**South East Regional Coordinating Council**

**December 9, 2014**

**Attendee list**

Julie Boren, MCB (SERCC Chair)

Erik B. Rousseau, SRTA

Joanne LaFerrara, GATRA

Laurie Pimentel, Swansea COA

Anne C. Bisson, Dept of Human Services/Taunton COA

Gary St. Fleur, MassRIDES

Stephen T. Salwak, South Shore Community Action Council

Cindy Curran, MCB

Angie Azevedo, SRPEDD

Janet Richardi, SoCo

Eileen McCarthy Mendonca, Westport COA

Rachel Fichtenbaum, MassMobility

**Past Meeting Notes**

* The group accepted the meeting notes from October 28 with one edit: Anne Bisson’s last name does not have an “e” at the end.

**Potential Merge with South Coast RCC**

* The South Coast RCC has had a few meetings but does not have as much energy and momentum as the South East RCC group at this point. No one has stepped up to be a chair.
* The South Coast region faces many of the same transportation challenges as the South East RCC. Many members of the South East RCC also cover towns in the South Coast area.
* Julie and GATRA staff presented to the South Coast RCC about potentially merging and the group was open to it. Some South Coast members are in attendance at our meeting today from SRTA and from COAs in Westport and Swansea.
* The joint region will contain 40 towns (28 under GATRA, 12 under SRTA, and Marion and Rochester)
* Keep the SERCC name (suggestion: add “transportation” somewhere in it – maybe become the South East Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation or SERCCOT)
* Leadership
  + Ask if South Coast folks are okay with keeping the same leadership
  + At the next election cycle, new people can run for leadership positions
  + Maybe someone from the South Coast will be willing to volunteer as Secretary since that position is open
* Angie can share notes from the two most recent South Coast RCC meetings to add to the SERCC website so that everyone can get a sense of what the other RCC has been up to
* **The group voted unanimously to proceed with merging with South East RCC with the South Coast RCC into one South East RCC covering the GATRA and SRTA towns as well as Marion and Rochester.**

**Future Meeting Locations & Timing**

* One option would be to alternate meeting in the GATRA area with meeting in the SRTA area, but Janet said she has found that when groups are set up that way people only go to the meeting near them and skip every other meeting. Also switching locations might be confusing – better to stick with one so that people always know where to go.
* The SRPEDD conference room may be too small if both groups attend in full
* Possible location: new BCC location in Taunton in the old Catholic middle school has a library
  + Janet will get contact info to Julie
* Eileen offered her space (but Westport is not central)
* Steve offered his space (but Plymouth is not central)
* Anne suggested the alternative high school cafeteria near the old mall
* Malls have space but you have to pay
* Furniture store off 95 in Attleboro lets groups use their community room for free but this is not central
* We could pursue the Middleboro COA
* If we switch to the afternoon we could use the GATRA conference room
  + But we think we are more likely to get good attendance if we meet first thing so people don’t go to the office and get sidetracked
* The group agreed to change the meeting time back to **9-11am** to give people longer to travel to the meetings since now people may be coming from further away

**Policies & Procedures Document**

* We will update the bylaws to incorporate South Coast RCC
* Change the definition of the region to say primarily GATRA & SRTA
* Share a draft for everyone from both groups to review
* Change “advocates and consumers” to “consumer advocates”
* Add SRTA along with GATRA in the fiscal section. Also add SRPEDD
  + Note: the first forum cost $714.30. GATRA used mobility management funds for this. Thanks to GATRA for their support of the RCC!
* Julie will create an updated draft for the group to review

**Medical Forum: Next Steps**

* Julie shared a document on themes and trends that emerged from the table discussions at the medical forum. Two key themes were outreach around Ride Match and other resources and creating a centralized database of trips to enable more coordination and commingling.
* Idea: identify a subregion or certain towns with the biggest gaps & focus additional outreach efforts there
  + Next meeting: we will look at the unmet needs survey results to identify priority towns/subregions
* RCC Impact: One recurring theme was the importance of managing consumer expectations. At a previous SERCC meeting, the group suggested that MassHealth could communicate to consumers that there might be some waiting involved in their rides. Rachel shared this with Tanja Ryden, who spoke with the brokerage team at the EOHHS Human Service Transportation Office that oversees MassHealth transportation statewide. The brokerage team agreed to talk to the RTAs that serve as brokers about incorporating language about this into their initial communication with consumers who are found eligible for MassHealth transportation services. This will have a statewide impact and is a direct result of the SERCC. Well done!
* In terms of central database, federal Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) grants to develop one-call one-click centers were awarded a few years ago to MART and BRTA in Massachusetts. Both plan to launch around Dec 31, so we can get updates in January on the status of this.
* Janet noted that within Bristol County, all the homelessness providers got together and developed a centralized system. Every morning, everyone who has beds – in a shelter, hotel, or wherever – will call in to one number to report how many openings they have that night. Then as people are identified who need housing that night, agencies can call into the centralized number to see where slots are available that will match the need. The county did this on their own, not as part of a statewide effort. They got funding for an organization to hire a staff person to manage this coordination. This is based on a model from CT.
* Idea: start small, with a pilot
* More on one-call one-click centers from the National Center for Mobility Management: <http://nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org/onecall-oneclick/>
* Steve: the key is that the consumer trips should be listed and the transportation providers should get to do the groupings instead of the brokers. Then if commingling were allowed, transportation providers could group EOHHS-funded passengers with other trips (like trips paid for by a town) and reduce costs for everyone. But there are barriers to commingling EOHHS-funded riders with others
  + Rachel will communicate with the HST brokerage team about this barrier
* Angie: we could pick a geographic area to focus on and then catalog specific unmet needs and do a localized inventory of vehicles and help the local organizations partner to meet their transportation needs. For example, maybe a church needs a vehicle on Sundays and can rent the Y’s vehicle that they just use during the week. There is a vehicle share model in Northern Berkshire County where multiple organizations share a fleet of vans together. More information on this model: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/hst/annual-reports.html#vehicleshare>
* Next meeting: decide what next steps to take on
* Next meeting: discuss the next forum
* Gary discussed vanpools. A group of employees who want to carpool together in a van can split the cost. They rent the van through a vanpool company and insurance is included. Usually the driver gets to go free and the riders cover the cost. The driver can keep the van or park it in a park & ride location. Learn more from MassRIDES: <http://commute.com/commuter-options/vanpool>
* The needs are different for COAs. They don’t have trouble filling seats. Their problem is finding funding to operate the vehicles they do have. Westport COA has 6 vehicles but no funds to repair them or even to pay drivers. The town took away their driver salaries and asked them to switch to volunteers but when they piloted that, it didn’t go well. It would be helpful to coordinate if other providers could help transport COA seniors, eg. dialysis patients.
* Suggestion: before we try to create a database, we should learn more about ongoing/existing efforts to create databases and provide centralized access to information
* The database might be more useful for long-distance trips than local trips like COA trips to the grocery store

**Funding Opportunities**

* The MassDOT Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) application will open Feb 2. Applications are due March 2. You can apply for vehicles, operating funds, or mobility management funds for projects like something the RCC might come up with. Abril previously handed out a chart with guidance about eligible applicants and projects. MassDOT is offering training on the application in late January: <http://blog.mass.gov/transportation/massdot-rail-transit/massdot-community-transit-grant-program-training-set/>
* Idea: we could apply for some funding for the RCC
* If you apply for CTGP funds, you have to reference where in the region’s Coordinated Human Service Transportation (CHST) Plan your project fits. Angie passed out a draft CHST Plan. She is accepting comments through Dec 19, so please contact her if you have any comments.
* The Tufts Health Plan Foundation also has funding available for transportation efforts that support healthy aging. Details should be posted imminently on their website. Rachel is checking daily and will email Julie when the application is released.

**Next Meeting**

* Tuesday, January 13, 9-11 am (note time change)
* Location tbd
* On the agenda: discuss next steps on the medical forum issues and begin to plan the next forum

**Action Items**

* Remove the “e” in Anne Bisson’s last name in the Oct 28 meeting notes (Mary)
* Post recent South Coast RCC notes on SERCC webpage (Angie & Mary)
* Look into new locations
  + new BCC location in Taunton in the old Catholic middle school (Janet to give Julie the info, Julie to follow up)
  + Alternative high school cafeteria near the old mall (Anne)
* Update policies & procedures document to incorporate South Coast RCC (Julie)
* Email comments on the draft CHST Plan to Angie (everyone)
* Circulate information about the Tufts Health Plan Foundation opportunities when they post it on their website (Rachel)
* Raise the questions about commingling with the HST brokerage team (Rachel)