

**MORRIS AREA PARATRANSIT SYSTEM
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 9, 2021**

Members Present

Marc Molde
Matt Putts

Staff Present:

Melody Bundy NJ TIP Rutgers
Christine Hellyer Director of Special Transportation
Louis Hoffman NJ TIP Rutgers
Marcy Merola, SR Transportation Mt. Olive
Pat Petrillo Aging
Trish Rogalsky MAPS
Isabel Rojas NJ Transit
Justin Winfrey NJ TIP Rutgers

Guests

Dov Brafman – Life Ride
Michelle Werner

I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Christine Hellyer, and she announced the meeting is being recorded.

**II. Approval of Minutes
February 4, 2021
Motion: M.M./M.P.**

Christine Hellyer MAPS

Thanked committee for agreeing to move meeting dates. And also thanked *Matt Putts* for providing *ZOOM* for the meeting.

We then proceeded with the presentation by *Michelle Werner, Life Ride* a transportation provider in *Morris, Mercer and Essex county*. They provide transportation for appointments and on demand requests They explained that their difference is they combine services; if a person needs a home health aide to accompany them we can arrange that also.

- They also provide complete handoff to responsible persons, providing door to door service. It involves a complete handoff of rider.
- Pre-registration is not required.
- Hours of operation are 3am-12pm weekdays and weekends
- 45 new up to date vehicles, and they have 80 drivers.

- They also serve disabled young adults
- Most of their clients are dialysis and physical therapy
- We also allow caregiver or family member to accompany
- Provide transportation physician visits, recreational outings discharges from rehabs and sub-a-cutes, dialysis, COVID vaccine appointments
- They have more leeway in how they assist clients and have training
- The vehicles include: ambulette, wheelchair accessibility vans with ramps, and ambulance stretcher transport, clients with walkers,
- Credit card is required for billing. After their first trip, they have a profile with all their data. We don't outsource our work so no information from our system is shared.
- Fixed schedules are a one-time set up.
- We are contracted by nursing homes, hospitals, and insurance companies.

Christine added that this is a paid service would fill our gaps (MAPS). This is for those that have the resources to pay. Although this is private pay it is a very useful service for those that meet the need.

Michelle asked if the department has a transportation list on the web-site?

Christine replied not on our web-site, but we have an internal transportation booklet and I can make sure you will be added.

Staff Report- Christine Hellyer

On April 12, 2021, from 10am to 1pm, the County and Aging Department and a couple of other Providers will be at the Morris County Library, (it is a drive-through event) we are holding a COVID-19 Wellness Event, with a wellness kit, it is for adults 60 years of age plus adults with disabilities. It also contains informational pamphlets (from St. Clare's, Morris County Sheriff's Office) on keeping yourself healthy and vaccination information. The funding provided allowed us to include seniors 60 years of age plus adults with disabilities.

- Touchless tool kit
- Hand sanitizer
- Reusable mask, and a mask lanyard
- Jar opener (from St. Clare's)
- Hands-free door opener

We also have it available for homebound residents can call 973- 285-6848 to determine if delivery is available to your address.

- *Interfaith Food Pantry, NORWESCAP*, and several senior housing units, also offered to assist with deliveries.
- Our *Nutrition Department* will also deliver about 1,350 kits to home-delivered clients.
- We hope to reach about 2,000 seniors with this event.
- *Hope One* will be available to discuss substance abuse and *Navigating Hope* will also be there to discuss what services are available in Morris County.

The Aging Department Public Hearing for 2022 Funding, will be held May 4th

at 11:00 am, virtually.

The difficulty with virtual is "will we have enough participants".

We usually have our hearings at gathering areas,

I encourage you to attend, because transportation is such a need in Morris County. I think it would be helpful to hear from yourself, your participants, to make sure transportation stay on the radar. Although transportation needs are going up, it is not up to where it was last year, because of virtual physicians visits.

Please contact *Pat Petrillo* for the information.

We are looking to increase membership for the MAPS CAC, currently we have three and I would like to increase to five.

Matt asked who are we looking for?

Christine: consumers, riders, or parents of riders.

TNC (Transportation Network Companies)

We were approved for this grant. It allows us to work with a Provider or another to get on demand services like Uber/Lyft.

This program is aimed to test the viability of using ridesharing services to provide critical first mile/last mile connections in areas where conventional fixed-route bus service is not always available.

We are currently looking for quotes for dispatching, and it is due April 30th.

Our vehicles are now at 75% capacity: minivans 3 and buses depend on full capacity. We

We look at Public Transportation guidelines and adjust accordingly.

NJ Transit – Isabel Rojas

2021 5311 Grant fully executed and released to County.

2021 SCADR TAP Casino Revenue grant is currently being reviewed at Senior vice-president's office.

2021 5311 and Casino revenue application for Morris County was received and is currently being reviewed

2020 5310 Grant Application was released and has been scored now by NJ Transit staff, and sometime late summer/early fall and committee will meet for the full review of application.

2019 Grant Award letters are waiting to be released, I will keep you updated.

2018 Awards were just sent out for mobility management and operating funds;

Morris County MAPS returned their confirmation for their match.

Vehicle Procurement updates

2015, 2016, 2017 5311, if you were awarded will be in June.

- ✓ Low floor vehicles fall of this year
- ✓ Mini-vans in winter
- ✓ Cut-a-ways next spring
- ✓ *Subject to change due to COVID 19 and manufacturers closures.*

New Business- Christine Hellyer

The *NJ Transit Local Programs Citizens Advisory Committee* is in search of community minded people to promote transit accessibility and give advice on issues pertaining to transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities. (see attached)

Marc from *DAWN* added that his agency is having a *Zoom* session on April 15 On *Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)* budget support program. Please contact for link.

Old Business-Christine Hellyer

Eco-lane update on expansion of our services: offering current registered riders the ability to schedule their rides online, instead of calling us with a target date of May 3. And it must be a recurring trip: physicians/shop-rite in their points of service. If it works well we might further extend it. And the rider will immediately know if it can be scheduled or if it is denied.

It is not just web based, but an *app* is also available to download to phone.

The rider eventually on day of ride, will be able to see on their phone the location of the vehicle for their trip.

The IVR System: rider receives call/text the night before and a text message the day of, has been working well. The next step is the web base. We were recently trained on that. (In case we have to close or leave early.)

Marc asked if its web based?

Christine: yes, it's not on a server in our office, the positive is it's a **.com service.**

Announcements

Melody added NJ TIP. help riders find alternate transportation for COVID vaccines. We also now have a Facebook page.

Adjournment:10:48am

Motion: M.M./M.P.

Next meeting:

June 4, 2021 at 10am.

More than likely it will be virtual at 10am. If you have any ideas for presentations please let me know.