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MORRIS AREA PARATRANSIT SYSTEM
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Via Zoom

MINUTES
June 4, 2020

Members Present:

Marc Molde
Matt Putts
Maria Isaza

Staff Present:

Janet Ackerson Jefferson DAR
Jeff Bash HSAC
Melody Bundy NJRUT
Christine Hellyer Director of Special Transportation
Barbara Lukovich Randolph Twp.DAR
Marcy Merola, SR Transportation, Mt. Olive
Pat Petrillo Aging
Diane Pezzuti, 5 DAR Pequannock
Patricia Rogalsky MAPS
Michelle Woehle Jefferson DAR
Dana Stukenborg 5 DAR Pequannock

I. *Call to Order* – The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am by Christine Hellyer, via ZOOM.

II. *Approval of Minutes*

Minutes from April 2, 2020 were accepted and approved after one correction.

Motion:Matt Putts /Maria Isaza

III. *Staff Report-Christine Hellyer MAPS*

In April & May MAPS ran very limited capacity: life sustaining travel and essential employment only, for any individual without any other means of transportation. We called all of our riders and asked if they had anyone home to provide your transportation because of the COVID 19 pandemic.

The last 2 weeks of May we provided rides for non -emergent medical appointments, we opened five vehicles per day for that purpose.

June 8th

Our staff of 20 drivers will be on the road with limited capacity service:
Mini-vans= 11client/family unit and or 1 person if assistance is required,
Buses at 50% capacity = if it normally transports 10 it will be limited to 5.
Medical reason visits and essential employees, and normal rides previously provided.

No service for shelter workshop riders because they are still closed.

We request all riders to wear mask for duration of trips.

Our drivers wear masks, gloves, they have hand sanitizer, and they have disinfectant wipes, vehicles are disinfected daily with foggers.

We are looking into having a barrier between driver and passengers for the safety of both.

MAPS will no longer assist the Nutrition Department with home delivered meals.

AGING is working via telework

Nutrition will be going back to their normal schedule Monday – Friday.

Jeff questioned how funding is effecting the pandemic especially with casino revenues is down going forward.

Christine

- **Casino revenue** is 2 years behind. We should be fine up until 2022. The following year we might see a deficit. The positive is because of gambling, we saw a big increases sports betting and internet gambling for 2021 and 2022.
- **SCDRTAP** funding **does** carry over from year to year as long as you have a plan. So, we have to plan ahead, and our plan can be we want to save some of the funding to use in the year we will have a deficit.
- We were eligible to apply for **rural transportation** grant through the CARES ACT:
*The **CARES Act** provides fast and direct economic assistance for American workers and families, small businesses, and preserves jobs for American industries.*
And it can't be used for anything else but rural. This will assist for PPE (personal protective equipment) supplies: fogger, disinfectant, barriers, and hazard pay. We can also use this towards salaries that we normally fund through the 5311 grant, which will
Allow us to carryover for future use.
We have not received this award yet. These funds will expire first and we have to use these first, before our 5311 grant.
- With this funding we also are going to expand our technology with Ecolane, by obtaining IVR automated phone calls and SMS, which is automatic text messaging. We can do flood gate calls and instead of reaching out to each individual driver we can send one message to all.

We applied for a SCDTRAP T&C \$40,000 grant: \$20,000 SCDRTAP and \$20,000 County match, last month, if approved.

This will allow clients to participate with EZ Ride or GO-GO Parent program. Where a senior/disabled person screened by us and approved for service, then will be able to set up an account to use this service. Although we applied last month we have not been approved as of yet, I feel it will be benefit Morris County. It has been very successful in Essex County.

Jeff asked about Nutrition food service for seniors how are you using the Interfaith Food Pantry?

Christine we are partnered very closely with them. We send referrals, asked if they needed any assistance.

Our Congregate sites have been closed. So they either had to pick up their meals at the sites or become home delivered meals. We did a bulk delivery of 3 meals on Monday and 3 on Thursday, instead of the normal 5 meals per week, and all received 2 shelf stable meals (over 3,000).

We made sure the seniors did not go hungry.

We have partnered with non-profit Jersey Cares to offer a volunteer shopper program. This is a soft launch for our Department with our three care managers. This program is open to seniors and hopefully to our disabled population at a later time. They have the funds to pay for their groceries, but cannot get to the store. This will service 11 clients in Morris County.

- Credit card needed for payment, with a 6% credit card charge.
- Shop and deliver service
- 60 years and over
- 10 Morris County volunteers
- Facilitated by our care manager. They will get the budget and shopping list with an order number specifically for that client only. It is entered into State system that generates an order number.
- Jersey Care partner receives it electronically and reaches out to senior with order number, so senior knows it legitimate to get credit card number
- Senior Care partner will put a credit hold on the credit card for budget amount.
- Shopper will then go and do the shopping, take picture of receipt and groceries, deliver groceries to client. And 6% will be added to that total.
- We can accommodate nine clients per week.
- **Credit card or debit card no EBT or SNAP cards accepted.**
- We had our first application submitted client yesterday by one of our Care Managers and the delivery by the end of the week.

Melody Bundy reported that Rutgers has partnered with DAWN cil to provide classes at local high schools with transportation options.

Michele we currently have one drive. Requests must be made 1 week prior. We must present any client request to Office of Emergency Management and they decide whether it is a necessary appointment.

We have one individual with a standing every 3 week IV appointment.

And 3-4 people that require grocery shopping on a weekly basis, and a couple of bloodwork appointments.

Our other drivers are on unemployment at this time.

Barbara no dial a ride at this time. I am delivering food when in need. We have local restaurants supplying the food.

Marcy DAR has been picking up. We do grocery shopping by car 15 people individually.

Dana

Pequannock Dial-a Ride has been providing dialysis 3 times per week, physician's, and eye doctor visits.

They are not providing one on one grocery shopping due to COVID 19.

Grocery store does not allow you to bring bags in.

Michele if you bring your own bag you must bag it yourself at most stores.

Marc Molde added that DAWN is offering Zoom classes for recreation Monday through Friday.

New Business

The program to provide trips for grocery shopping did not launch in April as anticipated, but should be in effect mid-July.

Barbara do we help the client on and off the vehicle.

Michele for our shopping trips we are using the State bus. Clients are in charge of carrying their own bags, 4-bag max, and they put their bags on the wheelchair ramp and retrieve their bags at the end of their trip. Our drivers do not touch the bags. This is doing very well, and the drivers want to institute this all the time.

Someone asked is that how walkers are handled?

Michele yes.

Matt are reusable bags acceptable?

Christine yes the regular size that they sell at the grocery store.

Matt one-hour increments is that door to door or when they arrive at the store?

Christine upon arrival at the store.

Old Business

- Between now and next meeting how we will move forward with SCDRTAP T&C grant via e-mail
- Anticipate final policy on our MAPS shopping program by next week also via e-mail.

Announcements-

Marc Molde *Dawn* has been operating virtually.

DAWN is offering Zoom classes for recreation Monday through Friday.

Adjournment : 10:45am

Motion: Maria Isaza/Matt Putts

Next meeting September 3, 2020