

Wednesday, July 10th, 2019

Volunteer Driver Program Sub-Committee Meeting #1

7 County Senior Federation Board Room

Present: Desi Panek – 7 Co. Sr. Federation, Shane Peterson – On Demand Taxi, Monique Mendyke – RSVP, Penny Messer – Isanti County Human Services, Karen Onan - ECRTCC

Absent: Ashley Eckdahl - TRY

Meeting called to order at 10:am.

Group collectively communicated about Minnesota volunteer reimbursement rates for mileage. Biggest issues in finding and holding volunteers:

Policies:

.14cents/mile – charitable reimbursement rate. All in agreeance that this rate is far too low to be an incentive for volunteer drivers.

Unloaded miles – medical reimbursement

1099 law

Discussed the difference for Medical rides and Volunteer rides.

Medical piece-

Separate from State/Federal

DHS – Bob Reese }

↳ State level } Medical Piece

↳ Each county has their own Health Care Access plan

MTM – some counties are working with them. Not Kanabec.

↳ Transportation broker

↳ Medical rides

↳ Portal

↳ Reimbursed by Medical Assistance

Questioned Medical reimbursement payment and at which rate is paid, will contact MTM to verify the answer to this question.

We discussed the opportunity to recruit volunteer drivers via Churches and possibly local support groups.

SeniorCouncil.net = Volunteer Driver Toolkit

Penny is working with Paul Smith of Heartland/Isanti County to promote a program for children involved with Family Services to build/provide a Volunteer Driver Program contract with no-load mile reimbursement received from Family Services.

Timber Trails (Helen Pieper) has a strong volunteer driver program.

??Discussed the Cart to Home Program (?) <https://www.tchabitat.org/donate/cars-for-homes> ?? and the fall of the program, learning the history of successful programs that have “fallen apart” due to the lack of volunteers.

Discussed what age group is best suited to be volunteer drivers.

Ended meeting with a few To-Do's:

Desi- Pull data from the Seven County Senior conventions bus RSVPs.

- 99 attendees
- Arrowhead provided rides from;
 - o Aitkin
 - o Isle
 - o Mora
 - o Braham
- With a total of 13 riders.

Out conclusion to this is that seniors from these regions have become more reliant on friends and family to provide them with transportation. Most seniors that we talked with stated that trying to move your schedule around to fit into the availability of the bus is too stressful.

Though it's new - it takes a while for things to catch on.

