



Healthful Services – Transportation Action Meeting

Tuesday, September 24, 2013

3pm – 4:30pm

Ellsworth City Hall Auditorium

Present in Ellsworth: Jo Cooper, Miranda Wilson, Elsie Flemings, Sandie Dubay, James Bradney, Elissa Wynne, Jim Fisher, Sandi Duchesne, Michael Reisman, and Nina Zeldin.

Present via phone: Karen Wilcock

Introductions & Updates

Jo reported that Friends in Action is still struggling with the effects of the new Maine Care brokerage system. They are hearing from people who have had a really hard time getting through to the broker and also from people who have not received scheduled services. For example, Jo heard from a woman whose daughter didn't get picked up for 6 trips. A visiting nurse suggested she get in touch with Jo. Now the broker is paying for a taxi from Gouldsboro to Falmouth. Most understand it is the broker not WHCA that is causing problems, yet this change still makes it hard to improve things.

Miranda shared that while Aspire hasn't received any lack of service complaints, they do get phone calls from people who have trouble getting through to the broker.

Elsie heard from Katherine Cassidy, a state senator who would like to come to summit.

Sandi Duchesne is working on putting her presentation together. She just came back from a meeting with Jim where they learned about how Vermont is beefing up public/private transport options. Sandy is working for GroWA (www.gro-wa.org) on a large grant funded in large part by the EPA and USDA. The grant is focused on building sustainable changes to improve housing, transportation and the workforce in Aroostook and Washington Counties. While Sandi is working on transportation, it is just one of the twenty project tasks of GroWA.

Elissa Wynne, an intern with Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition, introduced herself to the group and was welcomed. Alyssa is working on the healthy living program, designed to help seniors plan on how to age well in the community. She is recruiting older adults to the healthy living program and is developing a resource guide for the program.

James Bradney became the Health Planning Director for Bucksport and the Director of Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition in August. He is excited to help improve the health of the residents in Bucksport, Verona Island, Prospect and Orland. Transportation is a major concern of the Coalition. Downeast Transportation provides a weekly shuttle bus



service in Bucksport, and WHCA runs a bus service to Bangor. In addition, the Coalition works in cooperation with the Hancock County Cluster of United Methodist Churches to coordinate the volunteer C.A.R.E. program provides transportation and other services to area residents. James is interested in learning more about Healthy Acadia's upcoming RFP that may help support this volunteer program.

Sandie Dubay, the CTG project director, reported that the grant's main focus is to reduce chronic disease, and that this group is important to reaching this goal.

Michael Reisman, Executive Director of the Beth C. Wright Cancer Resource Center, shared that the center faces transportation issues and works closely with Friends in Action. Michael is excited about the possibility that people attending the summit might be inspired to create steering committees to form volunteer driving programs in different parts of the counties.

Karen Wilcock, a retired epidemiologist, is interested in helping get people to their doctor appointments.

Transportation Brochure

Copies of the brochure were brought to the meeting for the group to distribute to organizations/people. When this batch run out, the brochure will be updated to include the new broker's contact information. All information in the current version of the brochure is accurate, and there are plenty of brochures on hand.

Transportation Summit Planning

Elsie announced that we have a few people from Swans Island already signed up for the summit. They are interested in building a volunteer driver program.

We are close to finalizing the speaker panel, with 2-3 speakers confirmed for each panel.

Panel One- Strengthening Out Volunteer Driver System: Either James or Ramona will speak for C.A.R.E. James will stand in for Ramona, who has much more experience with C.A.R.E., if she cannot attend for unforeseen reasons. James explained that Ramona works a night shift that ends at 8 am, so she should be able to make it to Machias in time to present on the first panel. The group expressed appreciation for Ramona's commitment to participate in the summit.

Sharon Eaton is willing to speak but cannot commit until her supervisor, Sue Moreau, schedules her to. Jo is aware of Sue's intention of attending the summit, so hopefully everything will work out. Jo has placed a call to Sue and is waiting a call back.

James inquired if there were specific bullet points for presentations? Maybe the group can come up with guiding questions, without restricting speakers?

Jim expressed his hope that one of the outcomes of the summit will be the identification of priorities that can be given to the Maine Legislature.

Michael noted that he'd be pleased if just one group interested in starting a program came and got connected. He suggested that Faith in Action, who has created a tool kit for forming volunteer organizations, be prepared to hand out materials.

Panel Two- Strengthening Our Public Transportation/Bus System

Jim has met with Jackson Lab representatives. Initially they declined to speak, but Jim will ask again if desired.

Elsie suggested asking Katherine Cassidy, a state representative to speak. Katherine sits on the Health and Human Services committee, and represents Cutler, Eastport, Lubec, Machias, Machiasport, Roque Bluffs, Whiting, and the unorganized territory of Trescott Township. She is interested in sharing the challenges and efforts in the Legislature. Elsie thinks she would be willing. Some of the group had knowledge of her being a good speaker. The group agreed to have Elsie ask her to speak.

Angela Fochesato will follow up with Jenifer King.

Panel Three- Exploring Creative Solutions:

Jim was able to contact Jon Archer who said he could most likely do it. Jim will check again and get back to the group.

It was observed that having four speakers per panel would limit their presentations to ten minutes, allowing time for questions and answers. Having three speakers per panel was suggested, as was having a speaker present during lunch. The possibility of asking Sharon to come with resources rather than to speak was considered as well. It was noted that asking speakers to emphasize one or two points, and have handouts available might help maximize the use of time.

The group decided having Sharon Eaton speak would be most desirable, if she is able to, and that having three or four speakers on a panel would be workable. If Jon Archer is unable to present, Jim agreed to be a speaker.



Summit Outreach/Participation Discussion

Washington County has been doing outreach for the summit by sending the invitation out in an email blast. Everyone is encouraged to do the same. Elsie will send a sample email that people can use and/or modify.

Steve Fuller from the Ellsworth American would like to write an article about the summit. Elsie will send out a press release this week, and has put the summit flier on Healthy Acadia's website. Healthy Acadia will print some fliers for distribution.

Concern was expressed that it would be hard to get Hancock County people to Machias. There are 15 people from Hancock County signed up so far. The options of securing a van and/or carpooling with attendees were discussed. The group decided that if carpooling doesn't work out, a van would be rented. Michael is licensed to transport more than 12 people in a vehicle, and agreed to drive the van.

Elsie will send the group a list of organizations that might want to have exhibits displayed at the summit. She asked that the group look at the list and identify any gaps. Everyone should have information and be able to participate.

The group decided not to use a clicker system at the Summit, as it is more appropriate for a group than panelist setting.

Providing specific questions to panelists was decided not to be necessary, they will be guided to talk about sustainability, assets, challenges, resources and procedures. The focus will be on what we can do, not what we can't do. If anyone can come up with further ideas for speakers to talk about, they should send them to Sandie or Elsie.

Jim wondered if the attendees were going to get handouts. Elsie will reach out to panelists for materials.

Michael will ask the Machias students to video the summit.

Sandie and Elsie will work on details. Please call them with ideas; they in turn follow up with the group.

Review of Grant RFP Summary

Elsie explained that the draft summary that the group is reviewing is not the application itself. Healthy Acadia wants the feedback of the group before finalizing the RFP. These will be one year, one-time grants. The total available is \$50,000. Matching contributions are not required, nor does an applying entity need to be a 501(c) 3 (it does need to be an organized entity, though. It can not be an individual.)



The group thought the proposed \$10,000 cap on grants was appropriate.

James inquired about the eligibility of Religious groups, as many volunteer groups such as CARE are sponsored by religious organizations. Elsie will review the funding language, but does not anticipate any problem.

It was suggested that the RFP explain that these are cost reimbursable grants.

The grants will be awarded in December; projects will start in January and continue into next fall. Most of the work needs to get done by September.

In response to the question, "Can you split between two projects? For example, would CARE and the Healthy Aging project be eligible" Elsie responded that the broad question answer was yes, and that the actual application will encourage organizations to talk with Healthy Acadia about specific ideas/questions.

The projects will be reviewed for sustainability. For example, two days of bus rides would not get funded. Planning and development can be funded.

Healthy Acadia representatives and other community members (who are not applicants) will review the applications and award the grants.

The criteria for the grants will be the 9 questions on the application.

The goal is to release the RFP by early October, so there will still be time to make additional comments and suggestions.

Next Steps

Dyan Walsh from the Eastern Area Agency on Aging (EAAA) would like to come to the October Team Meeting. EAAA is working on a transportation grant that requires them to convene a group twice, for a half hour each time, to talk about transportation needs and issues. Dyan would like to use this group for that purpose. The group agreed that this would be a good idea.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, October 22; 3pm – 4:30 pm
Ellsworth City Hall Auditorium**