

RCC Region 4 Meeting Minutes

4/15/25, Claremont, NH

Attendance: Candy Reed, Elyse Crossman* (GSCCC), Jim Contois* (citizen), Keith Thibault (SCS), Fred Butler (NHDOT), James Berquist* (Sullivan County Transportation), Tim Josephson* (UVLSRPC)

Remote: Taralyn Bielaski* (Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network), Amanda Mace* (Turning Points Network) remote, Allison Browning* (Town of Newport)

*voting member

No quorum present, meeting is informational only

Minutes not approved from Feb meeting as there is a lack of quorum today.

Mobility Manager Update:

Candy and Teri put together a volunteer driver presentation for others, presented it and will link here. Candy shared they currently have 6 drivers taking over 120+ trips per month, however we are still having to reject people from trips because we don't have enough drivers (especially in gap areas). Outreach to senior centers, etc to try and get more engagement.

Elyse: are you planning on participating on the volunteer fair in May? Will send the info to Candy

Candy: yes! This is different from Volunpalooza

Candy is also on the committee for the Upper Valley for volunteers, she is going to put on a thank you gathering at King Arthur Bakery in Norwich, VT. It will be an evening to come and have goodies and celebrate volunteers in the Upper Valley. Will get the date, thinks it's next Thursday

Also, Candy is trying to get the RCC involved in more transportation in the region and been in contact with Claremont school system about students getting to Stevens High School. Timing of the buses have been difficult for kids to get home after school -- elementary schools get out after 3, but how can families get their kids from elementary schools and high schools at the same time, when coordinated from the bus. An example is that a family has the mother take the bus to Claremont, then has to pick up her child at Disnard, then walk to Opera House Square with the child to meet her high schooler. Trying to make this transportation easier for families who have had to disrupt their lives to move.

In Teri's conversations with Unity, the school system must provide transportation for kids who live further away. Also, can Advance Transit provide some assistance? In discussions right now to see where they can help/provide guidance

Also, how do we get people to Concord for Social Security appointments? The difficulty is getting to appointments without volunteer drivers. There is a large need to get patients from Newport to New London Hospital. Big gap there – how do we work with people in Newport to get to New London? Newport Senior Center bus is only for senior center activities. Teri: Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners might be a good connection here. New London Hospital's transportation is strictly New London.

Beth Daniels from SCS was not able to be present at today's meeting, but sent Candy an update.

- Thank you to Candy and Terri Curtis for presenting to the Public Health Advisory Council in recent weeks to provide a great overview of the VDP
- SCS has submitted the 5310 funding application for FY26/27 for ongoing work related to:
 - o Mileage reimbursement to Volunteer Drivers
 - o Stipends for Volunteer Drivers
 - o Volunteer Driver Program Coordinator time/wages
 - o Regional Mobility Management
- There were follow up questions relative to the 5310 budgets after submitting the application, so she is currently working with Fiscal to finalize the revisions that were recommended by BHDOT. Once those are complete, we will need to schedule an RCC meeting with a voting quorum present to review and approve revisions. There is no difference in the amount of funding but there are some changes to specific line items. She will be in touch with Candy and the RCC as soon as possible.

Statewide Mobility Manager Update (Teri Palmer):

It is Commute Smart NH Spring Challenge time! RMMs will be bringing awareness for participating and cutting your carbon footprint in their regions. Walking, biking, etc. You can earn points for gift cards by recording your trips! You can keep tracking all summer, not just during the challenge. RMMs have a meeting next week to talk about this.

Needs Assessment: Advisory Committee is working on a survey right now. They are looking to get about 2000 responses and have focus groups with RMM input.

Lots of presentations of the KeepNHMoving website

Close to hiring a Region 1/2 mobility manager, it will sit with North Country Council – probably start in June.

Working on the SCC/NHTA annual meeting on June 13. Awards at lunch time, looking for sponsors to sponsor the lunch and awards. Grappone Center in Concord, all day, agenda is being finalized. RMMs will have a poster combined with the public transit agency in their region, as well as a video from RMMs.

Starting to capture 2024 volunteer driver information and Teri is hoping to have it back for the SCC meeting in May.

Candy: RMMs are working on a Travel Training program for the Annual Meeting

Able NH's first Lunch and Learn is this Friday – RMMs will be doing Mobility Management 101 next month through Able NH. Able NH has a transportation taskforce with monthly webinars. It starts this Friday on Reasonable Accommodations for Transit (Disability Rights)

Volunteers handing out Easter Baskets at the community kitchen here in town (Teri and her friend)

Partner Updates:

Taralyn: GSCPHN is working on the next iteration of their community health improvement plan, meeting next week to start on that. After reviewing the CHIP and Community Health Needs Assessment, transportation will still be a top priority for the network.

Amanda: nothing at this time

Fred: asked if we discussed a budget revision for this agreement period? Presented the 5310 budget and showed the need to transfer money from RMM budget to contracted service and the 80% mobility manager line. Without a quorum in the room, this will have to be acted on at the next meeting.

Tim: heard that the city of Claremont has hired someone to replace Nancy Meyer and that person should be able to join us at the next meeting

Jim: one of the city councilors from Claremont should be a part of the RCC, there should be elected officials on the RCC since the municipalities fund a lot. New councilors are unaware of this committee and should know about it.

Keith: we have made presentations to the City Council in the past and when they are invited and would love to have more opportunities for engagement with city councilors to show the services provided by the social service agencies. An SCS night with the council? Share and explain their report to them with factual information. When we make a request from the city, we get an audience to explain our request. We can open it up to a broader presentation about all the services/economic impact SCS provides.

Taralyn: WIC enrollment? Did I hear something about that?

Elyse: Keith mentioned this as a data point he provides.

Taralyn: the hospital has automated this process with Medicaid patients, asking if they are enrolled in WIC and if not, it will get them the correct information about applying for WIC and assist in the application process.

Keith: this is great, we are underenrolled in WIC in this region

Taralyn: entire state is underenrolled in WIC, yes

James Berquist: 3 new buses that will be coming in in June, we have hired an additional driver who's off to a great start on the Lebanon and Newport bus routes. Still looking for volunteer drivers – amazing team

Jim: to become a volunteer driver, the application process is intimidating. Perhaps having a driver at the public presentations to share their experience and answer questions would be a good idea

Teri: At the state level, we are trying to focus on the coordination piece with existing transportation and they can address the gaps. If there were better coordination, it can be coordinated between volunteers and public transportation to get people across the state. How do we get people to far away appointments? Trying to avoid volunteer drivers duplicating the efforts of the local public transportation

Taralyn: working with Community Resource Navigators at Valley Regional, working with them to see how CSCPHN can best support their efforts in the community and how the population health department at DH can best support their efforts.

Candy: seeing nothing else, we will meet in June aside from a quick meeting to approve the 5310 budget adjustment for FY25 and the 5310 application adjustment.

Adjourn at 1:53pm