

## **Addison County E&D Committee Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

*July 19, 2022*

The Addison County E&D Committee provides oversight and guidance for Tri-Valley Transit's programs to assist elders and persons with disabilities in Addison County. Programs supported by the committee get users out of their homes to medical appointments, to local adult day-care, to senior meal sites and for essential shopping. These services supplement regular transit services in the area, filling in gaps left by programs like Medicaid.

**Attendees:** Mike Winslow, Maureen Conrad, Stephanie Stearns, Erica Marks, Bill Cunningham, Dan Currier, Mary Claire Crogan, Michelle Eastman, Jim Moulton

### **Agenda:**

1. Amendments to the Agenda - none
2. Review of E&D Summit - VTrans
  - a. Dan is the new coordinator for TVT and will be attending E&D meetings. He expressed thanks to all that attended the Summit.
  - b. VTrans received follow up surveys from about half of attendees; respondents were generally happy with the event. Survey respondents did not indicate a preference for virtual vs. in-person meetings and VTrans is planning on a virtual summit next year, and in person every other year thereafter. Erica and Bill expressed their preference for in person meetings. Bill felt the virtual summit wasn't particularly useful.
  - c. VTrans also heard that the break out groups were too short - they needed either more time or fewer topics. Bill noted it was refreshing to hear most agencies were dealing with similar situations and challenges but they retained optimism and demonstrated perseverance to get through
  - d. One outcome of the Summit is that VTrans is developing a statewide campaign to recruit volunteer /community rides program participants. Mary Claire appreciated the rebranding as community rides which allows future amendments to how the program operates.
3. Partner Roundtable - a chance to share useful insights about the programs
  - a. VTrans is working to close out the Rides to Wellness program by September 30, 2022. Mary Claire has reached out to Porter Hospital about continuing with Hospital funding but has not received an answer yet. Maureen asked what she should tell her social workers and clinicians. Answer: Access to rides doesn't go away. E&D rides are still eligible. They should call TVT to work through options if they're still looking for rides.

- b. TVT -
  - i. looking for volunteer drivers, paid drivers, and dispatchers. Struggling to meet needs due to lack of drivers. The mileage reimbursement increased recently, but it's still small compared to fuel price increase. Dispatchers have been more efficient scheduling rides and utilizing buses to help meet needs.
  - ii. A new support group in Addison County provides coordinated care for adults 18+. A Vermont Department of Health person is chairing the program.
  - iii. Erica heard from a case manager about a client that couldn't get a ride to a doctor's appointment. It was the first time she'd heard that. Bill emphasized that the 48-hour notice requirement is critical when TVT is short on resources. The more notice they have the more likely it is they can utilize existing resources.
- c. Age Well
  - i. The number of call outs by volunteers delivering Meals on Wheels has been quite high. Staffing issues are being felt everywhere
  - ii. Thursday is Age Well's senior picnic and they have requested a bus, but may have a venue change from Button Bay to American Legion due to the weather. The decision will be last-minute. Stephanie will give the Operations Manager a heads up, and asked Michelle for as much notice as possible.
  - iii. Bill asked if the frequency of meal programs was likely to increase. Michelle responded that it's not likely as they don't have capacity.
  - iv. Jim asked if Age Well has seen a generational shift in clients because younger eligible riders aren't using the services like previous generations did. Erica agreed that 'frail elderly' has nothing to do with chronological age, and the frail elderly are the users. Age Well has been adding wellness programs to help the able stay healthy and become familiar with and comfortable with Age Well services. The wellness programs have been successful in getting more clients.
  - v. Increasing Covid rates are a concern. Bill noted that TVT has the ability to utilize a bigger bus if increased spacing between passengers is necessary.
  - vi. Stephanie suggested a volunteer coordinator come to Age Well events to recruit drivers.
  - vii. Maureen asked if adult children of riders might be a potential source of volunteers. Stephanie noted that many times the adult children are out of state.

- viii. Michelle is looking for local civic organizations to organize and hand out meals for the Grab-n-Go program on Wednesdays or Thursdays in Middlebury at the VFW b/w about 10:30 and 11:30. Bill noted that the Middlebury Rotary currently supplied drivers and might be a resource for volunteers.
  - d. CSAC - no updates
  - e. ACHHH - Staff have praised TVT's attentiveness and support. Michelle expressed appreciation for Maureen's radio announcements.
4. Next meeting Tuesday October 18th at 2PM and every 13 weeks thereafter.