



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



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REFERENCE:

- Council
- Mental Health
- Youth
- Disabled
- Substance Use Disorder
- Transportation

Approved March 8, 2023

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 1:30 p.m.
Human Services Conference Room
and via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

J. Ricketts J. Hager
T. Shepherd M. Westlake

EX-OFFICIO

L. Tulley
L. End
V. Singletary
M. Chasky
B. Miguel

STAFF

K. Tustison
L. Nauman
M. O'Reilly

GUESTS

K. Fullerton

I. CONVENE: OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:

“This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting has been provided in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News. A public notice announcing this meeting has also been placed in the lobbies of the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, the first floor of the Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street Building #1, Flemington, NJ; the first floor of the Route 12 County Complex, building #3, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ and County Clerk’s Office.”

J. Hager read the Open Public Meeting Statement and Opened the Transportation Advisory Committee at 1:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

II. MINUTES: T. Shepherd made a motion and J. Hager seconded to approve the minutes of November 9, 2022. S. Lax abstained. The minutes for the November 9, 2022, meeting passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence.

III. BY-LAW REVISIONS: M. O'Reilly advised changes have been highlighted. Changing Freeholders to Commissioners was many of the changes. In Section 3.8, we added information that matches our policy regarding discrimination. We will send the By-Laws to the membership

for their review and will request a vote to approve at the next meeting. The By-Laws will then be sent to the Commissioners for final approval and adoption.

IV. REPORTS:

- A. Transportation:** M. O'Reilly stated receiving one approval for funding. She is not aware of any pending applications with NJ Transit.

M. O'Reilly reported meeting with Transpo in December for their report. There was a request to add additional mapping information into the report. Once the report is complete it will be shared with the Committee.

- B. Systems Operations – Easton Coach:** L. End reported a continuing driver shortage, lack of dispatchers and scheduling issues. One (1) driver was disqualified for credentials. L. End reported the loss of two (2) dispatchers since November, one (1) retired and one (1) resigned. L. End stated Easton Coach is down to two (2) dispatchers, one of which is a newly hired dispatcher. Two (2) drivers are currently resigning. L. End stated the Safety supervisor and himself are filling driver positions at this time.

L. End reported hiring one driver and having another driver pass the CDL exam. L. End conveyed the need for CDL and Non-CDL applicants. Non-CDL applicants will be trained to obtain their CDL. L. End advised having assistance from parent companies during the holidays for transportations assisted with the current shortages.

L. End reported the scheduling system is being overtaxed and the fleet of aging vehicles is causing several issues. L. End advised a total of three (3) buses are to be delivered, two (2) are expected by the end of January to the beginning of February. The one non-accessible vehicle, which is getting retrofitted with a lift and removal of seats was expected to be completed in March, but due to delays in manufacturing the completion is now expected in April.

M. Chasky reported Easton Coach Co. is partnering with NJ Advance Media to update the hiring process. M. Chasky advised backfilling from motorcoach for drivers is the short-term solution until getting applicants through the hiring process.

M. Chasky reported having an increased number of applicants but problems with qualifications, hourly wage and competition with other companies counteracts efforts to attract applicants.

M. Chasky advised of their advantage to attract non CDL holder applicants by offering CDL training without a contingency agreement. After obtaining your CDL you are not required to work for a set period of time. Other companies require (1) to (2) years of employment and advise that you are required to be employed for the required time or pay a severance to leave.

L. Tulley asked if there have been issues with younger applicants because of the required drug testing policy? M. Chasky advised seeing younger applicants present medical marijuana cards on applying. M. Chasky advised that is an automatic disqualification. M. Chasky conveyed if the applicant is unable to pass the initial and random drug screening policy the applicant is disqualified from employment. L. End advised that Easton Coach follows the FTA, Federal Transit Administration guidelines in relation to drug testing.

M. Chasky reported that the Camera system in all fleet vehicles will now have audible driver alerts to assist with driver distraction issues.

- C. **Fiscal:** K. Tustison reported he is still processing the 2022 fourth (4th) quarter fiscal numbers. K. Tustison advised no collection of ride fares is required at this time. K. Tustison also advised of a steady upward trend in ridership.

L. End asked if fares will be implemented again? L. End reported repeat riders taking trips daily. L. End requested if a change could be made to have those riders go out once a week instead of each day. L. End advised that would assist with the current driver shortage.

K. Tustison advised he is not aware of any changes to the fare requirement. If any information is received in regard to requiring fares be re-implemented, he will advise the committee.

M. O'Reilly reported that part of the Transpo study was to look at the fare structure. M. O'Reilly advised the structure is complex and difficult to understand. M. O'Reilly advised fares will not be returning for the short term. M. O'Reilly advised the need to discuss fare implementation with County Administration and County Commissioners.

- D. **NJT Report:** L. Tulley reported 2023 SCDRTAP applications have been reviewed and agreements are being sent out. L. Tulley advised section 5311 of the 2022 allocation agreement has been executed. L. Tulley advised should be receiving the reimbursement forms for billing 5311.

L. Tulley reported Cares funding is completed. L. Tulley reported a \$30,000 balance in funding. L. Tulley advised Jackie had sent in reimbursements and advised the possibility that funding is used already. She advised staff from NJT will be sending closeouts for Cares Funding.

L. Tulley reported having the Section 5310 enhanced mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities 2019 Mobility Management agreement. Once the agreement is reviewed by NJT, it will be executed.

L. Tulley advised Vanessa Singletary will be the new Central Regional Program Administrator.

L. Tulley reported a (3) three-hour defensive driving virtual training will be taking place on February 2, 2023, taught by Michael Knoll.

B. Miguel reported receiving reimbursements for July 2022 through November 2022 and are currently being processed and sent to finance.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None at this time.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:** None at this time.

VII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** T. Shepherd reported having the 2023 Transportation and Mobility Guides out from printing. T. Shepherd advised they are being distributed around the county. T. Shepherd advised if additional copies are needed utilize the goHunterdon website. T.

Shepherd advised the guides are located at libraries, community centers, doctors' offices, and employee sites.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 pm. A motion was made by T. Shepherd and second by M. Westlake. All were in favor. The next regular meeting will be held on March 8, 2023, at 1:30 pm. Members are requested to call the Department of Human Services if they are unable to attend.