

ECRTCC Advisory Board Meeting
8/22/2019 @ ECRDC Conference Room
10am - Noon

Members present: Bob Bollenbeck, Ben Byker, Amy Christensen, Jeanette Kester, Nikki Klanderud, Jen Peterson, Kevin Stenson, Beth VanderPlaats, and Voni Vegar

ECRDC staff present: Ashley Eckdahl, Robert Voss, and Trish Rydlund

Also in attendance: Tom Gottfried of MnDOT and DHS, Luke Christensen of Arrowhead Transit, and Natalie Matthewson of the Central MN Council on Aging

The meeting opened with round table introductions with each person stating their name, affiliation, and title.

Election of officers:

The election of officers took place for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

Chair: Two nominations were received prior to the meeting for Penny Messer and Tim Schmutzer. Nominations were opened from the floor. No nominations were received. Motioned by Jeanette Kester to close nominations. Seconded by Bob Bollenbeck – motion carried. Motioned by Jeanette Kester to select Tim Schmutzer as the Chairperson for the ECRTCC. Seconded by Bob Bollenbeck – motion carried.

Vice-Chair: One nomination was received prior to the meeting for Tim Schmutzer. Tim Schmutzer is now ineligible for this nomination as he was elected as Chair. Nominations were opened from the floor. Penny Messer was nominated. Motioned by Jeanette Kester to close nominations. Bob Bollenbeck seconded – motion carried. Motioned by Beth VanderPlatt to appoint Penny Messer as the Vice-Chair of the ECRTCC. Kevin Stenson seconded – motion carried.

Secretary: One nomination was received prior to the meeting for Jen Peterson. Nominations were opened from the floor. No nominations were received. Bob Bollenbeck moved to close nominations. Amy Christenson seconded – motion carried. Motioned by Bob Bollenbeck to appoint Jen Peterson as the Secretary of the ECRTCC contingent upon her accepting the appointment (Jen was not in attendance at this time during the meeting). Brandy Herbst seconded – motion carried.

In short, the group selected Tim Schmutzer as Chair, Penny Messer as Vice Chair, and Jen Peterson as Secretary.

The minutes of the June 27, 2019 meeting were discussed. Motioned by Beth VanderPlaats to approve the minutes with the changes. Page 3 regarding MTM should be written as follows:

“MTM = Medical Transportation Management is an NEMT (Non-Emergency Medical Transportation) broker that dispatches (for a fee) vehicles. This is done mostly in the Twin Cities area. There was discussion of fees and the cost that counties pay for them to administer their dispatch.”

Seconded by Brandy Herbst – motion carried.

There was review of each of the sub committees: TMCC Transportation Management Coordination Center, Volunteer Driver System Development, State Solutions and Policy Action, and Centralized Training.

1. TMCC Transportation Management Coordination Center... Ben spoke about the goal of essentially creating an inventory of providers. All transportation is local. We need to

identify things like faith based through churches, nursing homes, 211, senior linkage line, veterans, health plans, etc. We can evaluate best practices outside our region. This is a collective research project. We also need to be mindful of where our riders are coming from. It was brought to the groups attention that entities are having trouble getting contacts within the larger health plans to yield answers to their questions. Tom mentioned having a list of this information and he will find out if it is public information he could share.

2. Volunteer Driver System Development... Nobody in today's meeting was present in this session, but Nicki and Ben shared highlights from their meeting notes. Highlights included the mileage rate for drivers, recruitment ideas, and insurance coverage. Discussion was had about the "getting there safely" brochure. It is the groups understanding it is still in draft because the meetings regarding it have been postponed. Mention was made about there being a distinction with no longer being "volunteer" once a broker/dispatch system is used to schedule the rides.
3. State Solutions/Policy Action... It was reiterated from the meeting we had that Miranda Janssen (Field Representative for Congressman Pete Stauber) is now gone. The news of her leaving shifted the context of the subcommittee meeting so that we could ask any and all questions we had of her. She gave us some advice about how to best reach out to the political contacts we have. The suggestion was made to develop a list of key talking points that any of us calling in would then use to talk about transportation. This way it wouldn't be the same script on repeat for them and would sound more personable. It was asked if anyone in today's meeting had personal political contacts, none were shared. We may want to pull Louis back in to these meetings now that Miranda is no longer present. The suggestion was made by several to attend transportation day at the capitol. This is usually the first or second week of February.
4. Centralized training... It was brought to our attention that Beth Crook is not the one on the committee, it is in fact Beth VanderPlaats. The conversation headed towards training courses we could potentially offer through a partnership with Pine Technical College. The highlights of this training could run the spectrum from compassion training all the way to an abbreviated emergency medical training. We want to make sure our volunteer drivers have everything they need to succeed.
5. Transportation Exploration... As this group has not met yet we reiterated the task at hand for them. They are essentially supposed to explore any transportation that is not currently available to us locally. This could include anything from automated cars to services like uber and lyft.

When asked if anyone in the room would feel comfortable assigning themselves to a task after learning more about it, Brandy Herbst decided to join the TMCC group.

It was mentioned that the group might like to know about the subcommittee meeting dates going forward.

The next meeting will be October 31st 2019 at the ECRDC office.

Meeting adjourned.