

July 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes for the Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council meeting was held via Webex, a video conferencing platform, and was called to order at 2:04 PM. An attendance sheet is attached to these minutes.

Seena Franklin motioned to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 Coordinating Council meeting. Maria Cimini seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Judy Shanley, Easterseals Director for the National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM), shared a national perspective on transportation coordination opportunities. In her presentation, she described the role of the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM), the federal interagency partnership that coordinates the efforts of eleven agencies that fund transportation for targeted populations. Through creative, nontraditional partnerships, Judy suggested that funders can achieve more positive outcomes for their audiences. She shared several federal resources including an interactive database of grant programs that support transportation, a cost-sharing policy statement, and a fund braiding guide. She also pointed out NCMM resources including the website and newsletter for assistance with cost allocation and other information.

Sarah Ingle, RIPTA's long range planning manager, and Joelle Kanter, RIPTA planner, shared updates on several projects identified within the Coordinating Council's 2020 program of work:

- RIPTA's Board of Directors approved a contract with Nelson\Nygaard to lead the One-Call/One-Click planning project, funded through the state's Unified Planning Work Program. This project was a primary recommendation within the Coordinated Plan, and this group will play an instrumental role in gathering input from stakeholders.
- Since RIPTA's presentation on the WAVE account-based fare technology project in March, beta testing has expanded. A public launch date has not been announced yet.
- The Human Services Transportation Coordination webpage lives on RIPTA's website, which was recently redesigned. The group was encouraged to provide feedback on the site and share content for upcoming newsletters. Work will begin soon on the 2020 annual report.

Members shared the following updates:

- Rachel Fichtenbaum informed the group about a partnership between MassMobility and the Moving Maine Network on a webinar series. All are invited to participate.

- Paul Salera mentioned that Westbay CAP is offering curbside food pickups along with home deliveries as needed. Rental assistance is available as well. He also noted that CCAP developed an online application portal that is being replicated by all of the state's CAP agencies to improve access to services. With clients able to upload forms from home, transportation should not be a barrier to submitting applications.
- Meg Underwood, representing Pilgrim Senior Center and the RI Senior Center Directors Association, said that the senior centers are following broad guidelines for developing reopening plans, with local agencies deciding their own timelines. She added that Pilgrim Senior Center typically served 60 people for lunch before it closed, and once it reopens, it expects to serve two pods of 30 people two days/week plus alternating Fridays. The center has provided thousands of grab-and-go meals since March, and staff has encouraged people to sign up for Meals on Wheels. They are tentatively planning for a mid-August/September reopening at the earliest with a slow phasing in of programs.
- Maria Cimini reported that with RI Dept. of Human Services' offices closed to the public, the agency has had to change several practices. Recertification dates have been extended, and telephonic signatures are being accepted for applications completed over the phone. DHS is developing a pilot project that will allow SNAP benefit recipients to have food delivered through three large retail partners. They are starting to engage farmers and small grocers in deliveries as well.
- Kristina Fox reported that the RI Coalition for the Homeless has weekly service provider calls, and she is eager to share COVID-related information with them.
- Director Kasim Yarn, RI Office of Veterans Services, expects to announce grant recipients soon.
- Darlene Reza Rossi said that AARP has allocated \$500,000 for a home modification grant program.
- Catherine Taylor described Age-Friendly RI's virtual community center which offers an online calendar that is populated with free activities. She also announced that the Age-Friendly RI radio hour is live on Wednesdays from 3-4 PM on AM 790.

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 PM.



**Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council
July 13, 2020 Attendance List**

Council Members	Organization	Present?
Tamara Burman	Woonsocket HEZ	By phone
Rui Cabral	Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee	By phone
Maria Cimini	RI Department of Human Services	By phone
Brady Dunklee	Integra	By phone
Craig Dwyer	Office of the Lieutenant Governor	By phone
Rachel Fichtenbaum	MassMobility	By phone
Kristina Contreras Fox	RI Coalition for the Homeless	By phone
Seena Franklin	CCAP	By phone
Sarah Ingle	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	By phone
Joelle Kanter	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	By phone
Maureen Maignet	Long Term Care Coordinating Council	By phone
Darlene Reza Rossi	AARP	By phone
Heidi Ross	Community member	By phone
Paul Salera	Westbay CAP	By phone
Judy Shanley	Easterseals, National Center for Mobility Management	By phone
Catherine Taylor	Age-Friendly RI	By phone
Meg Underwood	RI Senior Center Directors' Association	By phone
Nathan Watchous	RIPTA	By phone
Kasim Yarn	RIVETS	By phone