

Regional Transportation Coordination Committee (RTCC) Meeting
Monday, July 15, 2019 at 2:00 PM at CDRPC Conference Room
Draft Meeting Notes



1. Welcome/Introductions – present were Maryellen Casey Usis, NNORC; Donna Stressel, Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital; Greg Giuliano, Captain/Community Human Services; Christine Cary, Town of Colonie Senior Resources Dept; Denise Yannaci, Saratoga County Office for the Aging; Kala Gareau, Community Caregivers; Tina Mead, Stratton VAMC; Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland; Mark Castiglione, CDRPC; Lois Celeste, Saratoga Senior Center; Marisa Geraghty, Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc.; Diane Conroy-LaCivita, Colonie Senior Service Centers; Peggy Osborne, Town of Bethlehem Senior Services; Patrick McGee, Alliance for Better Health; Bob O’Connell, Captain/Community Human Services/Carelinks; Jennifer Dunn, Saratoga Bridges; Carol Rosbozom, Rensselaer County Office for the Aging; Les Arras, Wildwood Programs; Denise Figueroa, ILC of Hudson Valley; Olivia DePace, NYS OTDA; Carrie Ward, CDTC; Rima Shamieh, CDTC

2. Review/Acceptance of April 1, 2019 meeting notes – accepted as written.

3. RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) programs in region

Denise Yannaci of the Saratoga County Office for the Aging and Diane Conroy-LaCivita of the Colonie Senior Service Centers shared information about their RSVP programs. Diane explained that the Colonie Senior Service Centers sponsors the federally-funded RSVP program for Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady Counties. The program places 55+ year old volunteers with community groups. 67 community groups work with the program. New groups can obtain volunteers if volunteers express interest in working with them.

Denise explained that the Saratoga County program targets current issues such as the opioid epidemic, and works to find volunteers that are interested in working on the issue as well as host “stations” that are addressing the problem. Their volunteers act as health counselors and teach classes for healthy living, and assist with transportation for groups such as Meals on Wheels and the Office for the Aging.

Organizations interested in becoming involved with an RSVP program should contact Denise (D Yannaci@saratoga county ny. gov) or Marisa (m geraghty@ colonie seniors. Org)

4. Coordinated Plan – finalized

Carrie Ward circulated a hardcopy of the coordinated plan. Carrie explained that Director Michael Franchini presented the plan to CDTC’s Policy Board. At that meeting the Policy Board approved the plan as final, so it will not go through a public comment period at this time. However, it is part of the New Visions 2050 update so the public will be able to comment on it when the new long range plan draft is released for comments, which should be mid-2020. When the new 5310 solicitation is posted, we’ll use the new document. It is [posted online](#). Carrie reviewed the needs, gaps, and barriers as well as the strategies and actions. Accessible TNC vehicles are now included in needs. Projects to prioritize for 5310 funding now include other shared services and mutually beneficial partnerships.

5. Tools of the Trade planning

Carrie Ward is beginning to plan for the next Tools of the Trade conference and asked the group about what topics would be of interest. Ideas included the Guardian Society transportation resources book, how a root cause of isolation is the lack of transportation, CDTA’s microtransit pilot project, workforce issues such as the challenge home health aides have in getting to clients’ homes, invite Transportation Network Companies, Uber/Lyft and GoGo Grandparent, issues that older adults face adopting new technologies, rural dilemmas in general, and NYSARC Trusts. The group discussed whether the event

should be an entire day like in 2016 or only a half day like in 2018. Carrie noted that a lot of people didn't stick around for the afternoon portion of the 2016 event. The group indicated a half-day would be good, and tentatively suggested that the Crossings in Colonie would be a good location.

6. Guardian Society Senior Transportation Guide status

The Society is working on finalizing the introduction and images. A finished draft will be posted online for agencies to review and verify accuracy. Carrie Ward will notify the RTCC when it is posted. The Society intends to print the book in the fall.

7. 5310 solicitation status

Carrie was not able to get an update on when the solicitation will be released. A question came up about the weight limits of power wheelchair lifts, whether lifts with a capacity over 800 lbs are available through the 5310 grants. Members of the group indicated that it is possible to order a lift with a higher weight limit (such as a commercial lift rather than a personal one) through the order builder, but that the additional cost may not be covered under the grant.

8. Transit Research & Accessibility Center (TRAC) Project status

The research team is offering a \$10 Navigator card as incentive for people to try out the app. Carrie can email out posters for outreach. Carrie will also ask the Cornell team for a new poster that reflects the \$10 Navigator card incentive.

9. News from around the table: Other issues for group consideration/ideas?

- a) Carrie Ward circulated the article [Aging with Options: Universal Mobility – A New Vision for Person-Centered Transportation](#) from the newsletter *Aging Today*. It discusses a coordination program in Denmark and ends with a recommendation for demand-responsive providers to pilot a common data specification that was built by the National Academies of Sciences in 2018.
- b) Carol Rosbozom and Denise Yannaci shared that the Capital Region Community Needs Assessment is launching. The four counties are working together on the CNA, and developed a uniform survey. Carol is hoping for 3-5,000 survey responses from Rensselaer County. A consultant will analyze the survey results. Carol will send the survey to Carrie Ward, who will forward it on to the RTCC.
- c) Mark Castiglione reminded the group - The Census is Coming!
- d) Donna Stressel asked for advice for the NYSDOT review for 5310 recipients. Jennifer Dunn said the review is also upcoming for Saratoga Bridges. Diane noted that she found the reviewers to be very thorough when reviewing maintenance records.
- e) Bob O'Connell from Carelinks brought up their operation of wellness vans with paid drivers, and how there is overlap in Saratoga County. Carelinks and the Saratoga Senior Center both expressed interest in meeting to improve coordination and clarify their boundaries.
- f) Diane shared that Colonie Senior Service Centers is soon expecting delivery of their recently awarded 5310 vehicles

10. Next meeting: October 7, 2pm?

The group agreed on this date and time for the next meeting.