

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 16, 2020

Teleconference - Remote Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Baker, Willits Harrah Senior Center
Jill Rexrode, Redwood Coast Seniors
Laurie Hill, Redwood Coast Seniors (Alternate)
Heather Haydon (Alternate)
Jacob King, Mendocino Transit Authority
Dawn White, MTA (Alternate)
Sheila Keys, Redwood Coast Regional Center
(5 voting at this meeting)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dena Eddings, Area Agency on Aging (Interim)
Kathy Sheehy, Ukiah Senior Center
Doris Sloan, Consolidated Tribal Health

MEMBER VACANCIES

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

STAFF PRESENT

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Executive Director
Janet Orth, MCOG Deputy Director / CFO
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Deputy Planner
Monica Galliani, MCOG Admin. Assistant

GUESTS & PUBLIC

Thomas Pogue, Consultant
Suleyma Vergara-Tapia, Consultant
Rachael McDavid, Ukiah Senior Center
Diana Clarke, Ukiah Senior Center volunteer
Molly Rosenthal, Coast Coordinator,
Healthy Mendocino
Saskia Burnett, Caltrans District 1
Tina Tyler-O’Shea, Health & Human Services,
County of Mendocino

1. Call to Order & Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. with Zoom participants identified.

2. Public Expression. None.

3. Minutes. The meeting minutes of May 26, 2020 were provided for information. No action was taken.

4. 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update. Loretta reported startup of the RTP update process, which will be due for adoption by MCOG in February 2022. It will be inclusive of all modes, such as the Active Transportation Plan (ATP), a tribal element, various projects and priorities. She invited all to participate. There will be surveys, public outreach and community engagement over the coming year. No action was taken, report item only.

5. Presentation: Draft Mendocino County Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan – Discussion and comments on the draft plan. Nephele introduced MCOG’s consultants: Thomas Pogue, Associate Director, and Suleyma Vergara-Tapia, research assistant and colleague, of the Center for Business & Policy Research (CBPR) at University of the Pacific. They are working on a five-year update of MCOG’s Coordinated Plan (as it’s called for short); an outreach draft was released for review and comment, posted in

advance of this meeting at www.mendocinocog.org. The project is funded by the state as part of a larger umbrella contract for several rural agencies. Thomas made a presentation of what the plan is meant to address, such as needs, priorities and strategies to be identified; COVID-19 issues; funding sources for projects; demand and demographics; gap analyses, ways of coordinating services, available resources, and related matters. Comments are requested by mid-December.

Discussion followed, often merging with the day's unmet transit needs workshop focus. Thomas asked for specifics of needs found in MCOG's records. A range of issues were brought up, including:

- Particular communities such as Brooktrails and remote communities like Covelo, Laytonville, Potter Valley where demand service is infeasible
- Service areas of senior center contracts with MTA
- Service to and from Sonoma County, the coast and inland
- Non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) as raised recently by Howard Hospital for patients discharged when no transportation is available, likely true for other hospitals
- Volunteer driver programs for medical rides outside Mendocino County, as far as San Francisco; Ukiah Senior Center's program noted
- Transportation to jobs/employment, working shifts
- Bicycle racks as infrastructure issue, perhaps localized
- COVID impacts such as food delivery needs; how senior centers programs have morphed to accommodate expanded meal distribution, donations, volunteers, and coordination with other service agencies
- COVID impacts on MTA and seniors ridership, vulnerable clientele, protocols for minimizing exposure, prescreening and dispatch, outreach with Public Health department
- Coordination of emergency evacuation for vulnerable populations, plans, information sharing, public relations, services and resources available.

In closing, details of participation in the online survey and submitting comments were clarified. Thanks were expressed and no action was taken.

6. Annual Review of SSTAC Membership. The membership roster was reviewed, noting three vacancies and two seats due to expire in April 2021. In discussion, updated information was provided concerning retirements and other changes; suggestions and agreements were made for filling positions. Those who stepped up are much appreciated and will be appointed at MCOG's December board meeting on the Consent Calendar.

Recommendation:

By consensus, the SSTAC nominated the following for appointment and reappointment to the SSTAC:

- "Local social service provider for seniors" – *reappoint Richard Baker, Willits Seniors, Inc. through April 2024*
- "Local social service provider for seniors that provides transportation" – *reappoint Jill Rexrode, Redwood Coast Seniors and Laurie Hill as Alternate through April 2024*
- "Local social service provider for the handicapped that provides transportation" – *appoint Rachael McDavid, Ukiah Senior Center and Kathy Sheehy as Alternate through April 2022*
- "Representative of local Consolidated Transportation Services Agency" – *appoint Dawn White, Mendocino Transit Authority and Luis Martinez as Alternate through April 2023*

7. 2021/22 Unmet Transit Needs Workshop and Recommendation – *Compile a list of Unmet Transit Needs and identify other transportation needs and potential solutions.* Janet introduced the annual process of identifying needs as detailed in her written staff report. Today's workshop is the first step of the funding cycle for the coming fiscal year. Discussion of unmet needs included the following. Monica typed identified needs on a shared screen for group viewing (in lieu of the usual white board). Many of the needs were covered in the earlier discussion under Agenda #5:

- Non-emergency medical transportation
- Restoration of Wednesday service for Ukiah Senior Center
- Brooktrails, Hopland and Potter Valley fixed-route service
- After-hours weekday and weekend door-through-door service for Willits seniors
- Restoration of MTA routes cut due to COVID
- Service for Covelo and Laytonville
- Mobility solutions for remote communities.

Nine new needs were recommended for the list. It was agreed to also recommend the five new needs from MTA's public outreach. Janet invited additional public testimony between now and the December public hearing.

Recommendation:

Upon motion by King, seconded by Keys, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*5 Ayes – Baker, Rexrode, Haydon, King, Keys; 0 Noes, 3 Absent*), the SSTAC recommended submittal of the attached list of fourteen (14) Unmet Transit Needs as testimony for MCOG's public hearing.

8. Miscellaneous / Information / Announcements. The senior centers in Willits and Ukiah will host Thanksgiving dinners, this year as drive-by pickup meals due to COVID-19. Richard expected high turnout and hoped they would not run out of food.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m..-

Submitted by Janet Orth, Deputy Director / CFO

Attached:

FY 2021/22 SSTAC recommendations



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FY 2021/22 Unmet Transit Needs
Recommended by
MCOG's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

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

November 16, 2020

Needs Identified by SSTAC:

1. Non-emergency medical transportation for patients discharged from hospitals during transit service off-hours
2. Wednesday service for Ukiah Senior Center
3. Brooktrails fixed-route service
4. Willits weekday door-through-door service after 4pm and weekend service
5. Restoration of COVID-related temporary service cuts
6. Fixed-route service to Hopland
7. Fixed-route service to Potter Valley
8. Service to Covelo and Laytonville
9. Mobility solutions for remote communities.

Needs Identified by Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA):

1. Full service the day after Thanksgiving holiday
2. Additional Ukiah-Hopland round trip
3. Research on clean mobility grants for bikes and scooters
4. Resumption of Route 65 service
5. Round-trip service from Ukiah to South Coast and from Ukiah to Fort Bragg/Mendocino

TOTAL of 14 Recommended Unmet Transit Needs