

SMAC Meeting Minutes for May 18, 2020 (Via Zoom)

In Attendance: Mary Bruns (chair), Jim Donnelly, Lisa Hammon, Ken Gray, David Pitman, Mike Awadalla, Anthony Macias, Meredith Gerhardt, Lorna Van Ackeren, Rashida Kamara, Shirley Krohn, Joanna Pallock, John Cunningham, Kristin Visbal, Ralph Dennis.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mary Bruns at 1:32 pm.

Agenda and Minutes from February 24, 2020: Moved by Jim, seconded by Ken, and approved.

Introductions: Introductions were made by all attendees on the call.

Program Updates in a COVID-19 Environment:

Shirley pointed out that we have a new "agenda all together." Nothing is the same as what was described in the February SMAC minutes. BART and transit use is way down; driving will go up.

Lamorinda Spirit Van (Mary): The Lamorinda Spirit Van is currently not providing rides. Started doing pick-up and delivery for Lamorinda Village and Lamorinda Spirit passengers. They got connected to other groups, agencies, and events for deliveries. Delivering Friday lunches from Genuine Goodness and Wednesday lunches from the C.C. Cafe. The deliveries can count as "rides" under the 5310 program.

County Connection (Rashida): County Connection has had an 80% drop in ridership. The week after shelter in place, CC had calls from the health department and transported some COVID-19 patients. This was problematic because there were others on the bus. Then CC went to 7 or 8 people on the bus at one time; then 5 at a time; then 2; and then 1 person transported at a time. With one person on the bus it eliminated the possibility of COVID transmission. The County asked if CC could do transportation for COVID positive or possible COVID patients. At first CC said "no," but then only if medical professionals provided training. CC was contacted by Meals on Wheels because many of their drivers were not able to drive. Transdev (County Connection's service provider) was going to do layoffs, but drivers registered for Meals on Wheels and Bay Church meal deliveries. CC is now doing deliveries for four meal programs. COVID transportation is segregated with PPE, clothing covers, gloves, and modified vans. The number of COVID rides is decreasing; but meal deliveries are increasing. CC now has 600 Meals on Wheels clients, and another 500 for groceries, etc. Transdev is operating at 78% capacity and has asked for contract modifications because of the FTA funds. Rashida said that flexibility was key and that the collaboration with Contra Costa County has been great. One driver has tested positive, plus 6 to 8 drivers were exposed. CC is collecting data. They have enough drivers for social distancing and 3 people per vehicle. Paratransit riders have been given 90-day extensions and new riders have

90 days without a lot of paperwork. Productivity has completely changed and Rashida said that she is very proud of CC's service and drivers!

Contra Costa County Planning Department (John C.): John said that he helped with transportation as a liaison with County Connection, Tri Delta Transit, and County Health Services. He said the professionalism has been amazing "due to the commitment to find solutions." However, dealing with Alameda County, not so much.

County EOC (Meredith): Meredith said that another health guidance was issued today that allowed very slow and cautious openings with two weeks in between each subsequent re-opening guidance.

The Lafayette Community Child Care Center is opening in consistent groups of 12 students plus 2 teachers. Child Care openings have been discussed with health services, EHSD, and CoCo Kids.

Testing is now available throughout the County whether someone is symptomatic or asymptomatic. This requires an appointment through cchealth.org.

Shirley Krohn did not have much to report except she is wondering about MTC and funding for special projects and how that will affect transportation going forward. She said there is no extra sales tax funding.

We cannot stand close to each other on public transit. What to do with empty seats on BART? Will this attract the homeless to ride on BART during operating hours?

Overcoming Transportation Barriers at CC Behavioral Health (Kristin): Kristin mentioned that they are still having meetings over Zoom and the transportation meeting is later this month. If anyone would like to get updates or meeting announcements, please email Kristin at kvisbal@cchealth.org. Kristin said that their office is still operating; part-time from the office and part-time from home. Clients are middle to low income, and many of the clients' requests can be handled by phone.

Golden Rain Foundation/Rossmoor (Ralph): Ralph said that they used to do about 7,000 rides/month but that has decreased by 90%. They have two drivers and they have not been laid off. They are using an on-call system and provide about 2 rides every 30 minutes to places such as the Safeway shopping Center, Trader Joe's, Kaiser, John Muir, and the Safeway on Broadway. They are currently not serving BART. They are steam cleaning the vehicles, and the drivers wipe down the bus after every two passengers. In March, they did 2,700 rides (for half of the month), 320 rides in April, and 35 rides/day in May, no weekend rides. They are operating from 9:30 to 5, Monday through Friday, only. Ralph said they have not had any complaints. They are taking residents to pick up food also. They have a local grocery company and another vendor coming in to Rossmoor for residents to pick

up pre-orders. The Rossmoor Diner is providing curbside pick-up also. There have been no known residents or staff with the virus.

Hillendale Home Care (Lorna): Hillendale is not a transportation agency so her update will be brief. Home care is following the CDC guidelines. Caregivers are wearing masks and their temperatures are taken. They are also encouraging clients to have their temps taken.

Choice in Aging (Lisa): Lisa said that adult day health care participants are sheltered in place in their homes and not coming to the center. Meals are being delivered as some participants are at risk for not having enough food. Staff are still providing nursing assessments, P/T, social worker calls, etc. via phone or Zoom. Staff are also doing birthday celebrations, visits, and music at the participants' home using social distancing. Lisa said that this being the most vulnerable population for contracting the virus means that it will likely be one of the last groups to open up and we don't know what it will look like with social distancing, precautions, etc. Choice in Aging's bus driver resigned about ten days ago so the bus is not being used for deliveries; staff have been delivering meals, etc.

Tri Delta Transit (Ken): Ken said that Tri Delta's routes have been modified and the service stops at 9 pm. Ridership is down about 90% on fixed routes and somewhere in the 80's for dial-a-ride. Tri Delta received a grant for natural gas buses, upgrading bus shelters, and a park-and-ride lot in Oakley. Jeanne Krieg is on several state and national transportation boards and may be a good speaker for the June meeting. Ken will check with Jeanne.

Care Patrol (Mike): Mike said that all placements are on hold. Seniors are not moving now, due to fears of the virus, etc. Assisted living facilities also do not want to bring new residents in now. Their business is basically not working. They are delivering PPEs to social workers to stay connected.

Mobility Matters (Jim): Jim said that Mobility Matters' regular programs are shut down. They are shopping and delivering groceries using the Mobility Matters credit card for current clients. Mobility Matters may be at risk for not being reimbursed, but using the credit card eliminates other issues with how to pay for the groceries.

Monument Community Shuttle (Dave): Dave said that as far as he knows, the Monument Community Shuttle is still operating at full schedule.

Group Discussion Mary asked what do we do now? Ken said that there are a lot of people working at home, we have 25% unemployment, and people are scared to use transit. How will we pay for all of this and how will it affect seniors and the general population, given BART ridership is down 90% and not running on off hours.

Jim said it will be a long, slow climb back. The number of companies going out of business is horrendous.

Mary mentioned that the Lamorinda Spirit Van is delivering meals to participants who are participating in an on-line virtual meal with concert event.

Jim said that prices will go up.

SMAC Newsletter:

Mary asked that everyone write an article on transportation re: COVID-19, your job, organization, what we have learned, or something uplifting or inspirational. June 15th is the deadline.

2020 Event:

Jim said that the event is postponed to at least March 2021, but June is more likely.

Other Discussions:

Jim said that there will be an ACOA May Zoom meeting and new ACOA by-laws will be up for approval.

Lorna said that SNFs and hospitals are closed or at low capacity and that Hillendale has a huge need for caregivers!

Ken asked if we should invite others to the SMAC meeting. Could we use the County TV station and/or Next Door to get the word out?

Mike thought that we should do an email about SMAC and share it with professionals who are working with seniors.

The group then discussed having a 1 hour to 1.5 hour "town hall" style virtual meeting where subjects such as how the coronavirus is affecting transportation and how we are getting around obstacles could be discussed. The group thought this was a good idea and it will be the topic of discussion at the June meeting.

Next meeting:

Monday, June 22, 2020 at 10 am via Zoom. Mary will send out the Zoom details.