

## RTCC February 24, 2020 Board Meeting

Introductions/In attendance: See sign-up sheet

Updates:

Provider Directory: we've done one printing of 1000. About half will be going out on Friday in a mailing. Contact Heather, Alissa or Marcy if you want more. Contact us with any additions or errors and we'll update. It's active as a link on the WCMA website.

Commissioner Meetings: Heather has been going to counties giving them updates. Need for 10% match going forward and what that looks like for counties. She also met with Social Services Directors updating. Looks to go meet with them again in the summer.

MCOTA: Tom is now Exec. Director of MCOTA. Tom is setting up his own section for 2 initiatives. One is RTCC and also the TCAP's in metro areas. Tom has interacted with Human Services Managers and County Commissioner's throughout the state and has gotten a range of reaction. Tom is more than fine with everybody's progress. We must have local buy in to succeed. Especially into year 3.

Volunteer Driver Program: Legislative action on Volunteer Driver programs. Hopefully that will pass through legislature. One additional information packet will be coming to all RTCC's later this summer. Legislative action to define what a volunteer driver is and funding/reimbursement.

Acronym List was updated

Transportation Provider Meeting: Task 3 was reviewed (task is for providers to work together to fill needs/gaps). A report of needs will be presented at next board meeting. One need is getting from town to town or across county lines. Rainbow Rider is looking at adding a route from Wheaton/Browns Valley 5 days/week. This bus would be housed in Wheaton versus being driven from Lowry as it is now.

Executive Express used to provide a service from Morris to the cities. They were bought out by Groome and this service is no longer provided. Rainbow Rider is looking to pick up this route. This need was determined because the University kept track of the need and shared that information.

We're also looking at centralized bus stops.

Donations/Grants Update: our 10% match is 26,841 we have gotten \$1141 in donations. We need to have the commitment of these funds by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff has spent hours researching and submitting grants. Grants have been submitted to Douglas Machine, Change Makers through West Central Initiative, Park Region, Runestone (we did not get), Arvig, Ottertail Power Foundation, Great River Energy Co-op. There is no guarantee to getting any of these grants. In year 3 we'll have a 3% increase in the grant match. Local share is anything that is not MNDot money. Can be federal funds. We did not find out until January that we definitely would need the 10% match. The point is to get buy in from our Region. We asked at quarterly meeting what would happen if we did not get funding. We would not move forward. It's possible that if we move forward, next year's match could be 20%.

BC/BS rep we don't really fit with their foundation right now. BC/BS would like to know more about how it affects them. They're cautious/curious at this point. The state has not said anything to health plans about carving out transportation. BC/BS might be more interested in supporting something like funding volunteers.

Wayne Hurley says RDC's are not generally planning to use their levy dollars. Counties are hesitant to commit as they're not seeing the benefit.

Is there enough information to convince county commissioners? Right now, we're laying down the groundwork to get to our ultimate goal. One call/one click can affect everybody. It would be a time saver for staff trying to locate a ride.

Tom G.: you're already spending a lot of money on transportation and it's not working. The common theme is the managed cares would like to get out of the transportation business. You can choose to continue what you're doing, or you can choose to work together.

Methadone as an issue. You need a highly trained individual to deal with that. We need to start looking at things very differently then we previously have or we're going to continue the same problems.

Our rural communities provide additional challenges due to costs involved.

Discussion on making something tangible to show to county boards. Many other RTCC's are in RDC's so they're already in the transportation business. Our providers are willing to work together. We need the board to provide ideas and suggestions to move us forward.

Going forward can we have more open discussion rather than presenters? Yes.

There are pieces of this system working we just need to connect them. When you look at it, there's not much money required by the counties. We need a tangible problem/detailed solution.

Discussion on fundraising utilizing the number of board members and them getting involved in giving money towards match or them doing the work to find money. Region 4 is the largest region in the state so it should not be difficult to find funding.

Suggestion of a business plan to be able to present to people we would request funds from to show how they would benefit. EMT & Fire fighters could be a source to get a donation.

Kris from DC CC suggested that board members make the ask for funding. Board was challenged to make an ask.

Membership due to be in the Provider Directory was suggested.

Next meeting will be at West Central Initiative Monday, March 23 1pm.