

**Minutes**  
**Public Transit Elders and Persons with Disabilities Regional Committee Meeting**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Friday, March 24, 2023**  
**10:00am – 11:00am**

**Attending:** Otis Munroe (MARC), Colin Bratton (WRC), Christine Howe (SEVT), Margaret Lewis (The Gathering Place), Rob Szbila (Windham County Seniors' Health Collaborative/Windham Aging), Sue Pollard (Springfield Area Adult Day), Amanda Jordan Smith (Mount Ascutney Hospital), Melanie Sheehan (Mount Ascutney Hospital)

**Welcome and Introductions:** All present introduced themselves.

**Minutes Approval:** Sue made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17 meeting. Colin seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**Spending and Budget:** Christine reviewed the FY23 spending and budget through January for each partner. Overall spending was at 64% which is a little higher than the target of 58%. This includes the \$75,000 midyear adjustment but not the \$75,000 requested for year-end expenditures. Lack of volunteers and drivers has impacted the budget. If services ultimately need to be restricted, social trips will be affected first. Most social trips are additional shopping trips followed by personal care. We will discuss partner budgets for next year at the May meeting.

Colin asked for clarification on eligible social trips. Christine shared that social trips are generally for essential or personal care trips that can't be covered another way. SEVT plans for 2-4 social trips per person per month with some leeway on a case by case basis. Otis asked if additional shopping trips would reduce the demand for social trips. SEVT has just added a shopping trip and is looking at further opportunities to improve shopping trips.

**Additional SEVT Updates:** The contract has been signed with the new demand response software company. It is the same software that SEVT is using for microtransit in Windsor. The goal is to have the software in place by this fall. This will hopefully improve service and efficiency.

Amanda shared feedback on the Micromoo where someone had an issue with scheduling recurring rides. There was a bug with the software that affected auto scheduling that should now be fixed and should address this issue.

**VTrans Updates:** Tim was not in attendance but had shared that he is taking a new position as Rural Operations Manager at Green Mountain Transit (GMT). Ross MacDonald will be determining who will fill Tim's role and will be attending meetings as he is able in the meantime.

**Partner Updates:** Sue and Maggie shared that both The Gathering Place (TGP) and Springfield Area Adult Day (SAAD) are making efforts to increase census. Sue is pushing to remove their

mask mandate and Maggie is moving to relax their vaccine requirements. Provider turnover has been a challenge in improving awareness of adult day programs. Melanie shared that April 22<sup>nd</sup> is drug takeback day.

Maggie asked about hospital participation in the E&D Committee. Community health team representatives used to come but have not in recent years. Committee members agreed to work together to conduct outreach to community health teams at area hospitals.

**Windham County Seniors' Health Collaborative:** Rob asked that Committee members share thoughts and recommendations on transportation struggles, outcomes, and potential strategies over the next five to ten years for those over 60. Amanda recommended exploring microtransit for communities without transit. In general systems should be in place to address basic needs such as housing, transportation, and food access. Christine mentioned augmenting fixed routes with microtransit. Melanie pointed the Committee to Community Health Needs Assessments. In Mount Ascutney's 2018 Assessment transportation was reported as less of a need than it had been in prior years.

**Next Meeting:** May 19, 2023