



**Partners' and Stakeholders' Meeting
May 11, 2016 Minutes**

Stakeholders Present

Patricia Albarado
Rina Bale
Mike Bates
Bert Beall
Michael Black
Soeli Erazo
Cindy Fletcher
Eric Garcia
Alfredo Gonzales
Stephanie Lewis
Consuelo Lujan
Audriana Prieto
Jeannie Reeves
Melanie Saiz
Jody Sneed
Nanette Stephens
Regina Swafford
Sunshine Thompson
Stephanie Trotman
Rose Valderaz
Britni Veretto
Sohnna Williams

Organization Representing

Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities
Permian Basin MPO
Advocate for individuals with disabilities/ABLE Center Board Member
All Aboard America!
Permian Basin Community Centers MHMR
Texas 2-1-1
First Care
TxDOT – Lubbock District
TxDOT – Odessa District
Silver Star Senior Transportation
Amerigroup
ABLE Center
Area Agency on Aging
MARC, Inc.
Senior Link Midland
MOUTD/EZ-Rider
Aging and Disability Resource Center
Ector County Veterans' Services
Permian Basin Rehab Center
Ector County ISD – Teen Parent Program
ABLE Center
Aging and Disability Resource Center

AGENDA ITEM

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting of the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Planning committee was called to order at 11:42 a.m. by Rina Bale.

2. Public Comment & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Mike Bates expressed his concern regarding the ride-sharing company, UBER. UBER has recently stopped servicing the Austin area and may be pulled out of Houston soon. Many members of the American Council for the Blind rely on UBER. Both Midland and Odessa are very close to approving UBER operations within the cities and it may become state regulated in the near future.

3. Review/Approve April 13, 2016 Minutes

A motion was made by Sunshine Thompson and seconded by Mike Bates to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2016 RCTP meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Comprehensive Needs Assessment – Open Discussion

The committee participated in a brainstorming activity to identify specific transportation needs of their clients. The following is a list of things that were expressed by committee members:

Clients need a better knowledge of what is available

PSAs, Cost, Routes, Brochures, Transportation Options

Perhaps sell tickets at more locations (i.e. stops or on the bus)

More awareness and passenger training

Better acceptance of using public transportation

Train clients to think of it first

Long process to change behaviors

Clients will call the day of and often have trouble finding services

Decision-makers, City, & County Officials need to include public transit within their plans

Make information readily available

Newspaper ads, commercials, inserted in city water bills

TV and Radio may give In-Kind ad space

Possibly host a Transportation Fair (Not on a Saturday)

More agency awareness of what is available

Providers/Agencies should present at RCTP and other related meetings

Public Transportation Workshop for Agencies

TxDOT will participate by informing attendees of funding options

Prioritize funding opportunities (5310, 5303, etc.)

Agencies to attend Family Health Coalition for networking/information

Next meeting May 27

Explore Transportation Grants for funding to enhance service

Issues with Medicaid Regulation

Can be costly

Veterans traveling from out of town must find own ride

Increase communication between agency and client

Working with doctors' offices to assist with scheduling

Make appointments when transportation available

Clients should schedule as many appointments in one day, especially if out of town

Dialysis Centers have a lot of transit-dependent clients

Works well with EZ-Rider services

Transportation plans need to be developed for rural citizens

Those unable to use paratransit

Stops too far to walk, costly

Paratransit service should be seamless across the State

If qualify in one location, should receive services in another

Transit providers need detailed information in order to serve clients

Provider/Agency websites should have route info on their websites and with 2-1-1

Interlocal agreements between rural and urban systems

Start discussions now

Need suitable transportation for employment and education

Not all work within service hours

Many attend evening classes

More awareness of 2-1-1

Integrating all transportation

Rural/Urban/ICB

Medical Transportation

Info on community boards/store racks

Find funding for Marketing Consultant

By end of the brainstorming session, the committee agreed that Outreach & Education should be top priorities.

5. Citizen Advisory Committee

The first Citizen Advisory Committee meeting was held on April 25 at the EZ-Rider Administration Building. Approximately nine individual attended including about three from agencies. A lot of information was gathered regarding the transportation issues experienced by the attendees. Another meeting is being planned for some time in June.

6. Stakeholder Updates

Due to time constraints, few attendees provided an update.

Amerigroup: by Consuelo Lujan

Piani Conference June 9 at the Carrasco Center hosted by St. Joseph's for caregivers, medical personnel, and any interested community members; CEUs will be offered for attendees.

RCTP: by Rina Bale

Family Health Coalition meeting May 27 at Region 18 from 9am – Noon. Like RCTP on Facebook and follow on Twitter. The transportation survey is now available online to share with clients.

TxDOT: by Alfredo Gonzales

Rides to Wellness Pilot Project – TxDOT is actively engaging rural transportation providers throughout the West Region; West Texas Opportunities, Inc. and Big Bend Community Action Committee are the providers for this area. This is an opportunity for TxDOT to apply directly to FTA for funding to improve veteran transportation needs. Focus is currently on rural areas and trying to get commitments from providers who plan to apply.

Section 5310 funding amounts will go before the Texas Transportation Commission at the end of June. E-grants training has been ongoing throughout the state. Possibly more training to come.

7. Future Discussions & Meeting Dates

The committee was asked to consider an alternative date for the July meeting. Rina will be out of the office the second week.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

8. Adjourn

A motion was made by Sunshine Thompson and seconded by Regina Swafford to adjourn at 1:01 p.m.