

# Consolidated Manchester (R8)/ Derry-Salem (R9) Regional Coordination Council

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Via Zoom (Scott Bogle, Host)

## MEETING MINUTES

### **ATTENDEES:**

Fred Roberge, Chair - Easterseals NH  
Lisa Ludwigsen - Easterseals NH  
Laurie Makarawicz - CART  
Debra Perou - RNMOW  
Ryan Renault-Smith - MTA  
George Sioras - Derry  
Mike Whitten - MTA

James Wilkie - CareGivers Inc.  
Scott Bogle - RPC  
Nate Miller - SNHPC  
Carl Eppich - SNHPC  
Sylvia von Aulock - SNHPC  
Adam Hlasny - SNHPC

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Fred Roberge called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

### **2. Action on Minutes of January 26, 2021**

*Motion by George to approve October minutes, seconded by Mike and approved unanimously with James abstaining.*

### **3. Continuation of FY 2022-23 FTA 5310 Work Session from Last Meeting**

Nate led the group through the continuation of the work session, beginning with Activity 5. It was noted that since the merger of Regions 8 and 9, more 5310 funding has been expended in the former Region 8. Those present agreed to try to rebalance this by directing some of the additional available funding to the former Region 9 towns.

#### **Activity 5: Easterseals Demand-Response Shuttle**

- Fred announced that Easterseals' new hourly rate is \$48.12, up from the previous rate of \$43. Nate said that NHDOT has approved the new hourly rate for use during the remainder of FY 2021, but that the MOU must be updated to reflect it. Following discussion, the RCC consensus was that the project should continue to provide 1,544 hours of service per year at the new rate. The total annual project cost will increase \$7,905 (\$6,324 federal share), going from \$66,392 (\$53,114 fed) to \$74,297 (\$59,438 fed).

#### **Activity 6: Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels (RNMOW) Senior Rides**

- RNMOW's hourly rate of \$36/hour may be increasing, but the amount of the increase remains unknown as of now. Deb noted that when lunch centers reopen, there could be a ridership increase of about 35%, as it has been down since Covid. If there is funding available, this activity is one that could see an increase, dependent on the proposed service level and potential new hourly rate.

Activity 7: Easterseals Mobility Management (Call Center)

- Currently supports portions of a Schedule Coordinator position and Dispatcher position at Easterseals call center.
- Fred explained that this activity involves direct communication with consumers who call in with demand-response requests. It coordinates rides from other RCC activity and BEAS activity. Following discussion, the RCC consensus was to continue this activity for the FY2022-2023 period at level funding.

Activity 8: Easterseals Mobility Management Initiative

- This activity will be replaced with supplemental funding expected from NHDOT, and the amount currently spent on Activity #8 can be reallocated for other services in the region.

Activity 9: CareGivers Volunteer Driver Recruitment

- This activity currently supports advertising/outreach activities to recruit new volunteer drivers into the CareGivers (Catholic Charities) program. In FY21 this activity was funded at \$37,040 (\$29,632 fed) down from \$58,448 (\$47,167 fed) in the past. James said that while he could certainly use level funding, he would be willing to decrease to \$25k federal to share CareGivers' allotment with other activities.
- After a lengthy discussion on prioritizing restoration of service to the former Region 9 towns to ensure a balance of service between the two subregions roughly commensurate with the 5310 funding share attributable to each, it was tentatively decided to *increase* the budget of Activity 9, so long as the CareGivers uses the extra funds in a Region 9 town such as Plaistow. Plaistow was identified as the only Region 9 town not served by Community Caregivers of Greater Derry or Greater Salem Caregivers volunteer driver programs. Concern was expressed about attempting to insert Caregivers service in other towns already served by one of those agencies.
- There was also a request that Caregivers identify how funds would be used in a level or increased budget, based on their finding that expensive print and broadcast media advertising used to date to recruit volunteers are much less effective than low-cost, targeted Facebook advertising.
- James noted he would need to talk with Catholic Charities about their willingness to expand service to Plaistow. He also asked whether only \$3400 could be spent on a Plaistow startup, or potentially a larger share. Nate noted there should be flexibility in that regard and as Lead Agency didn't intend to micromanage that.

Nate showed a potential redistribution of the current Activity #8 Mobility Management funds that could be released once new 5310 funding for a regional mobility manager is received from NHDOT. Under the sample reallocation an additional \$14,000 would be added to the Activity #6 RNMO service in Plaistow, Danville and Sandown, while an additional \$3400 would be added to Caregivers Activity #9 line to begin developing volunteer driver capacity in Plaistow.

Debra indicated she would need to confirm RNMO's capacity to increase vehicle hours and coordinate with Danville and Hampstead.

Scott said Nate's calculation was a good working proposal, and some outreach and conversation can happen before 2/23/21 to be able to finalize the program of projects at that meeting. Scott will contact Lori Sadewicz, Plaistow's Welfare Director, about working with Caregivers on volunteer recruitment.

There was brief discussion of funding from NHDOT for a regional mobility manager position and acknowledgment that would be a substantive conversation and should be held at the next meeting.

**4. Other Business**

Given time constraints, these items were tabled until the next meeting.

**5. Next Meeting**

The next regular RCC meeting will be combined with a public hearing on the proposed 5310 program of projects. This will be held on **February 23, 2021, 2:00pm**.