

Minutes of November 1, 2022
Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) Meeting
 Zoom

Attendees	
Terri Paige, CAPBMCI	Tom Schamberg, Town of Wilmot (Chair)
Matthew Baronas, CNHRPC	Cindy Yanski, Mobility Manager (CAPBMCI)
Tammy Carmichael, Partnership for Public Health	David Jeffers, LRPC
Andrew Harmon, Town of New Hampton	Jane Alden, Town of Tilton
Donna Fanny, Future in Sight	Frank Caron, Merrimack County Department of Corrections
Pamela Joyal, Interlakes Community Caregivers	Becky Bryant, Lakes Region Community Services
Ed Drury, Lakes Region Mental Health Center	

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair T. Schamberg called the meeting to order at 2:00pm and everyone present introduced themselves.

2. Review and approve minutes of the August 9th RCC meeting

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the August 9th RCC meeting after correcting the misspelling of A. Harmon's name and removing extra spaces.

m/s/approved A. Harmon/M. Baronas

3. SFY 2023 FTA Section 5310 Capital Grant

C. Yanski shared that NHDOT is currently accepting applications for SFY 2023 FTA Section 5310 Capital Grant funding, but no inquiries had been received. The funding is designated for seniors and those with disabilities and can be used for capital purchases directly related to transportation. The funding is awarded at an 80/20 split. Any purchases must be open to the public and have a Title VI policy. The funding is awarded through FTA and managed by NHDOT.

B. Bryant asked about the requirement of being open to the public. T. Paige explained that the caveat of public use was instituted to promote coordination between organizations. The expectation is not to run a public transportation service but instead awardees must partner with other organizations to provide services that is not duplicative. T. Paige also highlighted that the role of the RCC is to help with that coordination required.

Discussion ensued about how organizations present could currently collaborate to provide a greater breadth and less duplicative service. D. Jeffers noted that Interlake's services can straddle RCC regions and offered to make the connections between the two regions.

4. Mobility Manager Report

a. SFY 2021 FTA Section 5310 RCC Programs Update

i. Mid-State Transit (Expansion towns and under 60 yrs.)

C. Yanski presented yearly and monthly ridership totals as tables and graphs. T. Schamberg asked how the data was collected. C. Yanski shared that the numbers are all from MST overseen and reported by T. Paige, but also expressed that usership statistics from other organizations throughout the region would be helpful and appreciated. C. Yanski described that usership has increased following the downswing in 2021 but has not yet reached the same peak seen in 2020.

ii. Volunteer Driver Program

The volunteer driver program is combined with Mid-State Transit and provides service to medical appointments. C. Yanski presented yearly and monthly trip totals as tables and

Minutes of November 1, 2022
Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) Meeting
Zoom

graphs showing that the ridership is between 150 and 200 trips per month including paratransit trips which are partnered with GSIL. C. Yanski also pointed out that there were more trip denials than usual, explained by the time off required by drivers. T. Paige also noted the ever-present challenge of COVID-19 as many volunteers are still hesitant to add passengers to their personal car as there is less space than a bus.

C. Yanski also presented information on rides that were denied and explained that it is useful to know where more drivers could make the most difference. T. Paige noted that because Hillsborough was a key location with denials, an MST bus was routed to help fill the gap and does see regular ridership.

C. Yanski shared that those requesting rides will be signed up for both the volunteer driver program and MST at the same time and can be done over the phone, streamlining the process.

iii. Taxi Voucher Program – Expansion Proposal

C. Yanski described the taxi voucher program as a long-term pilot that has not seen the demand that was expected. This is due to there being fewer participants in the SOAR program at Merrimack County Department of Corrections because much of the program was suspended during the peak of COVID-19 and has not yet rebounded. F. Caron shared that he is newly appointed at Merrimack County Department of Corrections with a focus on increasing the program. Through meetings with Attorneys and Judges it is expected that more will be sentenced to this program soon.

T. Paige shared that there are other programs with the Merrimack County Department of Corrections that would be a good fit for expansion of the Taxi Voucher Program. The expansion would use the same model of referral but also include County Navigators, Pre-Trail, or Diversion programs. The expansion would allow for more experience with this model so that it could be further expanded to the general public someday. C. Yanski also outlined that the potential expansion of the taxi voucher program would transfer the entity from Merrimack County Department of Corrections to Merrimack County.

T. Paige then noted that the largest issue is securing taxis. The current provider is open to the idea of expansion, so there is potential to work with them to purchase a vehicle through 5310 funding or help with operating costs to assist in the expansion and partnership. The group further discussed shared challenges in providing rides and potential collaboration.

T. Carmichael asked what agency received the funds for this program. T. Paige explained that CAPBMCI applied for 5310 funds as the lead agency and Merrimack County Department of Corrections is contracted and provides match funding. The expansion proposal would be to open the contract with Merrimack County for match which encompasses the Department of Corrections and many other entities. The expansion does not require any increase in budget.

P. Joyal asked if there was any collaboration with the Doorway Recovery Programs due to its overlap with services involved with the SOAR Program. T. Paige shared that the connection with Merrimack County has been established due to its ability to provide match funding. C.

Minutes of November 1, 2022
Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) Meeting
Zoom

Yanski offered to make a connection with the Doorways through the Statewide Mobility Manager to share what services are available to see if any future collaboration is possible.

A motion was made that the RCC support an amendment of the current contract with the Merrimack County Department of Corrections to instead be with the Merrimack County through FY23 allowing a wider range of programs eligible to refer to the Taxi Voucher Service.

m/s/approved T. Paige/J. Alden

b. Municipal Website Assessment Update

C. Yanski shared that informed by the Municipal Website Assessment performed by M. Baronas she has begun meeting with Town Administrators in the region to share what transit offerings are available and request these resources be included on their official town website. Towns have been receptive so far and further work will be done to encourage information about transit offerings to be included effectively on municipal websites.

5. Any other business

C. Yanski and T. Paige detailed how CAPBMCI services are providing transportation to voting polls. B. Bryant shared that the State Health Improvement Plan Social Connectiveness Workgroup has been discussing how voting is a way to socially connect and will bring this information into the plan to help achieve the two group's common goal of ensuring that everyone has a way to get to the polls.

6. Future Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 14th a location is still to be determined.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:22pm.

m/s/approved A. Harmon/ F. Caron