

Central Vermont REDPAC Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 14th, 2022 at 2:00 pm

In Attendance:

Peter Johnke (VCIL), Jeanne Kern (CVCOA), Amanda Carlson (Capstone), Christopher Damiani (GMT), Timothy Bradshaw (VTRANS), Nick Foss (GMT), Alana Phinney (CVCOA)

Financial update for E&D Programs

Nick reviewed the budget for the current fiscal year. This budget is built on on past years' needs. There are no current estimates on the year-to-date spending for Washington County for the E&D grant, and it will likely be a month or two before those numbers are available. Jeanne asked if the amounts were lower this year than last year. Nick noted that for this point in the year, it was pretty similar. During the mid-year adjustments funds were added last year and may be added again but that would happen later in the year.

Jeanne asked when the local agreements were expected to be distributed. Nick thought they should be available shortly.

Tim asked how the E&D local match is generally made. CVCOA has had a cash match in the past (though there has been no match in the most recent years), and VCIL has made an in kind match using volunteer drivers.

Mobility for All discussion

Tim Bradshaw spoke about the mobility for all pilot, coordinating E&D services with the broader mobility discussion. Tim noted that the Rides for Wellness program has a little money left over that could be used to provide rides for adult day.

The Recovery and Jobs Access pilot is also available to provide funding for rides, and it is not limited to individuals in recovery. Information is available on the VTRANS website (<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/public-transit/recovery-job-access>)

Additionally the Creative Workforce Solutions program, which is statewide, can be ramped up through marketing. Tim will distribute program literature.

Tim then spoke a little about the scarcity of drivers. There are some instances where, to ensure Medicaid trips can be provided, E&D trips have had to be refused. To continue

functioning as the system has functioned in the past, hundreds of volunteers are needed statewide. This is adding importance to trying other models.

Jeanne brought up that there is expected to be a meeting this fall regarding the absence of adult day services in Washington County.

Amanda gave the group an update on the Capstone Community Rides program, which is anticipated to start up in November or December. Capstone will assist with all types of rides throughout a service area centered on Washington County and several towns from Orange County. While much of the operations specifics are yet to be figured out, Community Rides hopes to have 4 vehicles on the road, 7 days a week during expanded hours from 5am-9pm. The hope is that this can serve as a statewide model. They are currently building their relationship with GMT who will provide dispatching and scheduling services. Capstone has continued to fundraise through private foundations. This pilot will focus on job access and low income riders. VTrans has committed funds and the pilot will be able to tap into other funding sources to offer other types of rides.

Update for MyRide (GMT)

Chris briefed the group on Montpelier MyRide. It is still operating with only two drivers from 8AM to 6PM. This is a reduction from the three drivers with which it previously operated. Peter noted that this reduction in service seemed to exacerbate some of the weaknesses of the on-demand system where riders need to have a good deal of flexibility. Chris added that these impacts have hit hardest on the on-demand rides; rides scheduled a day or longer in advance have been more reliable.

GMT has been recruiting for drivers. They had a table at the Champlain Valley Fair for all ten days and are seeing some interest as a result.

The meeting adjourned at 2:03