

## SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Minutes

Wednesday, May 31, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Mendocino County Administration Center, Conference Room C, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Carla Meyer, MTA

Jacob King, MTA

Marilyn DeFrange, Ukiah Senior Center

Diana Clark, Ukiah Senior Center (Alternate)

Richard Baker, Willits Senior Center

*(Note: Two positions are currently vacant.)*

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dena Eddings (for Teresa Newton), Area Agency on Aging

Charles Bush, Redwood Coast Seniors

Arlene Peterson, Action Network

Sheila Keys, Regional Center

Doris Sloan, Consolidated Tribal Health

#### **STAFF & OTHERS PRESENT**

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Planning Staff

Janet Orth, MCOG Administrative Staff

Marta Ford, MCOG Administrative Staff

#### **1. Call to Order & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

#### **2. Public Expression**

There was no discussion under this item.

#### **3. Minutes**

The minutes from the November meeting were included in the packet for information and reference. Due to the length of time between meetings, members had already provided comments and corrections, and the minutes had been finalized.

#### **4. Report/Discussion of FY 18/19 Unmet Transit Needs Recommendation**

Janet Orth reviewed the materials in the packet and explained that this was an opportunity to provide final comment prior to the MCOG action on the Unmet Transit Needs scheduled for the June 4, 2018, meeting. The group reviewed the definitions of Unmet Transit Need and Reasonable to Meet.

Janet explained the results of MTA's analysis of the list of potential Unmet Transit Needs and the Transit Productivity Committee's recommendation. The TPC's recommendation that there are unmet needs that are reasonable to meet is contingent on review of MTA's existing routes, the senior center funding formula, and increased revenues through FTA 5311 program.

The group discussed the senior center funding formula and its origin. A need to revisit the formula has been identified, because it is no longer appropriate. Marilyn DeFrange explained that the MTA Board developed the formula in conjunction with Joe Curren, the former director of the Redwood Coast Senior Center Janet noted that MTA chairman Jim Mastin and a former Willits city manager had been involved, but no one had a record of the process. Marilyn explained that costs have increased because of the need to raise salaries due to minimum wage changes, however, funding has not kept up. The senior centers are struggling to recruit employees. There is a hope that new retail facilities in the Ukiah area will also help provide additional revenue from sales tax, although the legalization of marijuana may result in a decline in local disposable income.

The group discussed the individual items identified by the TPC as unmet needs that are reasonable to meet. Carla Meyer reviewed MTA's analysis. MTA is already providing rides for travel trainers assisting seniors on the South Coast. Fixed route service is available for seniors and disabled adults on weekends and evenings in the Ukiah area. A committee of MTA drivers will be conducting a review of all existing routes which will address many needs, including downtown Ukiah service and Willits pool and High School access. One additional trip to Point Arena will likely increase ridership.

The need for Wednesday service in Ukiah may be addressed by revising the funding formula for senior centers. Carla explained that an ad hoc committee should be formed with MTA board members and senior center representatives to revise the formula.

Brooktrails and Potter Valley service both fall into the medium priority category for MTA. Although there are potential riders in Brooktrails, there are likely not enough to make it feasible given the geographic spread of the areas. Potter Valley service for Mendocino County AIDS/Viral Hepatitis Network (MCAVHN) has not been successful in the past, but it will be considered through route review.

Carla reviewed the low priority items. Diana Clarke expressed concern with using the term "low priority" because it does not reflect need. It may give members of the public the wrong impression. MTA's categorization was based largely on their ability to meet the need.

The group agreed with MTA's identification of items that did not qualify as unmet needs.

Diana explained the Ukiah Senior Center's plan for initiating a non-emergency medical volunteer transportation service to out-of-county locations using senior center owned vans. The center regularly receives request for this type of transportation, and other services are not providing these trips in the Ukiah area. They've received initial funding for the program from community donors, although they were not granted funding from the Community Foundation. Carla suggested contacting the Tribes for contributions. The center hopes to begin this new service in July.

Because the Ukiah Senior Center is starting their non-emergency medical service, the group determined to add item #1-S from the list of Unmet Transit Needs to the recommendation of items

that are reasonable to meet. The USC service may also meet the need of providing service to seniors and disabled adults in isolated and inaccessible areas that buses cannot reach (#3-S). The group decided that this item should also be added to the list of unmet needs that are reasonable to meet.

Richard Baker made a motion to concur with the TPC's recommendation of unmet needs that are reasonable to meet with conditions, with the addition of item #1-S and #3-S (final recommended list shown below). The motion was seconded by Carla, and approved unanimously.

- #6-M Design of more shuttle routes *in Ukiah* that remove parking downtown as well as increase housing, with smaller buses that people would ride (clarified to add Ukiah)
- #7-M Addition of one-day round-trip from Ukiah to Point Arena
- #12-M Service to Willits pool and High School
- #1-PH Ukiah fixed route and DAR service starting a half hour earlier in the mornings for transportation to jobs (UVAH clients)
- #4-S Wheelchair accessible door-through-door assisted services for seniors and disabled adults on Wednesdays in the Ukiah area
- #1-S Non-emergency medical transportation for out of the service areas/hours for seniors and disabled adults
- #3-S Service for isolated *and inaccessible* seniors and disabled adults (clarified to add inaccessible)

Janet explained that in the fall, the group can review progress on the items that were in the recommendation. MTA hopes to initiate the process of revising the senior center funding formula prior to the next Unmet Needs Process.

## **5. Miscellaneous/Information**

The group discussed the next FTA Section 5310 grant cycle and the current 5311 cycle. MTA will be increasing their amount requested under the 5311 program.

Richard announced that the Willits Senior Center will be conducting a "drive through dinner" fundraiser.

Jacob announced that he was graduating from Leadership Mendocino and that MTA promoted him to Operations Manager. He gave an update on the status of MTA's response to the computer hacking last January.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nephele Barrett, Program Manager