

Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 9th, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Meeting held Virtually Via Zoom

Present:

Donna Gallagher(GMT), Peter Johnke(VCIL), Amanda Carlson (Capstone), Daniel Currier(VTrans), Jeanne Kern(CVCOA), Jordan Posner(GMT), Gavin Bodnar (CVRPC), Christian Meyer (CVRPC), Katharine Otto (VTrans), Christopher Damiani (GMT)

The meeting opened at 2:11 PM

The December 8th REDPAC Meeting Minutes were accepted as presented

Jordan Posner gave an update on GMT E&D services, stating that Central Vermont E&D ridership volumes are lagging behind other regions. This is likely due to the MyRide micro-transit program, which has picked up a good portion of the on-demand E&D ridership. This reduction in usage could lead to a reduction in funding in future years. However, this does not mean the funding goes away or that it can't return to current levels if needed. In fact, it is likely E&D ridership in Central Vermont will continue to decline if a new micro-transit service comes online in Barre. These micro-transit services are allowing GMT to stretch its E&D funding further.

Jeanne Kern noted that rides for dialysis were up and the Ticket-to-Ride program doesn't seem to have dropped off. The meal sites are still mostly closed, but if they open back up this could push greater demand. Jordan responded that in that case, Jordan is less concerned about funding and more concerned about staff capacity. When these services resume, they may look different. While the adult-day programs are still not running in Central Vermont, resources are more readily available to provide these services again.

Jordan also announced that this would be his last REDPAC meeting as Jordan will be leaving GMT. Chris Damiani will fill in in the interim.

Jeanne asked about finding volunteer drivers. Donna Gallagher noted that GMT has found two new drivers recently, but they are only driving one day a week each. GMT continues to advertise on Front Porch Forum and that the lack of volunteers does impact GMT's ability to offer rides on certain days. For example, on Friday, only medical rides are being offered due to the lack of drivers.

Gavin Bodner then reviewed the findings from the ridership survey as presented in the summary report. Katharine Otto then let the group know that the next system wide ridership survey will not take place in the next year, but will likely take place the year following. Katharine expects greater information to be shared on how the survey will support other E&D goals. Katharine added that the annual E&D summit will be held on June 3, 2022 (<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/public-transit/E-and-D>).

Amanda Carson provided a brief update on Capstone's ongoing work. They are talking with VTrans and GMT about complementary on-demand programs. The launch date is expected in state fiscal year 2023. It will cover services in Washington County, especially in the rural areas. They are targeting choice riders and plan to use EVs. Ongoing discussions are taking place as to how to choose the most appropriate vehicles.

Dan Currier noted that there continue to be Recovery Job Access Funds available. Dan hopes to get more utilization of the funding in Washington County. Dan expects a Job Access program to continue. They are also talking to recovery centers about how the funds can support rides there.

The meeting Adjourned at 2:50.

Next Meeting: June 8th, 2022, 2:00 PM