

Monday, September 9, 2019

Volunteer Driver Program Sub-Committee Meeting #2

ECRDC Conference Room

Present:

Penny Messer – Isanti County Human Services, Ben Byker – CMCOA, Helen Pieper - TIMBER TRAILS Public Transit, Ashley Eckdahl – ECRTCC & TRY, Karen Onan - ECRTCC

Absent: Monique Mendyke – RSVP, Desi Panek – 7 Co. Sr. Federation, Shane Peterson – On Demand Taxi

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am.

Introductions

Review of goals, refresher.

Discussion of agency to carry the Volunteer Driver System Program. Suggested Lakes and Pines as this agency covers our contiguous region. Wondering how we can help them to set up a program, how can we help find funding to hire someone to cover the position.

We need to be very aware of other functioning transportation models.

Helen stated that Colette Hanson would be a connection for us with AEOA. They are not having any issues finding volunteer drivers.

What Grants do they utilize:

Big Block Grants: Public Transit Grant – (Jack Larson – Transportation Director, Virginia or Gilbert)

Community Helping Families (Helps them pay the match)

Older American's Act Grant, Title 3

No County Contribution

What other models of funding?

Penny met with Paul Smith of Heartland Express to help her with Isanti County Family Social Services non-medical transportation. Nothing available between North Branch and Forest Lake. Chisago County really needs a Volunteer Driver program.

Helen suggested that we look at the seniors who are just retiring. Once they've been out of the work force over a year, they get bored. Maybe that's when we can recruit them as volunteer drivers.

What about other funding sources?

Ashley and I need to meet with Joe Freebee on our own to see where we are in the policy changing task.

1099 law – anything after the .14cents per mile is added up until \$599, then taxed after that. Should be anything after the .58 cents per mile.

Look into Dakota County Uber / Lyft program – they use waivers – go to see her to discuss their program.

C.A.R.E. (Community Action Respecting Elders) – used to be Foley Care – Volunteer Driver System – 40 volunteers. Connie Cardinal. Assists area of 3000 – 4000 people. She has offered to meet with a group to explain her process.

SCHU-TRAN – Karen Schumacher. Foley Based. Paid through contracts: Blues, SCHA, Mille Lacs County

Brokered by MTM = Medical Only

App to help people like a "Bus Buddy"

Circuit Ride – Helen – TTT. Get out and find people who need rides. **Rider Training.**

Meetings with people to understand needs.

HRA, Senior facilities around area...

People say we need transportation but No One Uses It!

Seniors need help, Group Homes need help

Tracking system on buses/all transit services (?)

Executive Express out of St. Cloud – take to airport

GROOME – from Hinckley to airport

Agencies to speak with to find out who needs transportation and how do they get it currently?

Family Services

Health Services - Hospitals have Foundations – funding from here available?

Group Homes - Socialization uses

Meals on Wheels – Sr. Dining

Technical Schools – Kathy, does Pine Tech need assistance for some students?

Parents to school conferences

School Social workers

MUST DO:

Inventory of 5 county area volunteer driver program including Churches, CAP Agencies...

Meeting with Colette in Gilbert – Volunteer Driver/Rural Rides program. Friday, September 20th 10:30 or 11am. Leave ECRDC at 8:30am.

Ashley, Penny, Helen, Karen, Ben and others?

Ashley and I will be meeting with Joe Barbeau of Met Council on the 30th.