

**Caswell County Area Transportation System
Transportation Advisory Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2023**

Present were Jeannine Everidge, Tonya Moye, Michelle Waddell, Cindy Troxler, Edna Brown, Sandra Hudspeth, Brenda Day, and Melissa Williamson.

The April 28, 2023 minutes were read and approved. Sandra Hudspeth made a motion to approve the minutes and Edna Brown seconded the motion.

Expenditure/Revenue Report: Report is self-explanatory.

FY 23 Final Grant Reimbursements - We have submitted our last claim for FY 23 for the months of April, May and June 2023. This claim was in the amount of \$26,930.00. We have received reimbursement from July 2022 – March 2023. All claims must be completed by July 31st. I submitted this week our capital reimbursement for the camera system and the equipment to go on the tower. This claim was in the amount of \$32,827.00. NCDOT/PTD paid 90% of this cost.

PTRC ARPA Grant- PTRC had a grant application out for ARPA Supportive Services to provide a unique opportunity to consider needs and service delivery that have the potential to respond to unmet needs of older adults and family caregivers. The Piedmont Triad Regional Council Area Agency on Aging is taking a regional approach in distributing these funds based on the priorities established by the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services. Service match is not required, and funds will remain available until expended or until September 30, 2024, whichever comes first. The project period for this funding is August 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. The funds are for servicing people age 60 years of age or older who need transportation assistance to access needed services and/or to carry-out activities necessary for daily living. The application was due on June 23, 2023. We are requesting the maximum amount of the grant which is \$150,000.00. We should know sometime in August if we are awarded the grant and how much we will receive.

FY 22-23 ROAP Funds- the ROAP funds were depleted by April 2023. I appreciate other agencies for working with us especially DSS. If we receive dollars from the PTRC grant that will help extend our E&D ROAP funds. We are seeing an increase in dialysis patients that receive their trip funding under the ROAP E&D.

FY 23-24 ROAP Funds- We still haven't received the grant application yet for these ROAP funds. On our IMD meeting this month they anticipate this application to come out in August and will likely be due in September. I would say to anticipate the same amount of funding as we did for this fiscal year. As soon as I get the amount of the funding I will share with DSS and Senior Center and will inform this advisory board at our next meeting after receiving the funding.

FY 24 Rural State Operating Transportation Grant- We applied for this grant and have been awarded the grant. The Rural State Operating Transportation Grant is in the amount of \$114,523.00. The County Manager will bring this before the board on the August 7, 2023 meeting for acceptance. This is the first time this type of grant has been offered through NCDOT/PTD. This grant will cover motor fuel, tires, and oil changes. This will help us out with our operation costs. I hope this will be a grant we can continue to apply for but at this time they are not sure if it will be just a onetime grant opportunity.

Training- Since our last meeting we have had training on ADA (American with Disability Act), Drug and Alcohol, Emergency Preparedness, Passenger Safety, HIPAA Privacy, Car Seat, Hazard Communication, Accident/Incident Reporting, and Map Reading Skills.

Update on the new camera system on buses- We received a grant through NCDOT/PTD in the amount of \$33,040.00. I am happy to report that all the new camera equipment has been installed on all of the buses. We are in the process of having the access point on top of the building replaced since our existing one is outdated and will not work with the new SEON software. We have submitted the claim to NCDOT/PTD. They covered 90% of this project.

Update on Radio Equipment on Tower- We received a grant through NCDOT/PTD in the amount of \$6,339.00 to replace the equipment on the tower for our two-way radios. Like I stated before this hasn't been an easy process to get done. The town owns the tower and they have let Verizon and some other places put equipment on the tower and they have to get their permission to allow us to get back on the tower. I have provided the town with the specs of our equipment for them to review and see if they will approve our specs. Dale Fortner flew his drone up to the tower and everything looks good for us to be able to put the equipment back on the tower. At this point we are no closer to getting the equipment put back on the Town's water tower. I have been talking with Barry Lynch, EM/EMS Director, and he has put a call in to the state to see if we can put the equipment on the Viper Tower. We are in high hopes this will work out for us. We have the equipment because it had to be purchased by June 30, 2023 because this is when the grant ended. We have submitted the claim for the equipment to NCDOT/PTD. They covered 90% of this project. We really do need for this equipment to go back up on the tower because the two-way radios are another form of communication that we have with the drivers. We already have all of the radio equipment in the buses and our offices and they work fine we just need to get the equipment back on the tower so that the radios will work again.

New Part-Time Driver & Update on Staff- we are so glad to announce that we just hired a new part-time driver, Brian Corbett. He should go through his training next week and start riding with other drivers. The part-time driver that we had out on medical leave did decide to return and has been back with us for about a month now. We do have a full-time driver that is out on medical leave.

Negotiation of Rates with Medicaid Brokers- we have been in the process for the past month negotiating rates with the two Medicaid brokers. We did receive an increase with both brokers to help cover the cost of inflation.

FY 25 Grant Applications- was just released and we will be doing the same process as last year. We have to fill out the pre-application process and completed the next steps of the grant application. We had several documents that were due in June. I would like to thank everyone

for returning the signed conflict of interest policy back in to me. The due date for the grant application is October 6, 2023. We will have to hold a public hearing at the Board of Commissioners meeting.

Title VI Policy Update- We are required every 3 years to update our Title VI policy. Just wanted to inform the board that the Board of Commissioners passed the Title VI Policy on May 15, 2023. I have submitted the signed/approved policy to the state. We are required to have this policy in compliance in order to receive funding. We are in full compliance.

ModivCare Billing Issues- We have had some issues with the billing process with ModivCare. There has been an issue with the portal on their end showing batches are still open when they are showing closed on our end. We are still having issues with the portal. At this time, we are still submitting the scanned paper copies for reimbursement.

Medicaid Transformation- We are providing transportation services for MTM which is another Medicaid broker. We are still providing transportation services to ModivCare. The NC transformation to Medicaid Manage Care tailored plan date has been changed from April 1, 2023 to October 1, 2023. The reason for the delay is to ensure that nearly 150,000 people seamlessly receive care on day one, the NCDHHS (North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services) will delay the implementation of the NC Medicaid Managed Care Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Tailored Plans. Tailored Plans serve people with complex behavioral health conditions, intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and traumatic brain injury. Their behavioral and physical health needs are often great, requiring ongoing care from multiple providers. Tailored plans will provide specialized services and care management to meet needs of these individuals. At our last meeting with NCPTA round table they are still planning on rolling this out in October. They said that the public transportation system's will automatically rollover with the providers. There is nothing extra on our end that we will need to do. Michelle Waddell and Brenda Day informed the advisory board that the date has been pushed back with no new date.

Other Business-

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Williamson *MW*