

Southwest Colorado Transit Coordinating Council

June 27, 2011, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Region 9 EDD office, Durango & Phone conference

Agenda

I. Welcome/Introductions

Attendees, Laura Lewis Marchino, Mary Holiday & Susan Fletcher (Montezuma Transit), Matt Muraro (CDOT), Peter Tregillus (Roadrunner Transit), Kristofer Pleszewicz (Durango T) and Gabe Preston (Workforce Center)

Phone: Mitchell Toms (Montezuma Economic Dev.), Becky Levy (Town of Mancos), and Betty Bewley (La Plata Co. Human Services), Martha Mason (Southwest Center for Independence) and, John Egan (Archuleta County Human Services)

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda— Will not be covering the Project Repository at this meeting.

III. Review of April 26th meeting

The meeting summary was distributed to the group via email and Laura provided a review of the activities. Highlights included:

- Dolores Senior Services did receive their 5311 administrative contract.
- Martha Mason said the asset based community development training was very successful and well attended.
- The Easter Seals training occurred June 1 and 2nd with 12 participants.
- Information about training opportunities was reviewed.
- Application for the LCC funds has been submitted.

IV. Organization Updates

Peter:

- Martha is looking to provide some transportation for social security physicals in Gem Village on Saturdays. Transportation is an issue for many of these clients. Peter is trying to problem solve with Martha. He thought that scheduling was done in Aurora or Pueblo. He recommended talking with them about the problem. Laura also said that this can be brought to the Regional Transportation Planning Commission and the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) if needed.
- Aztec route between Ignacio and Aztec is underway.

Susan & Mary:

- The program is adapting to funding cuts
- They receive no local government support
- They are willing to provide transit to SW Colorado Community College and did so in the past.
- An overview of the purpose of the Coordinating Council was provided to try to help the area providers better connect their routes.

Betty: Asked if anyone knew about Animas Transportation and their quality. No one did. Their number is 259-1315 and www.animastransportation.com. (Laura checked the website and it was not current). The group discussed a Medicaid transit policy and one agency coordinating Medicaid that isn't local is a problem.

Mitchell: Mentioned that transit is needed to the Community College and that he heard from the Ute Mountain Tribe that they are not able to take their buses to the Community College. Sue said that usually the Tribe would take passengers to the County Annex and then Montezuma County Transit would take them to the community college. Sue stressed that Montezuma does county-wide transit. She thought there must be some sort of misunderstanding and will follow up with Mitchell and the Ute Mountain Tribe.

Matt: Said that Enhancement award letters would be distributed soon and Laura will distribute that information to the group.

Gabe: Said that the Workforce Center needs involve having tokens and passes available for those seeking employment. There is a new bus stop outside the Workforce Center in Durango

Kristopher: Had a very successful Clean Commute week. Several more bike parking places were put in downtown. The City applied for mobility manager funds and Peter was very interested in this and how that would coordinate with the Coordinating Council.

John: Talked about the new Kid Ride Free program. He hopes it helps parents and increases ridership on routes they are already doing. He said that all their grants are submitted and their fingers are crossed. It looks like senior transit and the Mountain Express programs are going to combine and run as demand response. John said it will be more expensive but better service. There was a potential private provider trying to put together medical transit between Pagosa and Durango but it isn't affordable.

John said that he spoke with Kent Harris with the City of Durango about doing some group **driver trainings** for the area providers. Kent was interested and says he sends out emails when the City schedules their trainings. His contact information will be provided to the group so they can get on that list. Transit providers would also be asked to provide Laura with a list of trainings they would like. If we have at least 5 people, CASTA said they would even bring trainings to SW Colorado. Once we have that information, Laura will follow-up with Kent and CASTA to try to get trainings scheduled.

Martha: She said clients met with the City of Durango and they are now **bringing a bus to the Homeless shelter**. She was really proud for clients to advocate and see it result in something positive.

40 people attended the asset based development program.

Laura: Conor has relocated to Dallas for a great job at the University of Texas. He starts next week, and Region 9 is trying to get organized with the very quick transition. Laura expected him to call into the meeting.

V. Old Business Update

a. Information/resource sharing

1. **211 Forms** – The group was reminded to submit 211 forms on their Transit agencies. These will be put on the SW Connect website for resources and the 211 phone system in Grand Junction that serves our area. Kristofer asked for a deadline. **July 5th was set for organizations to submit their agency information.**

b. LCC Facilitation – Laura updated the group that an LCC application was submitted to CDOT for \$13K which will hopefully provide another year of funding for the coalition,

especially for some coordination support, which the group felt was more needed than a facilitator. This grant will be administered under the SWCCOG as a way to get them more involved in regional transit and build buy-in for future initiatives. A copy of the application was provided with the meeting materials.

c. Grants

i. Easter Seals ATCI— Laura and Conor will be participating in a 1 month out phone conference with the Easter Seals folks about moving forward. Laura apologized for not being more prepared in this area and asked if someone from the group could provide an update.

d. Advocacy: Peter did not have a report except to say he will follow up on the Saturday social security physical appointments in Gem village>

e. Rideshare: Laura provided an overview of the Rideshare program and the hopes to find someone to coordinate it. The web based program was not successful in that seniors didn't utilize it and senior centers were concerned about safety. Also there were numerous requests for riders, but very few volunteered to drive. A significant marketing effort would be needed. Several in the group brought up the volunteer driver program and mentioned that the VA clinic has a bus that might be utilized.

VI. New Business

- a. Easter Seals Transportation Plan**—The Easter Seals Action Plan was distributed to the group for comments as was the RCC Action Plan. Laura asked if there were any items that needed to be changed or that the group didn't agree with. There were no concerns.
- b. RCC Action Plan** – The RCC Action Plan distributed came from Rick Evans, who helped the LCC get started. Ideally the Easter Seals Action Plan would fit under the RCC (Regional Coordinating Council).
- c. Next Steps/Other Discussion** -- Martha shared that the Greyhound routes have changed to running through Cortez rather than Silverton. This is increasing the travel time to Durango.

Kristofer was asked about the Durango T looking at vanpools to Mancos or other areas.

The group is looking to have meetings every other month and have committee meetings prior or following the LCC meetings as appropriate. Conor will be consulted for more information on this process.

Sue mentioned that it is hard to bring clients into Durango for something like shopping, and would like to coordinate more with the transit center. She had some questions which Amber Blake could answer. The group expressed the importance of getting Amber to a meeting.

VII. Next Meeting: The proposed date will be either August 15th or 22nd.

a. Volunteer for Meeting Facilitator

Laura asked if anyone would be willing to lead the next meeting, especially since the group objected to having a chair. The idea is to rotate the person to lead the meeting and keep us on track. Jason was unable to attend this meeting and will be asked to facilitate the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm.

Minutes submitted by Laura Lewis Marchino