

**Minutes**  
**Public Transit Elders and Persons with Disabilities Regional Committee Meeting**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Friday, January 21, 2022**  
**10:00am – 11:15 am**

**Attending:** Otis Munroe (MARC), Colin Bratton (WRC), Tim Bradshaw (VTrans), Christine Howe (SEVT), Heather Robertson (The Gathering Place), Wendi Germain (Senior Solutions)

**Minutes Approval:** Christine made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 6 and October 15, 2021 meetings. Colin seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**Spending and Budget:** Christine shared that VTrans has extended an additional \$40,000 in traditional funding (20% match) to the E&D program in the region and that this was not allocated in the budget being reviewed. Christine reviewed spending for July through November 2021. Overall about 49% of the budget has been spent so far, which is a little high for this time of year. Most programs are generally on budget so far with the notable exception of Wilmington meals/shopping and Springfield Adult Day, which are overspending according to their allocations. Wilmington's spending is high because there are not enough volunteer drivers to meet demand and a bus is required. Springfield serves a large area with dispersed clients and has clients that will shift to Medicaid funding. Both programs had much higher budgets before COVID.

A discussion followed of whether to allocate the additional \$40,000 now with the majority going to Wilmington Meals and Springfield Adult Day or to wait until the next meeting in the spring. Ultimately the decision was made to allocate the additional funds in the spring when budget adjustments are usually made.

**VTrans Updates:** ViA has begun work on the first round of microtransit feasibility studies. Springfield is in the first round and Brattleboro will be in the second.

VTrans is considering what it would look like to transform E&D committees into mobility committees for all. Those conversations are expected to continue.

VTrans has just gone out to bid for a new scheduling and dispatch software. TriValley Transit has taken on the procurement on behalf of all VT Transit Association members.

**Partner Updates:**

*Springfield Adult Day:* Sue reported being lucky with only one COVID case among staff. Sue has been trying to set up a random testing program to help catch asymptomatic cases but has struggled to secure tests.

*COASEV/Senior Solutions:* Wendi reported that the majority of congregate meal sites are open. Bellows Falls goes day to day. Most sites are at lower capacity to allow social distancing. Wendi

also reported difficulty securing tests including tests to allow staff to return to work. Senior Solutions itself is still not open to the public and case managers are only meeting with clients face to face in case of emergency but otherwise are meeting remotely. Exercise classes are back up and running.

*The Gathering Place:* Heather reported several COVID impacts including a positive staff member and people pulling out of the program. Heather also reported difficulty securing tests. As with Springfield Adult Day and Senior Solutions, promised tests have yet to arrive. Staff members have had to drive around and buy whatever tests they find.

Tim mentioned that SEVT would be able to pass along any spare tests to any of the partners. Christine mentioned that Southwestern VT Medical Center in Bennington is turning around tests quickly for those who can make the trip.

**Survey Follow-up Project:** Response to the consent forms has been slow, with only two completed forms returned so far. Colin has volunteered to draft a cover letter to be sent out with the forms a second time to better explain the project since so much time has elapsed since the original survey. Otis, Colin, and Christine agreed to coordinate around scheduling and conducting interviews.

**Next Meeting: April 15, 2022 at 10:00am**

**Motion to adjourn by Colin Bratton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wendi Germain. Motion passes unanimously.**