more once they know what the performance measures look like. Wants goals/tasks to fit. It has been a complex process.

Michelle- Want people to measure what they are doing, and not have to measure something they are not providing. Think of them as Measurement indicators- for a goal to reach for.

- Volunteer Drivers Virtual Forum Series (notice emailed)- Michelle discussed previously
 - <http://www.coordinatemntransit.org/events/volunteerdriverforum/2020-21/>
- Covid 19 Positive Transportation (notice emailed)- Michelle Discussed previously

This is new, no experience in our region yet that we are aware of

Discussion on payment/charges- worked out between SEMCAC and Transportation provider

Discussion on who/how is able to make appointments- call dispatch # 1-800-528-7622 option 3

7) **Other Topics / Discussion**

- LWAH Grant-Heather

Awarded Grant as of Oct 1. Working to hire coordinator to get program back up and running. Will serve Douglas, Pope, Grant, Stevens, Traverse. Hoping to have more details at next meeting.

- **TMCC (handout emailed)-Alissa**

Discussion of what level would be beneficial for our region; Currently we would be considered a level 1 as we meet those point of access.

Discussed features that would make an RTCC various levels – Level 1-5;

Hoping to get more information in the future as to what steps need to be done to move from one level to the next. Getting info from TMCC and other RTCCs

- **RTCC and T-CAP Map-Alissa**

Reviewed map to see where the RTCCs were at in the State of Minnesota as well as the T-CAPs

T-CAPs are providing transportation in some areas

Discussed proposed legislation to change volunteer driver reimbursement rate from the charitable rate of \$0.14 to federal reimbursement mileage rate as well as definition of a volunteer driver. Also hopes that any income made between the charitable rate and paid rate (federal rate) would not have to be claimed on a 1099. This did not go through this year, lots was tabled. Will be brought up again in 2021. Will be added to future RTCC agendas when the legislature is back in session.

If you would like to be a part of the Volunteer Driver Coalition visit <https://volunteerdrivermn.org/>

Volunteer Driver Committee: Review of discussion from the Volunteer Driver Committee meeting as to how insurance rates have affected volunteer drivers as insurance rates go up when it is discovered a person is a volunteer driver.

Alissa asked if we want to have the meeting the 4th week of December or move it up to the 3rd week of December. December meeting will be December 21st.

Alissa asked if any other questions or anything to discuss.

There being done, the next meeting will be *November 23rd at 1 pm Via Zoom*

Meeting adjourned 2:34pm

End of Minutes- Submitted by Katie Ennen at 2:53pm on 10/26/2020.