

1/19/23 NWRGCC Meeting Minutes

Present: Lynnell Popowski, NWRDC; Darla Waldner, NWRDC; Sharon Bring, Marshall County; Heather Everson, Options; Dyana Dunnigan, Fosston Bus Service; Tammy Haugen, Falls Support Services; Jenna Jensen, Warroad Senior Living Center; Kristi Nelson, Red Lake Social Services and Horizon Family Services; Glenda Phillipi, Roseau County; Judy DeValle, EGF Senior Center; Liz Hensrud, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council; Marcia Haglund, Rural Transportation Collaborative; Callen W from Essentia Fosston; Terri Kuba from Forks MPO; Michelle Lichtig, MCOTA; Tony from Headwaters RDC.

No Meeting Minutes for November – will present them in March for approval

Agency Updates:

Marcia Tri-Valley RTC manager no update on sliding fee scale efforts. Volunteer driver program has been slow over the holiday but starting to pick up. No report from Paul Bunyan. Tammy Haugen from adult day services: Transportation remains high priority with statewide association government affairs committee. Anyone with a 5310 should be involved in the RTCC. Regional efforts happening throughout the state. Concerned with lack of supply of busses and back up. Jenna from Warroad Senior Living Center discussed their volunteer driver program. They trained a new family member this week for a total of 8 so far. Spring will focus on Tri-shaw program and recruiting drivers/pedalers. Kristi from Red Lake social services nothing new to report. Emergency Management report from Heather E. Lynnell reported on a document in development to help the public track and save emergency transportation phone numbers. Jennifer Olson will be the guest speaker at the March RTCC meeting. Darla reported on AAA competitive grant round for Title III services, including transportation. Judi Weiss is the contact person. Glenda from Roseau County has re-joined our group. Dyana from Fosston bus recently raised fares to \$1/trip. Terri Kuba East Grand Forks MPO just finished transit development plan, new micro-transit ideas in EGF. South end of EGF has low ridership so they want to use on-demand for that area from 6am to 10pm. Certain stops but you would need to walk a couple of blocks. Would take you to the larger bus system.

Callen W. Fosston Essentia needs transportation for after hour discharge. Jerry Jacobson referred him to the RTCC. Each month they struggle to coordinate transportation at discharge 8-10 times per month. Currently using ambulance but that is expensive and takes a resource out of commission. They would like to have a contract in place to meet this need. Volume does not make it worth the while of a transportation contractor. How can we partner to meet this need? Could we have a pool of drivers available on demand to mimic a stand alone drive service? Darla suggested the Senior Linkage Line and Title III funding. Judy from the EGF Senior Center asked if those dollars could be used to transport MN residents to a ND hospital, like Altru in Grand Forks.

MCOTA Update

Upcoming meetings: Today's mobility manager meeting, MCOTA meeting

CCAM is the Council on Coordinated Access and Mobility is the federal level group made of agencies involved in transportation – MCOTA's federal arm. CCAM has developed their new strategic plan that will be guiding all our work for the next five years. Three main goals. They want to pull together lived experience stories and create measurable outcomes. Vehicle sharing for 5310 funded buses/vans. What

are the barriers to sharing vehicles? Mobility management projects throughout the nation will begin working on this. Volunteer Driver Forum on February 16. H 149 fuel adjustment for NEMT

Staff Updates:

Update on Kittson County grant project: NCMM no news assume a no. Looking for other funding and an agency willing to sponsor the program. Volunteer driver coordinator has completed his training and is waiting on his first ride.

Looking at Roseau NEMT as well.

Looking for volunteers to help organize the bike fleet and get it used this summer.

Local Transportation Riders Council needed to provide us with lived experience. Asking providers to identify a couple riders who could participate in such a group. Some will need staff support to participate so we need a commitment from the agencies as well. We will need to be creative to engage this diverse group of individuals. Some will be via zoom, some in person, some in groups, some on the bus. Develop a plan for rider engagement. Hoping for first meetings in April or May. Discussion of possible incentives for participation. Heather E suggested \$25 gift cards for each participant at each meeting, including zoom participants. Glenda agreed a gift card is better than a stipend. Michelle reminded us how and why our current funding cannot pay for this type of payment. We are working on getting permission to include these expenses in the RTCC grant. Tony from HRDC would be willing to help facilitate this group.

Appreciative Inquiry Activity: Describe a time when you were asked your opinion or ideas and you felt heard and appreciated. The group identified the theme that they felt heard when their ideas were used to create the plan or inform the final product.