

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

Attending: Otis Munroe (MARC), Colin Bratton (WRC), Tim Bradshaw (VTrans), Christine Howe (SEVT), Maggie Lewis (The Gathering Place), Sue Pollard, Springfield Adult Day

Minutes Approval: Christine made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21 meeting. Colin seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Spending and Budget: Christine shared that Springfield Adult Day and the Council on Aging (CoA) are the only partners currently above their budget allotment for FY22. Overall, the E&D program is likely to slightly overspend its budget. VTrans has extended additional funding if needed. Partners that are over budget are aware that at least some cash match will be required for additional funding. This should only affect Springfield Adult Day and CoA. Higher costs are largely attributable to fuel costs. Thanks to VTrans, SEVT will not have to restrict any services.

Social trips have been increasing in popularity due to dispatch publicizing the program. Dispatch has informed riders that mid-day trips are easiest to accommodate due to driver availability. There are an unusually large number of dialysis patients and they have to travel further because many providers aren't taking new patients. Some are under Medicaid but most are E&D. Dialysis patients also often need wheelchair accessible transportation. SEVT continues to be able to provide unconstrained dialysis trips (3/week) at least through the end of the fiscal year.

SEVT will begin to work on next year's budget with partners between now and the next regular meeting. There may be a special meeting in June to discuss the budget for next year.

VTrans Updates: Discussions are underway about including additional parties in E&D meetings even if they don't have a financial interest, including a recovery center representative. VTrans and AHS have decided to provide \$400,000 in funding to the Recovery and Jobs Access program for FY23. The most successful pilot has been in the Northeast Kingdom.

The Rides to Wellness pilot is winding down since the federal grant is beyond its period of performance. Mount Ascutney's program has been the most successful. The Volunteers in Action model has been very successful. More funding may be shifted to Mount Ascutney since other programs haven't been spending their funds. VTrans and SEVT may discuss a more sustainable funding source to continue to support Mount Ascutney's program after grant close out.

Partner Updates:

Springfield Adult Day: Sue reported that Adult Days are meeting with the Department of Aging and Independent Living today to discuss updated COVID guidelines. Staff and clients continue to mask, capacity is limited, and surfaces regularly disinfected in compliance with the guidelines. Testing has been much more readily available since the last meeting including through a federal program providing PCR tests.

The Gathering Place: Maggie reported, via chat, greater difficulty sourcing antigen tests to the point of needing to close for a week due to lack of tests. TGP is now open again and is also limiting capacity.

E&D Summit: Otis informed the committee that the registration link to this summer's Summit had just gone out. Christine suggested adding a Summit debrief to the July E&D agenda.

Survey Follow-up Project: Colin sent out a second round of consent forms but hadn't received any responses. Otis and Colin will send Christine the signed consent forms and latest version of the survey questions. 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: July 15, 2022 with a potential special meeting in June to discuss the FY23 budget

Motion to adjourn by Colin Bratton, 2nd by Christine Howe. Motion passes unanimously.