

**Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging
Senior Mobility Action Council (SMAC) Transportation Workgroup Minutes
Thursday, September 27, 2021**

Call to Order: Mary Bruns called the meeting to order at 9:50 am and apologized for the Zoom technical difficulties that delayed the start of the meeting.

Present: Mary Bruns, Jim Donnelly, Lorna Van Ackeren, Mike Awadalla (Care Patrol), Elaine Welch (Mobility Matters), Rashida Kamara (County Connection), Joanna Pallock (West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee WCCTAC)

Guests: Dale Harrington, Rossmoor/ Walnut Creek

Staff: Ana Bagtas, Area Agency on Aging Program Manager; Melanie Smith

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

- Approve Today's Agenda – Joanna Pallock motioned to approve the agenda with removal of in-person meeting on 10/25/2021 in Pleasant Hill, Mike Awadalla motioned second; the agenda is approved as amended by members.
- Approve August minutes – Lorna Van Ackeren motioned to accept minutes as written, Joanna Pallock motioned second; the minutes unanimously approved by members.

Presentation: West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee WCCTAC – Joanna Pallock

- Joanna focus is on Senior and Disabled Transportation and the Travel Training Program.
- Discussion of fare rates, multiple ride stops for the same rate, riders making cash payment versus Lyft requiring technology to pay, and the possibility of a standardized contract for the various entities.
- Please see attached PowerPoint presentation.

Presentation and Preparation of Annual Report (including Accomplishments and Goals)

- Mary shared her first draft and went over each section for discussion.
- The only addition was the rewording of one of the points in the section on 2022 Goals to include the phrase "Participate in Master Plan for Aging Local Implementation ensuring senior Transportation issues are addressed."
- Mary conducted a verbal straw poll to accept the SMAC Annual Plan with the one minor rewording. All present on the Zoom agreed.

Election of Workgroup Chair for 2022

- Workgroup members Mary thanked for her many years of efforts chairing. Members requested that she continue as SMAC Chair for another year.
- Rashida is interested but does not have the time to make the commitment to Co-Chair for at least the next year.
- Mary agreed to Chair SMAC for one more year and there will be outreach for a co-chair.

COVID Updates

- Mobility Matters is trying to coordinate transportation for COVID19 booster shots as they become available with the flu shots vaccine at the same appointment.

Program Updates and Announcements

- Mobility Matters reports they have tapered off their shopping/grocery assistance program with a few exceptions.
- Mobility Matters have also begun piloting taking senior couples on the same transportation rides to multiple stops.
- October 13th 9:30 to 11:30 by Zoom is the VITAL (Volunteer in Transportation Advocacy Link) meeting, which are representatives for the nine Bay Area Counties.
- Way to Go Contra Costa will be publishing their next transportation resource/s book prior to the end of the year and updating their website.

Advisory Council on Aging Updates

- Per Jim, the ACOA plans for all workgroups to be meeting via Zoom for the rest of 2021.

October Agenda Planning

- October meeting agenda Items – finalize 2021 accomplishments and goals for 2022.
- Presenters – Kathryn Monroy of the Concord Senior Center and Alexander Zandian of Contra Costa County Public Works.
- Reminder: November and December, SMAC is recessed.

Public comment

- Rashida would like a future topic on how transportation services pivoted and collaborated during the pandemic, beyond just basic rides. This would be a chance to change the narrative of public transportation and build future partnerships. Rashida volunteered to present on this topic in January, highlighting what and how the various providers accomplished, which will help move transportation coordination forward in the county.
- Jim announced the Department of Public works is conducting a survey as part of their project on transportation and is seeking the SMAC members input. This plan focuses on closing gaps in our existing infrastructure and increasing connectivity and accessibility. A major component of the plan is to get feedback from the community and help generate a project list to meet the community's needs.

The meeting adjourned at 11:27am