

Addison County Older Adults and People with Disabilities (O&D) Committee Quarterly Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2025

The Addison County O&D Committee provides oversight and guidance for Tri-Valley Transit's programs to assist older adults 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: Sam Carleton (Age Well), Mike Winslow (ACRPC), Emma Tso (VDH), Mary Claire Crogan (TVT), Bill Cunningham (TVT), Stephanie Stearns (TVT), Dan Currier (VTrans), Michelle Eastman (Age Well), Jim Moulton (TVT), Steve Suter (TVT)

Absent: Addison County Home Health & Hospice, Counseling Services of Addison County

Agenda:

1. Amendments to the Agenda
2. Partner Roundtable - a chance to share useful insights about the programs
 - a. VTrans -
 - i. Final guidance for the O&D program will be posted by the end of the week. Dan will email a link to everyone. Bill asked if there would be a letter template, and was told there would be.
 - b. TVT
 - i. TVT has an issue: An elderly rider in Bristol who has lost a dramatic amount of weight and is showing memory issues and other signs of self neglect. The rider's needs have affected reliability of service for other clients, and he uses services daily. Age Well received a report of self neglect in October from TVT. Volunteer drivers have been recommended to the client, but he does not want to give up the independence of the bus. Sam requested contact information with the client so he can connect. He noted clients have the right to refuse service. TVT can file a notice of self neglect, which if substantiated, Age Well can step in. Mary Claire asked for clarity about what a notice of self neglect is, and Sam noted that the report had to be filed through Adult Protective Services to be substantiated, an email to Age Well does not suffice. Jim noted that the process through APS is not clear to TVT since they don't use it very often; and asked Age Well to take more initiative with that if TVT contacts

Age Well. Sam noted that Age Well could follow up with the client, but they should also recommend TVT approach APS directly, because a report must come from a first hand observer. Stephanie reiterated that TVT is also looking for assistance in dealing with the situation in the short term. Ideally, Age Well will assign a case manager that can coordinate a response. Michelle also mentioned an active SASH coordinator in Bristol that might be a resource. Steve asked Dan if he had examples from other parts of the state; Dan noted such issues are usually handled at the local level. TVT will meet internally to strategize. Dan asked if the microtransit bus was being held up; Bill mentioned that it's primarily the Bristol bus and the transfer from Microtransit to the Bristol bus. There have also been issues with him not being ready for the EZ Trip bus requiring a second send.

- ii. Stephanie asked about personal choice drivers for O&D clients and the need for background checks. Dan requested a DMV check to assure that there's at least a driver, but he will double check to see if there's more needed.

c. Age Well

- i. Sam will be coordinating transportation services moving forward
- ii. Michelle is opening a new meal site: 2nd monday of the month 11:30-1PM in Bridport starting in March. Clients may call for rides to that
- iii. Michelle had a new person sign up for Bristol Legion on Monday. The client may need a volunteer driver.
- iv. Stephanie mentioned TVT has a new volunteer coordinator that would be interested in recruiting volunteers at Michelle's events.

d. CSAC - not present

e. ACHHH - not present

3. Other Business

- a. VDH - Emma mentioned that they will be hosting a dental clinic in the spring and would like to connect with TVT about transportation options. Mary Claire will provide fact sheets and arrange an introduction with the volunteer coordinator.

Next Meeting

April 15, 2025 regularly scheduled meeting