

Regional Transportation Coordination Committee (RTCC) Meeting
Monday, July 23, 2018 at 2:00 PM at CDTC
Meeting Notes



1. Welcome/Introductions – present were Denise Yannaci, Saratoga County Office for Aging; Donna Stressel, Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital; Diane Conroy-LaCivita, Colonie Senior Service Centers; Betsi Latanzo; Ilse Funk, Catholic Charities; Renee Markle, Schenectady Senior and Long-Term Care; Greg Giuliano, Captain/CareLinks; Todd Finkle, ARC of Rensselaer County; Linda Miller, Community Caregivers; Monika Boeckman, Senior Services of Albany; Chris Cary, Town of Colonie; Margo Mahoski, Catholic Charities Senior + Caregiver Support Services; Jane Sanders, Bethlehem Senior Services Department; Denise Weaver, Care Links; Lois Celeste, Saratoga Senior Center; Kevin White, Schenectady ARC; Carrie Ward, CDTC; Jacob Beeman, CDTC
2. Review/Acceptance of March 1, 2018 meeting notes – accepted as written.
3. Tools of the Trade Workshop summary - There were 30+ attendees. Presentations were on driver recruitment and retention, volunteer driver programs, and Medicaid transportation.
4. Coordinated Plan - CW asked for additional recommendations for the lists of nonprofits and other entities. Diane Conroy asked who exactly was on the list and mentioned that Colonie Sr. Services was not on the list. CW answered that the list was made up of any agency that may interface with senior transportation in some way, however, it is not comprehensive at this time. CW will add Colonie Senior Services to the list. A request for updates and changes to the list was made. No specific recommendations were made at this time. Public participation for the coordinated plan was discussed and CW asked for suggestions on unique ways to target the senior population for information. **A few agencies** offered existing meetings and events where CDTC could conduct listening sessions to gather public input. **Saratoga Springs has one more meeting on senior transportation** and Denise Yannaci can contribute notes from the previous two that could be helpful. Many attendees indicated that surveys are not the best way to gather information from the senior population as they have to fill out a lot of paperwork to receive transportation and are often reluctant to do so for various reasons. Although many seniors have limited technology capabilities, Facebook may be a useful tool in soliciting information.
5. Guardian Society Senior Transportation Guide update - CDTC is providing data for the guide and the Guardian Society will design and print the document. The end of the year looks promising for a completed guide. It will include information on taxis with wheelchair accessible vehicles as well as Lyft and Uber and how they can be utilized.
6. 5310 status update - CDTC had just received a list of agencies that NYSDOT approved for funding. The amounts will be available on Wednesday July 25 and the Planning Committee will vote on them by next Wednesday August 1. An attendee asked how long it usually takes to receive the money once approved, and the general time frame from around the room was about 2 years.
7. Transportation Gaps Focus Groups update - 8 focus groups were conducted through the Equity Task Force. The summaries will be available online once some technology issues are resolved.
8. Municipal ADA Transition Plans – In 2011 PROWAG was developed and has since been adopted by NYSDOT. The US DOJ investigates complaints and has made municipalities bring all facilities into

compliance within 3 years if a transition plan is not in place. An attendee asked if the plans just pertain to sidewalks, CW answered that most municipalities created transition plans for facilities and made upgrades in the '90s so new plans typically only include sidewalks / transportation facilities, however, there may be some cases where other facilities need to be upgraded as well and are also included in these plans.

9. Transit Research & Accessibility Center (TRAC) Project status – The project will create an app that asks riders about ADA compliance. CDTA is being used as a test case for the app that will be applicable statewide. Anyone interested in participating should reach out to CDTC and we will put you in contact with the team from Cornell.
10. News from around the table:
 - a. Denise Weaver (Care Links) – getting people with wheelchairs rides has become a big issue, many people are outside of STAR bus service area and they have no vehicles that are wheelchair accessible, there are other more expensive options that many of these people cannot afford. Lois mentioned that she has this same issue and that additional wheelchair accessible vehicles are needed.
 - b. Margo (Catholic Charities) – Offices moved to Erie Blvd in Schenectady after 30 years at previous location.
 - c. Lois Celeste (Saratoga Senior Services) – just received small United Way grant and a new van donated by Stewarts (non-wheelchair accessible). She is also seeing a lot of medical trips that require the patient be released to someone, volunteer drivers cannot be the person they are released to. Linda noted the same problem.
 - d. Todd Finkle (ARC) – just had a 2nd audit for 5310 grant vans. The audit was very thorough and they will cite you even for being slightly over the oil change mileage. They were given about 1 weeks' notice that the audit was going to be performed.
 - e. Jane Sanders (Town of Bethlehem) – Just began using their wheelchair accessible vans to move motorized wheelchairs, originally they thought that they would not be able to do this due to the weight of the chairs but it's working fine.
 - f. Donna (Sunnyview Rehab Hospital) – she can come and provide education and training on many aspects of senior transportation, including car fit, emergency services response to people in wheelchairs, and using wheelchair lifts.
 - g. Schenectady ARC just ordered their 2016 busses through the 5310 program, recently they have had very good driver retention, they are almost at full staff for the first time in 3 years.
 - h. Diane Conroy (Colonie Sr. Services) – just received 2016 busses, they have also recently received two new vans with the help of a local dealership. One was completely donated and another was purchased at a heavy discount. Diane noted that wheelchair trips are almost always single occupant rides so you are forced to use a large bus that is mostly empty to bring someone in a wheelchair to a destination. One solution to this is that in the future smaller wheelchair accessible vehicles may start being used, however there is no funding source available for those types of vehicles.
11. Next meeting – October 22, 2pm