

The Transportation Board Meeting was called to order October 21, 2020 at 1:30 pm. In attendance was Kelsi Phillips, Bonne Whitley, Ree Ella von Borstel, Kathy Fitzpatrick (MCEDD), Marnene Wood, Mary Adams, Dan Aldrich, Randy Hilderbrand and Theresa Connolly (ODOT).

The meeting was to discuss the Sherman Public Transportation Plan. Kathy Fitzpatrick led that part of the meeting.

1. Improving Coordination with programs that work with Victims and Prevention. Find out where their needs are and how we can help.
2. Circle of Care wants to expand into Sherman County and will contact Sherman Transit when they become available as a resource in our area.
3. Emergency Management Partnership, Coordinated Care Organization & Non-Emergency Medical Transportation are areas that we are available for but need to reach out and find if there are more needs and how we can meet them. There is also more funding available under these designations.
4. Suggestion to go to monthly, meetings so as a board we are more aware of what is available.

Transportation Needs & Barriers

1. County Residents need easier access to food pantries and the Veggie RX programs.
2. Need assistants with some riders to be advocates at Dr appointments and to understand more of what assistance that rider needs during the transit run. Look into programs that would help with this issue.
3. Rural Veterans Transport—Funding does not cover all the trips for the full year. Money runs out about 3 months before end of the fiscal year. Look at possibly having counties who need our assistance in transporting their veterans to pay for the run.
4. Address Driver shortage and training—Lack of funds has kept pay increases down. Look at grants and funding to help with this situation.
5. Transportation of Local Residents that are not funded by programs. The \$10 donation does not begin to cover the trips, but they are needed desperately in our county.

Strategies

1. Veteran's Medical Transports—Seek coordination to get reimbursed from counties that use Sherman Transit for their residents.
2. Drivers Aging Out— Ideas to reach out or entice residents to become drivers are possible wage increase, working hours that work into lives, parttime or full time.
3. Grant Writing—Have Kelsi take class for grant writing to gain knowledge in this skill. There are funds available for this. Theresa will help Kelsi with this undertaking. Kelsie said she has time for this during the day.
4. Increase management and operational capacity by working with County Partners.

Motion to accept the Plan was made by Ree Ella and a 2nd by Dan, motion approved.

Minutes were read. Motion to accept the minutes by Dan and 2nd by Mary, motion approved.

Marnene will present the Plan to County Court Nov. 18.

New Business

Quarterly report was presented. There were no questions. We are in better shape financially: two vehicles sold, and payments are spread out

Theresa Connolly was asked if she had anything to add.

1. Grants are available. She said one grant is available that is due Nov. 2. She will help Kelsi and Marnene get this grant filled out. She also reminded us that the Grant due in Feb or March is available. The STIF loan is for sustaining existing service and has been streamlined to make the process easier
2. She suggested talking to Sherman School Superintendent about how Sherman Transit could help with transportation of students.
3. Maybe use funds to work with someone who can help Sherman Transit come up with a business plan, use our funds in a way that we get a “bang for every buck”, competitive wages, and facility upgrades.

A motion by Dan and 2nd by Mary to proceed with grants, motion approved.

Our next meeting will be November 17 at 4 pm at the Senior Center.

Minutes taken by Ree Ella von Borstel.