

Minutes:

East Central Regional Transportation Coordinating Council Meeting 6

June 27, 2019

East Central Regional Development Commission Office, 100 South Park Street, Mora, MN 55051

Meeting began at 2pm.

Meeting began with a showing of Margaret Heffernan's Ted Talk, "Super Chickens" or "Beyond Measure".

Welcome & Introductions:

List of attendees/affiliations attached.

Review of Mission Statement:

Mission

To coordinate the provision of multimodal transportation services to assure that transportation is convenient and affordable and will benefit those residents facing transportation barriers throughout the East Central Minnesota Region 7E.

Implementation Grant disbursement of \$178,000. Grant work to commence on July 1st. Please see grant description attached for timelines and project details.

Five Implementation Tasks:

(These 5 tasks are ongoing – in particular number 1, which will take a few years to fully institute)

1. Transportation Management Coordination Center Development
2. Volunteer Driver System Development
3. State Solutions – Policy Action
4. Centralized Training
5. Transportation Exploration

A bit of discussion on each ensued:

#1. Transportation Management Coordination Center Development

This will be taken on by a new hire whose primary duty's to be a Network Builder and Connector.

MCOTA is developing the Statewide Mobility Coordination Website for all of the RTCC's to build upon. Consistent communication with MCOTA is critical.

Tim Schmutzer stressed the importance of the Advisory Board's knowledge of the new hire's job description including tasks, duties, rules, responsibilities, and goals. Outcomes are dependent on who is hired and how the Advisory Board supports him/her. Effectiveness needs to be measured against defined guidelines with a system in place to provide structured feedback. It would be nice to have these descriptions/guidelines to include involved personnel, the RTCC policy board and the Advisory Board as well.

#2. Volunteer Driver System Development

What are the payment sources?

The "Getting There Safely" brochure is on the road to being completed by August as there was no MCOTA meeting in June. This will assist insurance agencies to be more informed of the differences between Volunteer Drivers and RideShare services.

#3. State Solutions – Policy Action

Identify Regulations

Lawmakers must help us

#4. Centralized Training

#5. Transportation Exploration

Grant opportunity of “Greater MN MnDOT Technology Plan” is not getting involvement by MnDOT at this time, but they would support any service providers interested. Sue stated that the grant is designed for a more urbanized area than our ECRTCC region. Arrowhead has expressed interest in it.

All of the tasks were signed up for by Advisory Board members present around the room, based on interest. Each task group then broke-out together to discuss their plans for the upcoming year.

It is requested that all Advisory Board members who were not present please choose a sub-committee to be involved with.

Advisory Board Sub-Committees:

Spokesperson from each group gave a summary of their discussion:

TMCC: Excitement of what this could look like. Discussion of all who would benefit from it. From a hospital perspective, much time is spent by hospital social workers navigating patient’s insurance, home location, scheduling where and when they need to be at locations, how they will travel. Having one number to call would be key to this layered service.

The committee would like to bring ideas to process and seek out other organizations who already organize and are proficient in scheduling these rides.

Volunteer Drivers: It was felt that once an understanding of how ride-share’s work, how the rates work there should be a differentiation between county rides, private rides, vouchers, etc. A question of how can everyone connect? Individuals in the group shared their program’s function and design, discussed their coverage area. Introduction to On-Demand Taxi who is looking to establish their Ride-Share coverage area.

State Solutions: Focus on Charitable Reimbursement Rate and 1099 issues. How do we positively effect the bill at the federal level to be enacted? NO LOBBYING! Educate. Cultivate a mass across the state for rural areas to educate culturally and communities to modify these policies in order to enhance volunteer driver programs. Enlist the help of:

- School Districts
- Veteran Organizations
- Townships
- City/County Boards
- All MN RTCC’s

Produce a Marketing Campaign to spread the word across the state over about a 40-45 day span.

Blanket the political offices to get traction to improve the component of reimbursement.

~ Ask Miranda – where are each of the legislators at in these issues?

Miranda stated that she wants to be on top of this issue and others, she would like all of us to share with her any issues we would like to see Congressman Stauber work on.

~ RTCC’s cooperatively work together to change these legislations.

Centralized Training: Volunteer Driver Training, see notes of Helen and Lori.

Volunteer motivation – Public acknowledgement ideas: spotlight in newspapers, nice certificate, badge, personal business cards, have a volunteer thank you party (BBQ). Meetings where relationships are built and gratitude is shown.

Transportation Exploration: Rideshare, Uber/Lyft Recruitment. Is it feasible? Discussion of semi-trucks utilizing connected ride experimentation. There is a mindset when it comes to cars, to get into a car that either doesn't have a driver or the driver isn't handling the steering. What about those who need assistance getting in/out of cars? There needs to be training for utilizing these vehicles for riders. Especially targeting the correct people who will utilize this form of transportation. Is it cost effective for a private party to purchase a vehicle like this? Or could one be owned by an organization with an agency that will run it 24/7. Driverless cars...keep talking....

Send lists of all tasks to each group.

Send task information to each group.

Send names of group members to each group.

There must be accountability to the LARGER group ~ momentum~ moving forward~ taking time.

MTM = Medical Transportation Management is a NEMT (Non-Emergency Medical Transportation) broker that dispatches (for a fee) vehicles. Mostly in the Twin Cities Area. High cost of fees and rides. Counties pay fees for them to administer the dispatch. WE will put them out of business 👉 YES! Lower cost to do it our way, cohesive, connective, state wide.

MTM was steered away from Kanabec and Mille Lacs Counties. Stearns and Sherburne are on the fence and would like to see what their RTCC's can provide in the Mobility Management arena.

At the August meeting, we will begin with votes for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of the ECRTCC Advisory Board.

Nomination forms will be sent out within 2 weeks of the June 27th meeting.

Moving ahead, our Advisory Board meetings will be more formal, run through Robert's Rules as stated in the ECRTCC's ByLaws.

Next Meeting Date will be set in Doodle for August.

Respectfully Submitted 7/2/2019

Karen Jane Onan