RTCC Phase 2 Meeting 3
September 29th, 2021
1:00pm

Attendees:
Robert Dye            CCM Health
Bill Pauling          Chippewa County
Tim Kolhezi          Chippewa County Veterans Service Office
Robert Wofington      City of Montevideo
Donna Hemanson        Lac qui Parle County Family Services
Kirsten Gloege        Lac qui Parle County Family Services
Tom Gottfried         MnDOT
Michelle Lichtig      MnDOT
Betty Christensen     MNAAA
Paul Coyour           Prairie Five
Gail Jerve            Prairie Five
Ted Nelson            Prairie Five
Kristi Fernholz       UMVRDC
Gary Johnson          Yellow Medicine County
Rae Ann Keeler Aus    Yellow Medicine County Family

1. Phase 2 Overview
   a. Prairie Five enrolled with RSVP. We have been working jointly with RSVP to advertise for volunteer drivers. There are currently six volunteers enrolled. Prairie Five Rides has seven active volunteer drivers and added one new driver during the month of September.
   b. This year the RTCC has focused on volunteer driver recruitment. Recruiting efforts include table tents at local restaurants, grocery bag flyers (Benson & Canby), offered a coffee outing for current volunteer drivers to engage their friends, newspaper ads, local access channels, and article in Montevideo American regarding RSVP/Prairie Five partnership. The RTCC also jointly applied for a Live Well at Home grant with both the Prairie Five Age Wisely program and ITN America in an effort to get tablets equipped with dispatching software out to volunteer drivers. This software would allow volunteers to accept or deny rides from the tablet and potentially enable evening and weekend rides to be scheduled. At this time, the LWAH grant has not yet been awarded. The RTCC will continue to look for funding opportunities for this project. Additionally, as discussed at previous RTCC meetings, we are looking for ways to reward volunteer drivers for miles driven. Although gift cards would not be an option, coupon books for local businesses were looked into. We were not able to find any of these
available, however, if any members become aware of availability of these or something similar, please bring it to the attention of Emily.
   i. Montevideo Community Center is looking for programming and it may be a good opportunity to promote volunteerism.
   ii. Prairie Five as an agency is looking at creating a volunteer brochure to help with recruitment. Although the brochure would summarize all volunteer opportunities available within the agency, it will also help with preventing volunteer burnout and with recruitment by engaging volunteers in various opportunities.

   c. Throughout Phase 2, we have improved communication between transit providers to understand service available and take steps toward coordination. At the end of August, the RTCC met with County VSOs from Big Stone, Chippewa, Swift, and Yellow Medicine counties. With their support, the RTCC has applied for a Support Our Troops grant through Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs for a van that will provide transportation for veterans for all purposes. The data collected will also help to further develop service that meets veteran transportation needs.

   d. During the month of August, the RTCC worked towards further educating the public on transportation services available in the community. Transportation User Guides that went out to 25 different services in the region. The Prairie Five RTCC webpage was updated with a Transportation Provider Directory that was created to help passengers and requesting entities navigate transportation. An event was also organized jointly between the RTCC and Prairie Five RIDES to educate and train seniors at Parkview Towers and Brookside Manor on using transportation.
   i. Going into Phase 3, we would like to further educate the public on transportation by creating an informational video. RTCC staff has reached out to PBS and UMRDRC for input.

2. Phase 3 Grant Application Focus Areas

   a. A handout was provided with a breakdown of the Phase 3 focus areas which will be included in the grant application. There were some questions regarding “State Level Coordination Emphasis Areas” and MCOTA. MCOTA is the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access and was created to address transportation concerns in Minnesota and promote legislative change. This council is made up of members representing 13 different state agencies. The State Level Coordination Emphasis Areas refers to the MCOTA work teams on which the RTCC Coordinator will participate.

   b. All those present agreed on the continuation of the RTCC going into Phase 3 as it is seen as an important opportunity to implement the ideas that have been discussed during the first two phases and maintain the connections between stakeholders.

   c. Phase 3 and forward will require local match. Prairie Five will be providing the local match for Phase 3, but this will not be an option for Phase 4. If the RTCC is to pursue Phase 4 in 2023, we will be looking for local match from any services that see a benefit to include counties, health services, etc.

   d. Prairie Five RIDES is working on coordinating more with neighboring transit providers. This has become especially necessary with the closing of the Montevideo dialysis unit.

3. Local Human Service Public Transit Coordination Plan
a. Kristi Fernholz summarized participation in LHSPTCP.
b. RTCC staff will be participating in the plan and ensuring that duplicate work is not being performed.
c. Looking for participation on the steering committee which will require attendance at 4 meetings
d. A survey was provided by MnDOT and will be translated into Chuukese and Spanish to receive local input on transportation. Survey recipients will include human service clients and transit passengers.

Meeting was closed at approximately 2:30pm.