

**Healthful Services - Transportation Action Team Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 25, 2013; 3pm**  
**Ellsworth City Hall Council Chambers**

**Present:** Sandie Dubay (Healthy Acadia), Stacie Roberson (WHCA), Valerie Webb (Special Children's Friends), Miranda Wilson (DHS Aspire Program), Jo Cooper (Friends in Action), Jim Fisher (HCPC), and Nina Zeldin (Healthy Acadia). *Via telephone:* Christine Drabek (Acadia Family Center), Karen Wilcock (Retired Epidemiologist and Schoodic Peninsula Volunteer), Sandi Duchesne (Transportation Consultant for WHCA & WA Grows), and Angela Fochesato (Washington County One Community).

### **Introductions & Updates**

Sandi Duchesne introduced herself to the group. She is working on a project with Grow Washington Aroostook linking several identified needs including housing, employment and transportation. Sandi's work is focused on linking transportation with housing. Some of the project's partners are the EPA and the DOT.

Jo Cooper, Executive Director of Friends in Action (FIA) announced their July fundraising event- a Saturday Night Concert in the Park featuring the Whoopy Kats Band with Big Cats Catering providing the food. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple. All proceeds go to FIA. Please buy lots of tickets for friends and family and help spread the news.

FIA is temporarily moving their out of the Moore School so renovations that the City of Ellsworth recently approved can be completed. During the renovations they will be housed by WHCA. Jo is excited about the upcoming changes, one of which is that FIA will be partnering with Meadow View to create a food pantry/cooking facility. Meadow View also has space for exercise classes.

Sandie Dubay, Healthy Acadia's Downeast Community Transformation Project Director, explained that funds from the Community Transformation CDC grant can be used to increase transportation/preventive health care access. The grant originated from the Affordable Care Act and is directed at reducing chronic disease in Hancock and Washington Counties.

Miranda, a case manager for DHHS's Aspire Program, reported that things are somewhat slow. Everyone is waiting to see if they will be working. If the state budget is vetoed and the Legislature does not override the veto, DHHS will shut down. State workers will not get paychecks.

Valerie Web, a targeted case manager for Special Children's Friends is interested in finding transportation solutions for her clients. She works with children with a broad spectrum of challenges including mental disabilities, autism and

developmental delays. These children are badly in need of transportation to medical and other service provider appointments.

Nina Zeldin: Healthy Acadia Program Associate and note taker at this meeting.

Jim Fisher: Senior Planner for the Hancock County Planning Commission.

Stacie Roberson, the Mobility manager for WHCA, announced that the State's new brokerage start date has been moved to August 1<sup>st</sup> as the selected brokers have not come to agreements with the state and as such, there are not any signed contracts yet. The State thought they could save money with the brokerage system, but it might not turn out that way. Problems will likely develop since WHCA mixes services to maximize transportation opportunities and efficiencies, and brokers will not have that capability.

Sandi Duchesne, a consultant working with WHCA and Grow Washington Aroostook on housing and urban development, is interested in working with the Transportation Action Team for numerous reasons. Her responsibilities include making recommendations on how to connect the work force to transportation. One of the things on her agenda is to hold a transportation conference. She'd like to piggyback on this group's efforts and combine her objectives with the Transportation Summit. As Aroostook County is handling their own portion of addressing transportation needs, there will be no funding conflicts. The group agreed with Sandi that this is a great opportunity to pool energy and ideas.

Karen Wilcock, a retired epidemiologist, is working to help her community on the Schoodic Peninsula with transportation issues.

Christine Drabek is the Executive Director of Acadia Family Center, an organization that provides mental health services as well as education, prevention, and treatment of substance abuse.

### **Discussion of Transportation Summit**

Sandie announced that Ron Beard from the HCPC has agreed to facilitate the transportation summit on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

The group reviewed a draft schedule for the summit, which included three possible panel topics and a list of potential speakers/organizations that had been previously identified by the Action Team at various meetings. The group was asked to review the list, suggest any new ideas, and prioritize three speakers/organization for each topic.

## ***Strengthening Our Volunteer Driver System***

Sandi Duchesne suggested Ann Miller from At Home Downeast on the Blue Hill Peninsula as a speaker. The program is based on the Beacon Hill Model, designed for people to age in place. It is member based and while no one is turned away for the lack of ability to pay, everyone pays. Sandy has heard Ann speak and feels she is an excellent speaker.

Stacie discussed Sharon Eaton as a potential speaker. Sharon prepared a report for the DOT that identified and described all the volunteer driving programs in the State. Jo has already contacted Sharon about speaking at the Summit. Sharon has not committed to speaking, but she did save the date.

Jo recommended asking someone from the Bucksport CARE group to be a speaker. Jo has partnered with the group in the past. They have a unique program that links callers to churches who in turn funnel the calls to a coordinator who then arranges rides and other services.

Valerie shared her frustration that she has been unable to find a sustainable volunteer driving model for children with special needs. The group also acknowledged a similar problem for people with substance abuse problems.

Jo suggested Wayne Svoboda as a good speaker choice. He did it a fantastic pro bono workshop for Jo in the past. If that doesn't pan out Jo suggested contacting Volunteer Maine, a state commission on community service.

### ***Prioritized Speakers for the Strengthening Our Volunteer Driver System panel:***

#### ***First Choices:***

- Sharon Eaton (Stacie volunteered to ask Linda to contact Sharon)
- CARE Speaker (Stacy volunteered to contact CARE)
- Wayne Svoboda (Jo volunteered to contact Wayne) "3 R's" recruit, retain, recognize.
- Jo Cooper (Jo volunteered to share her successful program)
- Ann Miller (Stacie volunteered to contact Ann Miller)
- Kara Janes (works with Ann Miller as project manager)

Jo remarked that is important to have Washington County represented, and that maybe we should reconsider and put Ann Miller in to 1<sup>st</sup> position.

The group agreed to wait for Elsie to return from vacation before making any final decisions or contacting anyone.

## ***Strengthening Our Public Transportation/Bus System***

Miranda asked who is the target audience? In the past the Action Team identified service providers, civic leaders and the general public as the target audience. Sandi Duchesne thought of inviting employers to the summit. Miranda suggested that if we are trying to attract employers, we should have some employers on the panel.

Jim suggested Tom Crikelair as a speaker for this panel, or alternately he could be a speaker for the Outside the Box panel. Tom is one of the founders of Downeast Transportation, the Island Explorer and Getting There Maine. He is an excellent speaker and lives in Bar Harbor.

Jim also recommended Paul Murphy, the General Manger of Downeast Transportation. During the last Action Team meeting Paul agreed to be a speaker.

Eileen Philips, a Jackson Lab representative, was recommended. She could talk about tax subsidies the lab used for their transportation system.

Angie suggested that Jennifer Gunderman-King could speak to low income and special needs. Angie volunteered to get in touch with her to see if she is a fit for what we are looking for. Jennifer prepared a white paper on Washington County's transportation challenges and barriers that included ways to make improvements.

David Whitney was recommended as Whitney's Wreaths use vans to pick up and drop off employees. As a Washington County business owner, he might be a good choice. Jim pointed out that November is wreath season, and he may not be able to commit, although Office Manger Andy Seely might be able to make it.

Emory West of West's Transportation in Washington County was suggested. While his business is for profit, he needs to use subsidies. Jim mentioned that Emory's personality might not lend itself well to public speaking.

*Prioritized Speakers for the Our Public Transportation/Bus System panel:*

- Don Cooper (President of Downeast Transportation and a Community Planner)
- Eileen Philips transportation program at Jackson Lab
- Sue Moreau (DOT in charge of Transit/maybe she could suggest someone)
- Jennifer King-transportation for low income and special needs
- Paul Murphy/ Emery West/ David Whitney

### ***Outside the Box: Exploring Creative Solutions***

Sandi Duchesne volunteered to be a speaker for this panel. She is being paid to find out what successful programs are doing and would be happy to share that information at the conference.

Jim suggested Tom Crikelair as a speaker, he also thought Jonathan Archer might be a good choice. Jon is a resident of Gouldsboro who established a neighborhood network for errands and rides using cell phones. Jim wasn't sure Jon's system could be easily duplicated as it takes a person with Jon's energy to maintain the program.

Jim thought Evan Rickert from the state planning office and John Melrose the former Director of the DOT (both worked in Governor King's administration) would be good choices if the group wanted to discuss long-term strategies.

*Prioritized Speakers for the Outside the Box panel:*

- Sandi Dushesne
- Tom Crikelair
- John Melrose-DOT- dynamic speaker
- Michael Reisman
- Jonathon Archer- created a network of neighbors using coding/drop boxes/cell phones
- Evan Rickert- State Planning Office-big thinker

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday July 23, 2013**  
**3 - 4:45**  
**Ellsworth City Hall Council Chambers**

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*Summary of Speakers and Poster Sessions*

**Keynote: Matt Dunlap**

**Facilitator: Ron Beard**

**Speakers:** *Compose 3 questions to guide presenters*

*(4 presenters with 12 minutes each plus 12 minutes Q&A)*

*Presenters bring handouts.*

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Potential Displayers:

Bucksport Care

At Home Downeast

Beverly Foundation- California

NeighborCare

Island Connections

WHCA

West Transport

Hospitals

HA w grant opportunity