

MINUTES
SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
at 1:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2014

Present: Elisabeth Burrows, Member
Diane Dickey, Member
Carmen Fong-Chavez, Member
Rory Johnson, College of the Redwoods
Isaac Kinney, Yurok Tribe, Member
Janette Muldoon, DNADS/Coastline
Rene Quintana, RHS

Absent: Jodi McNamer, Redwood Coast Transit
Charlene Storr
Matt Larson, RHS

Also Present: Nahila Ahsan, Research Analyst, Business Forecasting Center
Patti Beesler, Del Norte Senior Center
Patrice Carrol, Caltrans
Bob Cink, Public
Maureen Jahn, AIAA Volunteer
Joe James, Yurok Tribe
Tamera Leighton, DNLTC
Wilma Madden, DNLTC
Brandi Natt, Yurok Tribe
Chris Owen, AIAA Volunteer
Jesse Neumann, Business Forecasting Center
Carlos Ruiz, Caltrans
Carla Romesbery, Sutter Coast Hospital
Bob Sankus, Public
Karen Satern, Redwood Coast Regional Center
Jan Schwertscharf, Open Door Community Health Clinic
Adam Spencer, Triplicate
Mark Wall, Redwood Coast Transit Authority
Hilda Yepes-Contreras, Open Door Community Clinic

1. Meeting to order

Director Leighton called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. Introductions

Each member introduced themselves.

3. Public Comment Period

No comments

4. Accept minutes from March 19, 2014.

Moved and seconded to accept minutes, passed unanimously.

5. Review Unmet Needs

Suggested Action: Identify and prioritize unmet needs. Report to DNLTC.

Director Leighton reviewed her director's report on unmet needs review. She explained that the Commission is committed to spending 100% of transit funds on transit purposes. She added that other communities do divert funds to non-transit items. Director Leighton commented that there is no additional funding for transit needs. Therefore, prioritizing unmet needs does not necessarily mean funds will be available to meet those needs. Director Leighton then reviewed the unmet needs determined last year: Non-emergency medical, transit education, mobility training were among the top items. Discussion was held on how mobility training is being handled now. Director Leighton explained mobility management service, and the possibility of it being a part time, collaborative effort within an existing organization or organizations. After hours transit service was item 4 on the list last year. Maureen Jahn, volunteer with Area 1 Agency on Aging, spoke about a program they are working on to assist people over 50 in staying in their own home, including non-emergency medical transport. No such service is in place presently. She indicated she had a survey that she would like to have people complete to help identify the variety of needs. Bob Cink commented that lack of sidewalks is a problem for those using wheelchairs, walkers, canes, etc., and that the uneven ground increases risk of falls. RN from Sutter Coast mentioned that people coming in to the Emergency Room in an ambulance then have no way to get back home after being released from the hospital. Director Leighton commented that is also a problem for people transferred to out of the area hospitals and then released in Redding, San Francisco, etc., both of which are non-emergency medical transport. Director Leighton commented that there are transportation needs that are not transit related, such as sidewalks not in all areas and lack of ADA compliant sidewalks adjacent to schools. Director Leighton also commented that funding maintenance of sidewalks after construction is also a problem. An Open Door clinic worker commented that the route from Gasquet does not come straight to the hospital or clinic, but riders are instead taken down to Front Street and have to transfer to another bus. She indicated she felt that gas vouchers for out of town medical would be beneficial also. Director Leighton explained that the Gasquet bus route issue falls under the heading of non-emergency medical transport. Mark Wall indicated they could look at having the Gasquet route make a stop at the hospital or clinic on its way down to Front Street. Mr. Wall explained that medical transport is funded by Medi-Cal. Coastline Enterprises is the only medical transport for dialysis. RN from Sutter Coast commented on services available in Oregon for medical appointments that are staffed by volunteers. Director Leighton indicated that is why there is a need for mobility management service to coordinate that kind of transport. She explained that there are restrictions on how the transit funds can be spent, and the maximum amount that can

be provided for gas vouchers is being provided. She added that perhaps there could be partnerships developed for distribution of those gas vouchers. Director Leighton then reviewed priority list of unmet needs: 1) Non-emergency medical; 2) transit training; 3) Public information; 4) mobility management; 5) after-hours service. It was moved and seconded to maintain the priority list in that order. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Transit and Human Services Coordinated Transportation Coordinated Plan
Suggested Action: Review draft document and provide input. Recommend DNLTC adopt Coordinated Plan after considering input.

Ms. Ahsan made her presentation and explained the need for the Coordinated Plan, which is required to qualify for federal funding. The Prison population is included in the total county population, but the poverty level numbers do not include incarcerated persons. The Yurok Tribal transportation is open to non-tribal members. Ms. Ahsan commented that the last plan was adopted in 2008 and it determined that SSTAC was not as effective as it could be. Director Leighton commented that they have made changes since that time and they are open to add additional voting members, such as Sutter Coast Hospital. Director Leighton added that they also meet more frequently than they were doing in 2008. Ms. Ahsan commented that geography is a factor for rural areas for coordinating transportation. The members confirmed that is an issue. Ms. Ahsan reviewed the priority strategies in the 2008 plan – mobility management center; service expansion in and out of the county. Mark Wall reviewed changes approved by RCTA: reduced fare for trips to the senior center for meals; and the new Greyhound interline arrangement that will be starting up between 11/16 and 12/1. Tickets will be available on-line and from RCT and RCT buses and shelters will carry the Greyhound logo. He indicated they hope to expand into package express for perishable goods. Mr. Wall also commented they will be adding a Google trip planner to the RCTA website that will allow trip planning for the north coast. They have also added passenger wait shelters and hope to continue adding them at a rate of two per year. Mr. Wall then commented on work to develop a mid-day trip to Arcata for transfers to Humboldt transit to provide for increased non-emergency medical transport to Humboldt County. Ms. Ahsan continued with the priority strategy list – Marketing of Public Transit to improve the public's awareness of what is available. Mr. Wall commented they have added a language line service that allows them to get a translator on the line within a minute or so to improve communication. Ms. Ahsan then added the last item was modifications to Dial-a-Ride. Mr. Wall explained that they have established eligibility requirements for those people claiming to need it from a disability need standpoint. Ms. Ahsan added that she does have two different surveys, one for SSTAC and one for the public, to provide feedback towards updating the Plan. Mark Wall commented that the Gasquet route last fiscal year had approximately 3,500 riders. He added that a transit development plan is available on their website. Director Leighton commented that there is a lot more collaborative team work now than there was in 2008. Discussion was held on whether there is the possibility of increasing Coastline Enterprises ridership to include chemotherapy and radiation patients. It was pointed out that Medi-Cal funding does not cover that and no funding is presently available through St. Joseph's Hospital. Joe James, Yurok Tribe, indicated they will be adding another van early next year. He added that they have also ordered a river ferry to serve Wechipec and Pecwan

that will coordinate with the other transit services that will arrive in late spring. Brandi Natt, Yurok Tribe, indicated they were also working on funding for non-emergency medical transport. Discussion was held on the Angel Flight service that is provided on a volunteer basis and another volunteer group providing non-emergency transport out of Hayward Airport. Director Leighton commented on the positive feedback received on the friendliness and helpfulness of the RCT drivers. She added that the community evacuation was very successful for the 2011 tsunami.

7. Receive Status Reports from Council Members

- a) Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA) – no report
- b) Potential transit user who aged 60 or over – no report
- c) Local Social Service provider for persons of limited means – no report
- d) Local Social Services Providers for the Handicapped – no report
- e) Potential transit users who are handicapped representative – no report

8. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tamera Leighton, Executive Director
Del Norte Local Transportation Commission