

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

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Via Zoom (Scott Bogle, Host)

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Fred Roberge, Chair – Easterseals NH
Jocelyn Gallant – Citizen member
Rick Hartung – Hampstead
Lisa Ludwigsen – Easterseals NH
Laurie Makarawicz – CART
Ryan Noronha – Catholic Charities
Debra Perou – RNMOW

Ryan Renauld-Smith – MTA
George Sioras – Derry
James Wilkie – Catholic Charities
Scott Bogle – RPC
Carl Eppich – SNHPC
Sylvia von Aulock – SNHPC
Adam Hlasny – SNHPC

1. Call to Order

Chair Fred Roberge called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM.

2. Action on Minutes of April 27, 2021

Motion by George to approve April 27 minutes, seconded by James and approved unanimously with Rick abstaining.

3. Review of Status of FY21 Section 5310 Activities

In Nate's absence, Adam summarized the FY21 Section 5310 project status, noting that FY21 funds do not carry over into FY22, and must be fully spent by June 30, 2021.

In response to a question from Scott, Fred said that some of the lower spending has been pandemic related. Things are starting to turn around but there is still a long way to go, and agencies are doing the best they can. James added that CareGivers will spend its remaining FY21 funds by the June 30 deadline.

4. Regional Mobility Management Discussion (continued from last meeting)

Fred said that he was notified by Alisa Druzba of NHDOT that a CDC grant worth \$3 million over two years is being pursued. These funds would be allotted to the five rural RCCs (excludes Regions 7, 8, and 10) to allow each to hire a full-time Mobility Manager (MM). NHDOT is also willing to move forward in pursuing funds to allow the urban RCCs to hire full-time MMs as well.

There will be ongoing discussion on the best use of the \$3 million to foster/develop transportation in rural areas, including volunteer driver recruitment/retention and other pertinent issues. The next step will be developing an RFP; Fred suggested convening the R8 RCC MM Subcommittee in early June. Scott added that the RCC should move as purposefully as possible to get the RFP out, as we will be competing with the other seven regions for what will likely be the same candidates.

5. Coordinated Plan Update

Carl noted that it will be important to get new MM goals, objectives, and timeline into the updated Coordinated Plan for Region 8 (formerly R8-9). Fred said that the document being compiled at the SCC level will help in writing the RCC Coordinated Plan update. The R8 Plan should be flexible enough to adopt different methods of doing tasks that relate back to the plan. He added that quality is more important than rushing the plan to completion by the end of June. Scott said that the plan must be complete by the end of calendar year 2021 to meet the requirement of updating the 2016 plan within five years.

Specifically, Scott, Carl, and Adam are working on updating email addresses for the non-transportation provider survey and beginning to cull out some questions to streamline the overall survey length.

Scott said that in July/August the RCC could go over goals and strategies and how they should be integrated into the plan. He reiterated that there will be one plan for the new combined Region 8, authored by both RPCs as in the past.

6. Discussion with Emily Morales of Safe Ride Transportation

Emily Morales introduced herself and relayed her plans to start a new transportation company providing rides to medical appointments, and especially to veterans. She currently has two six-passenger vans; while they are not wheelchair-accessible, it is something she is planning to do down the road. Fred offered his assistance to spend time one-on-one with Emily to take a closer look at risk management and other aspects of the business.

7. Other Business

Fred said that the SCC is working with the NH Transit Association to plan the joint annual meeting, which will be held on June 10, 10a-12p, and feature mini presentations on recent accomplishments as well as a presentation by/Q&A with Congressman Chris Pappas.

Jocelyn inquired about a recreational shuttle from Salem to the New Hampshire coast. There was some discussion around this, and Scott discovered an existing service from Methuen to Salisbury Beach. He noted that it would likely be easier for Salem residents to take advantage of this service than to petition the town to create/fund a new service.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 29, 2:00pm.

Motion by Ryan R-S to adjourn, seconded by Fred.

Meeting stood adjourned at 3:05 PM.