

Minutes
Public Transit Elders and Persons with Disabilities Regional Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Friday, October 15, 2021
10:00am – 11:00 am

Attending: Otis Munroe (MARC), Tim Bradshaw (VTrans), Christine Howe (SEVT), Heather Robertson (The Gathering Place), Amanda Smith (ViA, MAHHC)

Spending and Budget: Chrstine reviewed spending for July. Overall about 10% of the budget has been spent so far. The number of rides is leveling off at around 1,600 per week (including Medicaid) and will probably drop off a little for the winter. Wilmington's spending is high because all of the congregate meal sites open are open and a van is required due to high attendance. Social trip spending is low due in part to the availability of volunteer drives since medical trips take priority. Springfield's spending is high but it is likely some riders actually fall under Medicaid and these costs are expected to be adjusted downwards.

VTrans Updates: Mount Ascutney Hospital continues to utilize Rides to Wellness well so the program will be extended and additional funds made available to MAHHC. Continuing to look at alternative scheduling software to Routematch to make it easier to combine demand response and general public trips and incorporate microtransit. There have also been issues with optimization and losing data and ride information when using Routematch, including at SEVT. Christine will provide details to Tim.

Partner Updates:

The Gathering Place: Heather reported having an average of 8 people/day in July, now up to 9-14/day. Expecting E&D usage to increase a little in September and October. Not at capacity, but trying to gauge an appropriate number of participants due to transmission rates and staffing. Reinstated a masking requirement.

Volunteers in Action: Available for transportation to medical appointments, grocery store, and prescription pickup. Coordinate drivers for Meals on Wheels All drivers will need proof of COVID and flu vaccination by mid-November, this is not a requirement for recipients. Masking is required while in the car. Good core of volunteers but have some step back due to COVID, always need more.

Survey Follow-up Project: The group discussed whether any changes needed to be made to the interview questions and it was decided to leave them unchanged for now. Otis will coordinate with Colin Bratton at WRC on mailing out consent forms to potential interviewees.

Next Meeting: January 21, 2021 at 10:00am

Motion to adjourn by Christine Howe, 2nd by Heather Robertson. Motion passes unanimously.