

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

Monday, November 13, 2017, 10:00 a.m.
UC Farm Advisor's Large Conference Room
890 North Bush Street, Ukiah

MEMBERS PRESENT

Doris Sloan, Consolidated Tribal Health
Diana Clark, Ukiah Senior Center (alternate)
Richard Baker, Willits Senior Center
(Note: Three positions are currently vacant.)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Micki Dolby/Teresa Newton, Area Agency on Aging
Charles Bush, Redwood Coast Seniors
Arlene Peterson, Action Network
Sheila Keys, Regional Center
Carla Meyer, MTA

STAFF & OTHERS PRESENT

Nephele Barrett, MCOG
Janet Orth, MCOG
Marta Ford, MCOG

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m., and introductions were made.

2. Public Expression

There was no discussion under this item.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the May 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. Review of SSTAC Membership

Nephele Barrett reviewed the current roster and identified the positions that are currently vacant as well as those that will be expiring. Diana Clark and Richard Baker will check with drivers to see if there are any users that might be interested. Richard indicated that he is willing to continue serving in the position previously held by his predecessor at the Willits Senior Center.

Motion by Richard, seconded by Doris, and carried to recommend that the MCOG Board officially appoint Richard Baker, Teresa Newton, and Jacob King, and reappoint Charles Bush, pending confirmation with the nominees that were not present at the meeting.

5. 2017 Regional Transportation Plan – Review and Comment

Nephele provided background on the Regional Transportation Plan and reviewed the highlights of the Public Transit Element.

Diana explained that the Ukiah Senior Center is working on development of out of town medical transportation and a volunteer driver program to expand the service they are able to offer clients. They are hoping to obtain a mini-van to assist with these efforts. These service expansions, as well as efforts planned by other senior centers and non-profits, could be included in the Public Transit Element of the RTP.

6. FY 2018/19 Unmet Transit Needs Workshop

Janet Orth provided background of the Unmet Transit Needs Process, MCOG's involvement in administering the Transportation Development Act and associated funding, and the role of the Transit Productivity Committee. She explained that all of the money available for transportation is currently being used for transit, so additional needs are typically met through grants and route changes.

Many of the needs from last year were potentially to be met by grants that MTA had applied for, to include funding of a Mobility Manager. Unfortunately, no MTA representatives were present to clarify which needs had been met to date.

Diana identified the need for transportation for out of area and out of county for medical appointments on days that the senior centers do not operate their transportation service.

Richard explained that the Willits Senior Center regularly receives requests for service after hours and on weekends. The group determined that senior center transportation service on Saturdays and after hours is a need expressed by clients (this need was later amended). Richard mentioned that Willits Senior Center has volunteer drivers that will transport clients for occasional evening events using senior center vehicles.

Diana explained that service for seniors in isolated areas where buses cannot travel is still a need (#9 in 2017/18).

Janet shared an article, Three Ways To Build A Transportation System That Serves The Most Vulnerable, and handed out copies. The group discussed a variety of strategies that can be used to serve vulnerable populations. Richard and Doris described ways they have tried to accommodate more clients.

The group discussed the areas served by different centers and potential overlap between services of the senior centers and the Consolidated Tribal Health Program (CTHP). The new mobility management and Route Match software that MTA will be implementing may help identify some overlaps and open up new opportunities for coordination.

Diana mentioned that wheelchair accessible door-through-door assisted service for seniors on Wednesdays in the Ukiah area is still a need. The Ukiah Senior Center does not provide service on Wednesday due to budget limitations. She also explained that after hours service of some kind is a need for unexpected medical needs. For instance, a scheduled medical appointment could result in a trip to the hospital which ends after senior center service hours.

Doris mentioned that CTHP has several patients in Laytonville, some that have to travel to the Ukiah area multiple times per week. They only have two drivers which limits the number of trips they can make to more remote communities.

The group discussed the Pay Your Pal program currently operating in Lake County and the FTA Section 5310 Expanded Program.

Diana mentioned that in their last client survey, service on weekends was a big need, particularly for church on Sunday. The group determined that the need previously identified for service on Saturday should be expanded to include senior center transportation service on weekends and after hours. This could provide access to events, shopping, church, and for medical needs.

Doris explained that many clients in remote areas need transportation just to reach existing transit stops. Consolidated Tribal Health will be able to meet more needs of the tribal community once their wheelchair accessible vehicle is obtained through the FTA 5310 program. They also provide reimbursement for clients who obtain their own transportation.

The group determined that although MTA was not present to provide input, they would still have opportunity to add items to the prior to or during the public hearing.

Motion by Richard, seconded by Doris, and carried unanimously to include the five items identified by the SSTAC in the FY 18/19 list of Unmet Transit Needs (attached).

7. Miscellaneous

The group discussed the next steps for successful applicants in the FTA 5310 Program. Nephele explained that CTHP should focus on completing their Title 6 Plan. Caltrans will be hosting successful applicant workshops.

8. Information/Announcements

Willits and Ukiah Senior Centers will be hosting Thanksgiving dinners.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nephele Barrett, Program Manager



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FY 2018/19 Unmet Transit Needs
Recommended by
MCOG's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Identified at Annual SSTAC Workshop
(not in any order of priority)

November 13, 2017

1. Non-emergency medical transportation for out of the service areas/hours for seniors and disabled adults
2. Weekend and after-hours rides for seniors and disabled adults
3. Service for isolated seniors and disabled adults
4. Wheelchair accessible door-through-door assisted services for seniors and disabled adults on Wednesdays in the Ukiah area
5. Transportation from remote rural areas to existing transit stops (e.g. rides, cost stipends, etc.)

TOTAL of 5 Recommended Unmet Transit Needs