



Transportation Subcommittee
 Meeting Minutes
 February 23, 2021
 8:30am – 10:00am

Facilitator:	Sue Sefton, Dave Bulkowski		
Meeting Attendees:	Aaron Estrada, Becca Falb, Bill Kirk, Brianne Robach, Claudia Pohlen, Darlene Bentz, Dave Bulkowski, Debbi Coleman, Debbie Jones, Emily Madsen, Joan Konyndyk, Joan Melisa Nakakande, Karla Black, Ken Miguel-Cipriano, Kendrick Heinlein, Miguel Velasco, Monica Light, Pat Draper, Rachel Kunnath, Sara Simmonds, Sue Sefton, Tamia McGlothin, Taylor Hartson, Taylor VanderLaan, Wafa Haddad, Walt Marston, Wende Randall, Yebin Joo, Zach Reitsma, Yejin, Katie, Joan Melisa Nakakande <i>(List may not be complete- please contact Brianne if you were on the call but are not listed here.)</i>		
Time Convened:	8:33	Time Adjourned:	9:55

Introductions	
Transportation and COVID-19 Vaccinations	
Discussion	
<p>Kent County Health Department has been working to ensure access to vaccine sites barrier-free. A group of transportation providers met a few weeks ago to discuss methods for removing transportation barriers. Pat and Wende compiled information from providers to develop request for \$200,000 to bring to Board of Commissioners as well as a request for temporary staff person for coordination. They anticipate the request will be decided upon next week. If funding is allocated, they hope is to be able to provide free transportation to and from vaccine sites for any who need it by mid-March. KCHD also working with The Rapid for providing transport to the large vaccination site at DeVos Place.</p> <p>KCHD is leading a workgroup for anyone willing to participate to continue moving the effort forward by identifying current infrastructure, identifying gaps, and exploring/creating a coordinated system between providers and vaccine sites. Connect with Pat (patricia.draper@kentcountymi.gov or 616-856-1800) if interested or if you have recommendations those who may be interested.</p> <p>Conversation around information that would helpful for the group. Vaccine sites are still being identified and low vaccine supply is limiting how far in advance they can schedule appointments. It would be helpful to develop taking points encouraging folks to register with transportation providers now so there is not a lag when it is their turn to receive a vaccine. KCHD will connect with their communications teams and Community Connectors. For RideLink, Kent County residents 60 and older can register even if they don't use the service immediately; register online or via mail: https://www.ridetherapid.org/additional-services/ridelink/ridelink-registration. For Volunteers in Service, folks could be referred by an agency in advance so they are set once an appointment becomes available. Kent County Community Transit registration is online or over the phone and is a short turn-around.</p> <p>With the appointment request form, folks can indicate different needs, KCHD can add a question around transportation if it is not already included. This could allow a coordinator to connect the appropriate transportation resource to those in need. In addition, there may be an opportunity for</p>	





Transportation Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2021
8:30am – 10:00am

ride schedulers and clinic schedulers work together to streamline appointments those who have transportation assistance available.

Kent County DHHS can assist with transportation if they can bill to eligible Medicaid programs. They are still working out Wave card process for those who do not specific Medicaid coverage. In addition, their staff can help spread the word as information is available.

Agencies can begin to compile and distribute information now, please send any information around availability to Brianne who will share with the ENTFF network.

Citizen's Agenda

Discussion

The Rapid: They will stop accepting paper 10-ride tickets as of March 1st. If you have existing stock of 10 ride tickets, you can exchange unused tickets for Wave card(s). Other paper tickets (including 7 days and 31 days) will still be accepted on the bus. There has been discussions around phasing out all paper tickets, but this would not be until the end of 2021 at the soonest. Proposed changes to Wave card beginning June:

- changes to fare capping to remove the rolling fare capping period. They have heard that found that the rolling calendar can be hard to keep track of so will be moving fare capping to the calendar month
- consolidating programs and moving to a standard non-profit rate of \$1.25/ride.
- Proposed removal of the ability to carry a negative balance on Wave cards. Drivers can use discretion with allowing folks to ride with low balance .
- Proposed mailing service charge of \$2.50.

Virtual meetings on the above proposed changes via Facebook and Zoom today at noon and tomorrow at 9. Also can submit comments to (comment@ridetherapid.org) or via mail through the end of the week.

The Rapid has a new CEO starting on March 8th.

Please reach out to Bill if you have any questions or issues: bkirk@ridetherapid.org

RideLink: last month the group discussed where rides are coming from, Kendrick shared a map with ride locations. Most rides come from the 6 cities, but they have a decent amount of rides throughout the county including Lowell, Sparta, Cedar Springs, Caledonia. 81% of rides are medical rides. The remaining are grocery visits, religious activities, and visiting friends/family. Ridership data could help show current ridership patterns to inform clinic locations. Joan can provide data from KCCT as well.

They are planning to go live with EcoLane in March or April. This software program will streamline scheduling using ridesharing technology without asking users to download an app.

Wheels to Work: ridership down, but more companies are hopefully coming online in March and April

Kent County Community Transit: ridership low, but slowly increasing

Moving Forward: County-Wide Mobility

Discussion





Transportation Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2021
8:30am – 10:00am

Are hoping to meet with the County administrators to discuss a county-wide mobility millage. Wende recently met with Sarah King at GVSU who had a class doing project work around transportation and social innovation. They will be sending executive summaries in the next few months that can be used to develop a packet to demonstrate how the transportation need continues.

The planning group will meet again soon, connect with Brianne if you are interested in joining in the conversation.

Transportation Subcommittee Leadership

Discussion

Dave and Sue have been in the leadership roles for a while and are both ready to step down from the roles. Leadership member responsibilities include:

- Setting the agenda and guiding the conversation at monthly meetings.
- Attending ENTf Leadership meetings to provide input and guide the implementation of ENTf's strategic priorities.
- Occasional emails to set priorities for the subcommittee and discuss meeting agendas.

If you have questions about role, don't hesitate to reach out to Dave, Sue, Wende, or Brianne

Elections process:

You can submit nominations through this Google form: <https://forms.gle/HroVKHd5oFVRvpE59>. Nominations should be submitted by 5:00pm on March 19th. Subcommittee members can nominate themselves or another member. Please be sure to get someone's permission before nominating them. At next month's meeting, the slate of nominees will be share and the floor will be open for nominations. During the March meeting, there will be an online vote (1 vote per organization) and results will be shared at the end of the meeting.

Community Partner Updates

Discussion

Disability Advocates - Laura St. Louis is no longer with Disability Advocates. They will be hiring a community organizer and volunteer coordinator soon. The position description will be shared once it is posted.

Mobile GR – in coming months they anticipate having a public comment period around the electronic scooter pilot.

