

King County Coordinated Special Needs Transportation Steering Committee

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Rm 5876

In attendance: Tricia Barbachan, Margaret Casey, Bill Eby, Sofya Fischer, Melony Joyce, Francois Larrivee, Ref Lindmark, Jacqueline Mann, Katie Martin, Michael Miller, Alex O'Reilly, Bob Sahn, George Smith, Patrick Tefft, Linda Wells, Michelle Zeidman, Cindy Zwart.

Welcome and Introductions

- Sofya Fischer shared that they are finalizing contracts with Medicaid brokers Hopelink and Paratransit Services to provide transportation services for adult day health patients.
- Ref Lindmark shared that they are redoing all their contracts as requested by the auditor.
- Michael Miller shared that there may be money left in the bus buddy and travel ambassador grants.
- Patrick Tefft shared that the eight largest, most active volunteer driver groups have committed to continue meeting quarterly even though funding for the initiative has concluded.
- Jacque Mann shared that Road to Independence project is starting in South King County; they have many volunteer drivers lined up and are looking for riders.
- Cindy Zwart shared that they are planning their annual volunteer appreciation luncheon and will have drivers celebrating 20 and 25 years with Senior Services. Expanded van service to ethnic meal programs including Ukrainian, Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Somali lunch programs.
- Melony Joyce shared that Metro is doing a pilot program on rear-facing wheelchair securement areas on RapidRide bus rapid transit.
- Linda Wells shared that the county's budget update will happen in the next week.
- Bill Eby shared that Neighborhood House's new center in High Point opened over the weekend and is a green building with the largest solar display in state.
- Francois Larrivee reminded members about the 11/19 Eastside Easy Rider Coalition's Community Conversation event.

Vacancies on the Committee

- Alex O'Reilly explained that we are trying to fill all openings on the committee. Ruth Tomaloff has proposed Allison Scott from Maple Valley Senior Services program as an alternate for her position on the committee.
- Alex O'Reilly also outlined her efforts to reach out to United Way; they are declining both sponsoring and participating in the committee anymore as it is no longer a good fit with their mission. Other members asked about whether United Way is considering the relationship between this committee's work and its impact on children, which United Way is focusing on. Margaret will ask Pam Piering to talk with United Way about maintaining their sponsorship.
- Alex O'Reilly proposed that in January a sub-committee form to look at filling vacancies on the committee and also reassess the committee's composition in general.

- The committee discussed potential candidates for the faith-based community, DSHS, and affordable housing representative vacancies.
- Margaret Casey suggested that we contact Seattle Mayor-elect Mike McGinn about the committee's work. Bob and Alex confirmed that we would draft a letter.

Inventory of Services

- Michael Miller provided an update on the draft of inventory of services for the coordinated plan update. He noted that the shaded sections need additional information.
- Michelle will send out the document after the meeting.
- Members discussed revisions needed to the inventory, including adding ElderPlace.
- Edits need to be sent to Michael Miller, Melony Joyce and Michelle Zeidman by December 1, 2009.
- Inventory will be posted on the committee's website after it is complete and emailed to attendees of the EERC Conversation Series.

Needs Assessment

- Margaret Casey provided an update on the needs survey and assessment. Jolene still plans to include King County demographic data for comparison to our sample.
- The needs survey had almost 5,000 responses; this means that the survey should be done regularly and we should reach out to an even wider audience in the future. By looking at the demographics of who responded to the survey this year, we can target future outreach to under-represented communities.
- In the future, we need to improve our survey tool and question phrasing. We may also want to consider using focus groups. We could also work with another intern from the Evans School to help with future surveys.
- The committee discussed findings from the survey, such as the high number of people travelling in private vehicles. It is unclear whether this includes people transported by volunteer driver programs. The committee also discussed the finding that trips take too long with too many transfers required. In the future, we may want to ask follow-up questions in a mini-survey that build on these findings so we can better understand what part of the trip takes too long—the trip itself, scheduling it or waiting. Also, Ref Lindmark noted that 70-80 percent of people aren't travelling in private vehicles; they represent a large group of people that need our transportation services.
- The committee discussed the spatial disconnect between where immigrants and refugees live and where they work. How can we create our inventory of services such that people can use that information to make informed decisions about where to live? The committee also discussed transportation issues for rural populations and the difficulty for them to relocate.
- Melony Joyce noted that one source of gaps in service is the limited number of funders and the shortage of available funding. Margaret Casey shared that there is a new SAFETEA-LU report that shows how much money goes to each state; this information could be shared with Mike McGinn and Dow Constantine.
- Second part of our needs assessment for the plan update will be findings from other surveys, studies and reports.
 - Action Item: please send summarized findings to Michelle Zeidman by Thanksgiving for inclusion in the needs assessment.

- Cindy Zwart suggested creating a couple questions that we can ask others to include in their surveys so we can reach a broader audience.
- The committee discussed options for following up with groups that distributed the survey to their clients.

Strategies Discussion

- The committee reviewed the goals and strategies from the 2007 King County Coordinated Plan and discussed how they might be amended for the plan update.
- Ref Lindmark commented that the current goals and strategies seem to lack a focus on social equity.
- The committee also discussed the importance of finding additional sources of funding to implement these strategies.
- Decision: the committee decided to include a listing of our accomplishments towards each goal, followed by “Projected Results.”
- Decision: the committee decided to update the list of target audiences under the “Targeted Outreach” strategy to better match the state’s definition of people with special transportation needs.
- Decision: the committee decided to select a few strategies as focus areas for 2010 and subsequent years. These focus areas could then be used to prioritize projects for funding.
- Decision: the committee decided to retain the existing goals and strategies, removing the prioritization of those strategies.
- The committee discussed drafting a narrative section leading into the goals/strategies chart. The narrative could include an overview of our accomplishments towards these strategies to date and discuss the committee’s intent to build on these accomplishments and continue its coordination efforts towards achieving these goals over time. The narrative could also touch on the importance of recognizing and responding to the cultural and linguistic diversity within special needs populations and how these tie into federal Title VI requirements.
- The committee decided that it would create a work plan that details its focus areas for the upcoming year, which could then serve as an appendix to the plan and be updated annually.

Next Steps

- Michelle will make edits to the goals and strategies document and send it out to the committee for review before sending it to PSRC.
- At the December 15th meeting, the committee will do a final review of the plan update elements we will be sending to PSRC.