

**TRANSPORTATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 09, 2020 - 1:30 PM**  
**STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
*Smyrna Rest Area, Smyrna*

**PRESENT:**

Gene Aucott, Easter Seals; Terri Hancharick, EPIC; Jocelyn Langrehr, DOL/DVR; Cindy Mercer, DSAAPD; Daniese McMullin-Powell, Advocate; Lloyd Schmitz, Council on the Blind; Belinda Strickland, DART; Jennifer Tozer, DDDS; Erin Weaver, DVI; Todd Webb, Chair of SCPD Margaret Webb, Paratransit Director (via phone); John McNeal, Staff (via phone); Amber Rivard, Support Staff.

**GUEST:**

William Powell

**CALL TO ORDER**

Todd called the meeting to order at 1:47 pm. Introductions were made.

**ADDITION OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**BUSINESS**

**Nomination of Chair and Co-Chair**

Discussion was made that Terri and Daniese will be Co-Chairs of the Transportation Committee. Jocelyn volunteered to be a supporting Co-Chair.

**Goals and Objectives**

Terri spoke about possible goals and objectives that the Transportation Committee could put in place. Daniese commented that we should discuss what the top priorities of the Committee should be. Todd suggested that one of the goals should be to ensure that all modes of transportation are accessible, reliable and affordable. John commented that Todd's suggestion could be the mission statement of the Committee. Jennifer Tozer added that this Committee should research what innovative ideas from neighboring states that can be used to improve all modes of transportation in Delaware.

Belinda suggested that the Committee should contact Marcella Renard about possible grant opportunities that DTC or DART already have that could be updated or need to be repurposed and how it can be utilized. Todd added that Marcia Scott from University of Delaware could be invited to discuss transportation. Also, invited Zach Davis from University of Delaware regarding assisting in researching on what other states are doing to improve all their modes of transportation (innovative ideas) and funding ideas. Daniese suggested involving people that use the transportation system to attend and discuss how to improve the transportation issues our State faces. Lloyd commented that the transportation system is different for each county and that makes it difficult. Todd suggested that they also invite someone from Statewide Planning that could also assist in research of grants and their infrastructures. Todd suggested David Edgell from Statewide Planning representing Kent County. A suggestion was made that the next meeting should focus on grant and research of all grants that would fund improvements for all modes of transportation in all three counties as the first priority. John added that if anyone needs any information

before the next Transportation Committee meeting to contact him so that he can get the information out in a timely manner. DTC had a grant that was utilized for building up infrastructures, improvements needed at the bus stops in Delaware and curb cutouts. Also, the Delaware League of Local Governments (DLLG) assists all municipalities throughout Delaware and all three counties. Carl Luft is the Executive Director of DLLG and is knowledgeable about different programs for transportation in Delaware. Todd asked if we should invite him to the next meeting. John stated that it would be great for the next meeting to discuss the transportation topics from a broader viewpoint and get their opinions on the needs of the grant. Gene suggested that another priority/objective would be to identify the problem with transportation in Delaware. Cindy Mercer will send a copy of funding opportunities to Committee members. Lloyd suggested that John distribute a copy of the 5310 program for review prior to the next Transportation Committee meeting. Belinda stated that she will reach out to Marcella to obtain a copy of that program. A suggestion was made to invite Metropolitan Planning Organizer (MPO) from each county in Delaware to discuss about transportation issues.

John commented that the Committee would looking at transportation for older adults and people with disabilities. The Committee role would be to provide recommendations to DTC about what activities the grant should fund if the grant is awarded to work with DTC in implementing recommendations for transportation. John suggested that they invite people in the aging community to attend a meeting as well. Lloyd suggested that they look at travel training programs throughout the State. Daniese commented that it's not just training the individuals, but also training bus drivers in how to treat people with disabilities that are riding the bus to get from point A to point B. Todd added that this Committee should be involved in anything involving transportation for people with disabilities. Terri asked Gene if he could lead us in the next meeting with organizing our goals and priorities. Gene stated that there could be three issue topics of transportation. Then have stick-it notes to draw out our ideas with how to achieve our first priority of having a funded grant for transportation. Amber will send out a doodle poll for available meeting dates in April for the next Transportation Committee meeting.

### **Membership**

DVR and DDDS discussed about making an Executive Committee for Transportation. John commented that the intent of the first Transportation Committee meeting was how the Committee wants to set everything up. He added that no other committee has an Executive Committee. There was discussion regarding who should be at the table. Terri stated that Davon Rollins is missing from the discussion. Amber will email him with the minutes from this meeting and include him in emails.

### **Issues Concerning Transportation and Initial Actions to Address**

Terri asked if anyone had any specific topics of concern involving transportation. Major concerns involving transportation throughout the State discussed were:

- Paratransit parking
- Ride Share (Uber and Lift) – Lloyd asked if the Delaware Ride Share falls underneath this category. Todd clarified that there is a Ride Share program that DTC is initiating, but there is nothing under the Ride Share rules that it has to be an accessible vehicle. A committee member suggested that they should look into having an app ready for Ride Share in Delaware.
- Accessible Taxis
- Difficulty in getting transportation in western Sussex County
- Taxi fixed route to arrive from Point A to Point B.

John suggested that they breakdown this topic into different modes of transportation that are of concern to people with disabilities in Delaware. Todd clarified that this would be a way to develop infrastructure. Concerns were listed as:

- A. Public Transportation Issues
  - i. Fixed Route for Ride Share and Public Transportation (training and travel training to drivers and Paratransit drivers).
  - ii. Paratransit – Sidewalks more accessible at the bus stops.
  - iii. Rail lifts at train stations for people with physical limitations.
  - iv. More transportation in western Sussex County.
- B. Accessible Vehicle Charging Stations
- C. Accessible Parking and Infrastructure – Todd added that the Committee should see who are utilizing the accessible parking places throughout the State. This is due to accessible parking being at a premium.
- D. Independent Transportation
  - i. Vehicle Modifications- easier access for people with disabilities. There was a bill that Harris McDowell tried to pass a few years prior to help families in obtaining modified vehicles for the family member with disabilities which was supported by Beth Mineo. Harris McDowell had assigned it to the University of Delaware to develop a study. John will contact Beth Mineo for updated information on this bill. Lloyd commented that they were not only looking at accessible vehicles for people with mobility limitations, but also providing people with disabilities a vehicle for employment opportunities in having transportation.
- E. Accessible Parking Placards – Pictures were sent to Todd that showed modified accessible placards, where the date of expiration. He added that the Committee could look into if there is any enforcement of these parking placards by DMV sending out a letter turn it in to DMV when expiration has been reached. John suggested that they also look at vehicles violating the accessible parking spaces when they do not have a placard on the license plate or hanging from the mirror. Lloyd suggested a color code system to switch every few years for accessible placards and law enforcement would know which ones are expired or up to date.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

John made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terri seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Rivard  
Administrative Specialist II

Transportation/minmar20