

**MORRIS AREA PARATRANSIT SYSTEM
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Via ZOOM hosted by M. Isaza for MAPS meeting
Hybrid meeting**

APRIL 7, 2022

CAC Members Present

Maria Isaza
Stephany Maldonado
Marc Molde
William Schuldt -Vision Loss Alliance of NJ
Nancy Toolen Employment Horizons

Staff Present:

Christine Hellyer- Director of Special Transportation
Marcy Merola- SR Transportation Mt. Olive
Pat Petrillo- Aging
Diane Pezzuti - Pequannock 5DAR
Stephanie Di Petrillo-Rutgers
Trish Rogalsky-MAPS
Isabel Rojas- NJ Transit

Guests

Debra Ekert-Casha ACADV member
Joan Jensen -MCCOOPO (Morris County Council of Older Persons Organization)

I. Call to Order Christine Hellyer thanked *Maria Isaza* for hosting the ZOOM meeting for the MAPS CAC meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by *Christine Hellyer*, and she announced the meeting is being recorded. A roll call was made.

II. Approval of Minutes

February 3, 2022

Motion: M.I. /S.M.

**Staff Report- Christine Hellyer
CHTP**

Morris County continues to work with Rutgers on the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. This is a long- term project, and it might not be completed until December.

As I said last year, I came on board in July 2018, and it was due for review. did a (Every 5 years due for update). So, we decided to do a complete a complete overhaul this time, and we contracted with Rutgers for their assistance.

I would like Marc Molde (rider) and Maria Isaza, (Caregiver of rider) to attend the next meeting, for their input.

I have decided to ask two of the *Morris County Providers* that provide transportation to come to our next meeting either in person or virtually: **Atlantic Private Care** and **Morris County Office of Hispanic Affairs** and share with us their transportation service. What type of transportation they offer, what are their parameters, their booking process?

MAPS you can book the day before request but no guarantee of service. We recommend booking 3 days prior.

Our fundings for **SCDRTAP** is healthy for the next years because of the Casino revenues increase for on-line and sports betting, it appears we should get the same amount or increases. This consistent funding helps with our technology/vehicles up to date.

More on this in New Business

Christine added that in the past 4 years improvements in **MAPS** service have been made so we were consistent with our Grants:

- Exercising the 5- mile radius out of the County, not just in select areas
- Expanding rural transportation service; more accurate reporting
- Addition of IT (Information Technology) and tablets in vehicles
- Expand our trip purposes employment, education, supported employment and medical trips.
 - In August 2020 we added grocery shopping

And we are now expanding one step further:

- ❖ Banking
- ❖ Pharmacy
- ❖ Personal Care

We will discuss more later in New Business. (Policy attached)

New Jersey Transit Report-Isabel Rojas

SCDRTAP, S5311 & CARES

- **FY 2022 SCDRTAP/5311** – Application reviewed for accuracy and completion. Agreement routed, awaiting SVP signature.
- **FY 2022 SCDRTAP** - State Allocation \$1,082,125.00 – Agreement sent 2/2/2022 for execution
- **FY 2022 S5311** – Federal allocation is \$269,193.00 – Won't be utilized until January 2023
- **FY 2021 S5311** – Agreement modification routed, awaiting SVP signature.
- **FY 2020 CARES S5311** - \$642,552 (Supplemental FTA funds due to the Coronavirus. effective March 1, 2020). Fully expend by 6/2022.
- **Section 5310 – MAPS is pending 6 vehicles from FY 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019**
- **FY 2021 S5310** – Potential No release of 2021 cycle.
- American Rescue Plan (2017 and 2018 Grant Cycle) - \$2.7 million -
- **FY 2020 S5310** – State Committee Review scheduled for Friday, February 11, 2022 @ 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

General Announcements –

NVRA (National Voter Registration Act) Offer voter registration opportunity to new clients, recertification, or change of address clients.

Every New Jersey agency (Community Transportation) that utilizes funds (SCDRTAP) for individuals with disability, when they have a new client or a recertification client they must offer them a voter registration opportunity. (form)

This is a federal requirement and if not abided by, there will be consequences.

TransAction Conference – April 26 – 28th

Discussion on funding:

Christine: Morris County will utilize the 2021 funds around September. We will not have 5311 funding for October, November or December.

Last year we used 2020 and 2021 funding

This year we are hoping to use 2021 and 2022

Isabel you have to spend **down CARES funding, (Capital funds)** and **use 2021 first.** We are giving you until the end of this year 2022, December 31, 2022., to use 2021. Then you can utilize 2022 and 2023 funds.

Christine: Should I reach out to you about three months before the 2021 operating funds are completely used, to make sure.

Isabel yes, but you are receiving that funding. You are spending down 2021 now. In this situation we will not hold back funding.

Maria: asked if when you "say the vehicles are being pushed back" are they going to be eliminated?

Isabel absolutely not.

Isabel also added because of the "pandemic" we face the issue of vehicle costs increased. NJ Transit has to find the funding to purchase the vehicles that were awarded prior to the pandemic. (Nine million dollar deficit) We are not certain if we are going to issue the 5310 2021 grants to the public. In order for us to try to find the funding for these vehicles, we are looking to use this monies for this grant cycle and put towards the capital of these vehicles.

The **2020 State Committee Review**, met in *February*, and received the applications and they were reviewed and scored. Inclusion/non-inclusion letters will go out sometime this year.

American Rescue Plan Funds

What agencies in the **5310 program, 2017- 2018** Grant Cycle ran service during pandemic, and didn't stop service.

You will receive an e-mail within the next couple of months to see what you were doing during this time and we will properly award you.

NVRA National Voter Registration Act)-Isabel Rojas

Every New Jersey Agency (Community Transportation) that utilizes funds (SCDRTAP) for individuals with a disability, when they have a new client or a recertification of client they must offer them a voter application/registration form and an opportunity form.

This is a federal requirement and if not abided by, there will be consequences.

Christine: We must go back 2 years to our registered riders, about 1600 and send out a cover letter and a voter registration form and give them the opportunity. We also call every new registered client whether they registered on phone or online They will receive a call from us, "have you registered to vote?" And whether they answer yes or no, we send them the form anyway. The answer and date are then put in the database.

Regardless of their answer we will mail out the packet anyway.

This is done to cover ourselves.

Maria asked if this is Federal organization or any organization?

Isabel The State of New Jersey only if you receive SCDRTAP funds you have to offer it.

Maria asked if MCOHA(Morris County Office of Hispanic Affairs) must comply with this NVRA?

Christine no MCOHA receive AGING funding, and I think this is for the disabled population.

The **AAA (Area Agency on Aging)** have not been notified as of yet.

Marcy Mt Olive asked if they need to comply?

Christine no we pay you through **County** match dollars not **SCDRTAP** funds
And that includes the DAR's.

Maria are all **DAR's County** funded?

Christine no just Roxbury, Jefferson, Mount Olive DAR, 5 Town DAR

And some also receive municipality funds

Diane was asked what towns they serve: Pompton Plains, Pequannock, Lincoln Park
Butler, Kinnelon, Riverdale

Maria do they receive 5310 applications? How do they get notified?

Isabel- yes some do We send the grant info to everyone in our state database:
Mayors, Commissioners, County Offices, press releases.

Christine: 5310 Grant Applications are not going out for 2022, how it will affect MAPS
service in 2024?

*We are currently utilizing fiscal year 2017,2018 funding now. We have already
allocated for 2023 a previous years' worth of funding.*

*It should not affect MAPS budget and level of service, because of SCDRTAP increased
funding.*

Isabel: 5310 and SCDRTAP funding service seniors and disabled population.

Counties can carryover SCDRTAP funds, if you don't need it don't use it.

Christine because NJ Transit is up front with this information being a possibility, it
takes strategic planning on our end.

New Business

Introduction of new members

Stephany Maldonado **Zufall Health Center**

Intensive Senior Support Coordinator

MAPS serves our seniors 55 and older

Nancy Toolen **Employment Horizons**

Supported and Extended employment for disabled clients.

MAPS serves about 45 of our clients to and from work.

Bill Schuldt **Vision Loss Alliance of NJ**

We have weekly programs for the blind and limited vision individuals

What communities do you serve?

We have no restrictions.

Stephanie DiPetrillo, Rutgers, heading the **CHTP** project plan effort with Andrea
Lubin.

We kicked off the project, we collected data, working on survey.

The surveys will be distributed to Morris County Providers.

After all this information is collected, we will plan our next meeting.

First public engagement event will on June 5th, at DAWNcil Family Day.

New Business-Christine Hellyer

Before implementing we wanted to bring to the Committee for review.

MAPS trip purpose general policy

Transportation for the following trip purposes can be booked from 7am-4;30pm dependent on availability:

- Medical
- Competitive Employment
- Non-competitive employment
- Education
- Social services- such as Office of Temporary Assistance, Motor Vehicles, Social Security, Nutrition Sites, etc.

Effective April 11, 2022

Transportation for the following trip purposes can be booked 10am-4:30pm dependent on availability:

- Grocery Shopping
- Pharmacy
- Bank
- Personal Care: such as hairdressers and barbers

Regardless of trip purpose, MAPS vehicles do not wait for individuals at the destination.

*Return trips must be booked a **minimum of thirty minutes** after initial drop off. This is a shared ride service. Vehicles **will not** wait for individuals to complete their transaction.*

This is a shared ride service, that will piggyback off our pilot Lyft Program with Trans-Options. This will allow MAPS to provide medical transportation. And assist in generating these new trips. MAPS will provide transportation to wheelchair individuals when they can.

And is available only for individuals that have a cell phone with text ability and are mobile. Lyft vehicles are not wheelchair accessible.

This service was announced at our Provider's meeting yesterday.

Maria asked what the status of MAPs extending entertainment transportation that we discussed last year? Are we in compliance if we don't offer this service?

Christine: yes, we are complying. The barrier for recreation and socialization transportation is being ADA (*Americans with Disabilities Act*) compliant to offer services to individuals is wheelchairs with accessible vehicles. And the other gap is after hours/weekends/holidays. We would have liked to have Trans-Options offer this, but they are not equipped for disabled individuals. We are in strategic planning at this point.

MAPS is not able to offer this service currently.

Debra I know of an individual that was in need of transportation at 4am for dialysis. Can before hours also be considered?

Christine

And when I say after hours, I mean hours **MAPS** doesn't operate before/after. Dialysis transportation is a nationwide crisis.

Dialysis is considered a subscription trip 3 days per week/ every week and we must keep these trips under 50% through our regulations. If we do receive a dialysis request, and it fits on one of **MAPS** current dialysis runs, we would not be able to accommodate them we are at capacity.

Debra Are the regulations Federal or State?

Christine and Isabel replied Federal.

Isabel asked if TNC (Transportation Network Company: medical Lyft program) started?

Christine Yes said they had 12 rides. They take overflow rides from MAPS.

MAPS does not provide transportation for:

- To and from the Rockaway Mall for general shopping
- Hospital admittance/discharge
- Long Term Care admittance/discharge

Old Business-

Voting for President Marc Molde and Vice President Maria Isaza.

Motion: N.T./ B.W./S.M.

Web-site for MAPS cancellations update

This is for cancellations only, not for booking rides. We will look at it at a later date, maybe next year.

Maria used it on a trial basis via computer and said it was a good experience. A quick registration is required, with a user-id/password. It is user friendly. She added using her phone was cumbersome.

In the past cancellation of my brother's trips, and it wasn't during MAPS business hours. And I would worry if my message was received.

Christine is currently working on a project to let current riders aware of the service.

Christine said she has a phone app.

Public Comments

Marc reminder of DAWN's Family Fun Day June 5th.

Christine We are looking for members that are MAPS riders on the committee. Or they can come as a guest at future meetings

Adjourned : 11:13am

Motion: M.P./S.M.

Next meeting: June 2, 2022