



Carroll Country Regional Coordinating Council
February 4th, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
Tech Village, Conway, NH 03818
Meeting Minutes

Attendees (Members):

Attendees (Staff & Non-Members):

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Mary Seavey	Carroll County RSVP (CCRSVP)	Alex Belenz	North Country Council Regional Planning Commission (NCC)
George Cleveland	Gibson Center	Dave Jeffers	Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC)
Brenda Gagne	Tri-County Transit	Chuck Henderson	Office of Senator Shaheen
Catalina Kirsch	Carroll County Coalition for Public Health (C3PH)		

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Chair Cleveland called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM. A round of introductions was done.

2. Approval of 11/5/2019 Meeting Minutes

Alex noted that he left the printed minutes behind at the office. They will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

3. Updates from Providers and Members

- **Tri-Country Transit** (Brenda Gagne): Tri-County Transit is several years behind in receiving buses that they were awarded through the FTA 5310 Capital program. Many of their buses have significant miles on them. TCCAP is continuing to partner with Carroll County Adult Education to provide transportation from the Whitehouse Center to HiSET classes – funded through FTA 5311 program and local match.
- **Gibson Center** (George Cleveland): Gibson Center also has buses approaching 100k miles, but are hesitant to use federal program to procure replacements. November saw 221 rides, December saw 203 rides, and January saw 204 rides.
- **Carroll County RSVP** (Mary Seavey): RSVP provides 116 trips in December, with 18 cancellations/unfulfilled trips. The demand for rides has been increasing and is exceeding their capacity.
- The group discussed increased demand for transportation services. There was general agreement that demand has increased significantly in recent years. Long-distance trips are the

most difficult to fulfill. There are also a lot of competing needs in the region, and seems to be a lack of understanding by state legislators about resident needs and associated service availability.

- Discussion also included what residents might fall into the “disabled” category and would therefore be eligible for transportation services through 5310. Catalina noted that mental health and substance abuse disorders should qualify. Dave added that the FTA interpretation of “disabled” is quite broad – almost a self-diagnosis. Providers should be put in the position of deciding who is or isn’t disabled.

4. 5310 Purchase of Service & Formula Funds Program

Alex reviewed the proposed 5310 projects and budgets. There is level funding from the FY 2020 program (\$97,134.00). The proposal was to retain the same budget as last year given level funding and minimal changes to projects. Alex noted that the RCC has the ability to modify the budget during the grant cycle if changes in demand for services are experienced. Providers were previously contacted to propose changes in projects and budgets, and a public notice was circulated to make other potential grantees in the region aware of the program. Proposed projects and associated budgets were reviewed (budgets listed refer to federal funds – each provider is required to secure at least 20% local match):

- **Carroll County RSVP:** \$17,948.00 for purchase of service, \$16,000.00 for mobility management
- **Gibson Center:** \$26,613.30 for purchase of service
- **Tri-County CAP:** \$18,120.00 for purchase of service, \$16,000.00 for mobility management
- **Mount Washington Valley Economic Council:** \$7,770.72 for administration of 5310 funds as the ***RCC lead agency*** (using mobility management funds – equivalent to 10% of federal funds).
- ***The proposed 5310 projects, budgets, and lead agency were approved unanimously via motion of Seavey/Kirsch.***

5. Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan

Alex noted that the survey is almost ready to go. Dave and Catalina recapped the public outreach meetings that they each led. Dave presented to the Carroll County Public Health Advisory Committee – there was good feedback and lots of interested by attendees in staying involved in the process. Catalina presented to the Northern Carroll County Providers Network – lots of passion in the room about getting people the help they need. There was a lot of discussion about transportation to work and adult/post-secondary education. Brenda noted that there has been increased demand for school-related transportation. TCCAP can’t do school-specific trips, but can connect students to destinations outside of school. There has also been an increase in human service calls. Demand is also growing for VA transportation, but many veterans still aren’t aware of the transportation option available to them. George added the “volunteer block” in Carroll County is aging and not being replaced.

Transportation needs spanning Carroll and Coos Counties were discussed. There are much fewer services (and service organizations) in the Berlin-Gorham area than in the Mt. Washington Valley. Many Valley employees live in Gorham. The Blue Loon line that TCCAP operated was a connection between these regions. Providers discussed the idea of a commuter-specific transportation service between

Berlin-Gorham and Mt. Washington Valley. Chuck noted that there is a lot of demand in Lincoln too – many service jobs, few housing options. Alex noted that a feasibility study could be listed as a project in the Coordinated Plan, which could enable federal funds to support such a study. A survey or other outreach program to businesses and community leaders could help spur interest and investment as well. George added that he would follow up with Conway Daily Sun about an article discussing the Coordinated Plan and various transportation needs.

6. Other Businesses

Alex discussed that NH 211 would utilize TCCAP as the point of contact for connecting callers to transportation providers in the region.

Discussion about the transportation services directory occurred. The directory is probably too unwieldy for the general public, but is a useful resource for frontline staff, agency/provider staff, etc. A rack card would be more effective for the general public. Distribution points could include town offices and websites, offices of medical and human service providers, and volunteer organizations. George and Alex will discuss a print order for the directory – likely 500 copies to start.

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Alex Belenz.

