

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 15, 2018

UC Extension - Farm Advisors' Conference Room

890 North Bush Street, Ukiah

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dawn White, MTA (Alternate)
Marilyn DeFrangé, Ukiah Senior Center
Diana Clark, Ukiah Senior Center (Alternate)
Richard Baker, Willits Harrah Senior Center

STAFF PRESENT

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Executive Director
Janet Orth, MCOG Deputy Director / CFO
Marta Ford, MCOG Administrative Assistant

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carla Meyer, Jacob King, MTA
Sheila Keys, Redwood Coast Regional Center
Arlene Peterson, Action Network
Doris Sloan, Consolidated Tribal Health
Dena Eddings, Area Agency on Aging (Interim)
Steve Jordan, Redwood Coast Seniors (Alternate)

MEMBER VACANCIES

Potential “handicapped” transit user
Potential transit user at least 60 years of age

1. Call to Order & Introductions. Janet facilitated the meeting until Nephele arrived (by prearrangement), calling to order at 1:15 p.m. Self-introductions were made around the table.

2. Public Expression. None.

3. Minutes. The meeting minutes of May 31, 2018 were provided for information. No action was taken.

4. Annual Review of SSTAC Membership. There was a discussion of the membership roster, with two terms due to expire in April and three vacancies. It was noted that Redwood Coast Seniors director and long-time SSTAC member Charles Bush had recently retired; an alternate member was listed for “Local social service provided that provides transportation.” Suggestions were made for Charles’ replacement.

Marilyn and Diana, representing “Local social service provider for the handicapped that provides transportation,” were willing to be reappointed to the expiring seat. Staff will contact Jacob King at Mendocino Transit Authority to serve another term as “Representative of local Consolidated Transportation Services Agency.” Janet noted flyers and materials in the agenda packet that could be shared for recruitment of new members to the vacant seats. Typically the SSTAC nominates volunteers to be formally appointed by MCOG’s Board of Directors.

Recommendation:

By consensus, the SSTAC recommended renewal of seats expiring April 2019, extending to April 2022:

- “Local social service provider for the handicapped that provides transportation” - *Marilyn DeFrangé and Diana Clarke, Alternate*
- “Representative of local Consolidated Transportation Services Agency” (MTA) – *Jacob King*

5. 2019/20 Unmet Transit Needs Workshop and Recommendation – *Compile a list of Unmet Transit Needs and identify other transportation needs and potential solutions.* Janet gave an overview of the annual process. Status of last year’s recommendation of needs found reasonable-to-meet was reviewed, noting these were contingent on several conditions for the needs to be actually met. Discussion of progress on FY 2018/19 needs included:

- Dawn reported that MTA will implement #12-M, service to the Willits pool and High School, in FY 2018/19.

- Diana reported on the new volunteer ride service started by Ukiah Senior Center. They have a new minivan. Department of Motor Vehicles helps with driver clearances, then the Center adds drivers to their insurance policy. They plan to acquire a paratransit van with wheelchair lift, more fuel efficient than busses and able to get to destinations throughout their service area. A flyer and brochure were handed out with information on eligibility, flat rate mileage fares and other details. Marilyn noted this service met one previously unmet need on the list.
- Richard reported a service started recently by Willits Harrah Senior Center with volunteer drivers. Sponsors subsidize rides for seniors who are unable to pay full fares to Santa Rosa and back. They are in contact with Costco for similar donor support, likely after the new store in Ukiah has been open for the first year.
- Most of the Ukiah Seniors' budget goes to salaries and buildings; there is no place to cut without cutting services. They depend on volunteers to be able to offer these additional services. (Diana)
- Diana and Richard reported on volunteer appreciation efforts.

Discussion of FY 2019/20 needs included:

- A list of public input from MTA's meetings throughout the year is pending. (Dawn)
- #1 through 5 on last year's SSTAC list are still unmet needs. (Marilyn)
- #4 specifies door-through-door assisted service, so remains unmet though fixed route is available.
- For #1, "non-emergency medical transportation..." seniors and disabled adults are calling a taxi cab and going to the emergency room after hours and weekends, when the situation may not require an ambulance. Cost to an individual for a round trip to Santa Rosa can run to \$400. (Marilyn, Diana, Richard)
- While the senior center make trips for its eligible members, there is still no service to Brooktrails for the general public. (Richard)

Nephele arrived at 2:13 p.m. and facilitated the remainder of the meeting.

- Continued discussion of Brooktrails: taxi service is available, but is cost prohibitive for many. Hey Taxi charges \$10 one way; the Regional Center reimburses the senior center for trips. A taxi ride from Third Gate on Sherwood Road to central Ukiah costs \$65. (Richard)
- More Uber vehicles are seen in the area. Some who can afford it use Uber to avoid wait times. Discussion of public versus private services; are rideshare services cheaper than taxis? Usually, but prices vary with demand. (Dawn, Richard, Nephele, group)
- Review of MCOG's definition of Unmet Transit Need adopted in 1996: "*Whenever a need to transport people is not being satisfied through existing public or private resources.*" It is presumably meant to focus scarce funds first on providing service where none is available. This is a complex issue, and the definition is local to the region and can be amended by MCOG. (Janet)
- Reminder that this stage of the process is open to listing all needs; analysis comes later. (Nephele)
- Laytonville residents have given up on calling the senior center for rides. MTA has tried service there in the past, but there were too few riders. This was not added to the new list. (Richard, group)
- Another need is to and from Golden Rule RV Park (at Ridgewood Ranch) and Willits. This need was added to the list. It was noted that Willits Dial-A-Ride was discontinued by MTA. (Richard)
- Ukiah Senior Center receives calls asking for rides to Hopland occasionally but consistently. MTA's Route 65 goes through Hopland twice daily, though not assisted. This need was added to the list. (Marilyn)
- MTA expects to implement service to Ukiah Valley Medical Center this fiscal year. (Dawn)
- Any needs in coastal areas? No one was present who could address this. (Nephele)
- From last year's public hearing and MCOG's reasonable-to-meet finding, "*Ukiah fixed route and DAR services starting a half hour earlier in the mornings for transportation to jobs (for UVAH Clients)*" may still be a need. This was added to the list. (Richard)

Staff announced that any further needs may be submitted as testimony for MCOG's public hearing on February 4, and MTA's list will be included then.

Recommendation:

By consensus, the SSTAC recommended submittal of the attached list of 10 unmet transit needs as testimony for MCOG's public hearing.

6. Miscellaneous / Members' Concerns. Nephela reported that MCOG and County of Mendocino are applying for a Caltrans Climate Adaptation planning grant that would generate a Fire Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Evacuation Preparedness Plan. Wildfires affect seniors, disabled and low-income people disproportionately. The planning team will work with MTA and other community stakeholders if the grant is awarded. Diana noted the difficulty of alerting seniors late at night in an emergency. Discussion followed on alert systems and various challenges. The list of missing in the Butte County wildfire mostly consisted of those 60-90 years of age.

7. Information / Announcements. Diana and Marilyn distributed handouts from Ukiah Senior Center: "Senior Health Transport" brochure and flyer (volunteer driver program discussed above) and a dance party with The Fargo Brothers on December 8, a well-known band. Also the center offers Friday movie matinees; more people are coming just for that, as newly released Netflix films are offered. Richard announced that Willits Harrah Senior Center membership is at 400, an all-time high. They will again host a Thanksgiving dinner by Willits Community Services volunteers, serving an estimated 500 free meals.

8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Submitted by Janet Orth, Deputy Director / CFO

Attached:

FY 2019/20 SSTAC Unmet Transit Needs list



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FY 2019/20 Unmet Transit Needs
Recommended by
MCOG's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

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

November 15, 2018

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.)
6. Unexpected medical emergencies after hours/weekends
7. General public service in Brooktrails
8. Transportation to/from Golden Rule RV Park and Willits
9. Transportation to/from Hopland and Ukiah
10. Ukiah fixed route and DAR services starting a half hour earlier in the mornings for transportation to jobs (for UVAH Clients).

TOTAL of 10 Recommended Unmet Transit Needs