**South Coast Regional Coordinating Council (SRCC)**
**September 10, 2014, 1:00PM, Coastline Elderly Services**

***Meeting Minutes***

**Attendees:**

Melanie Ramos, Bristol Elder Services

Ann McCrillis, Coastline Elderly Services

Sharon O'Malley, Inter-Church Council

Jacqueline Coucci, Mattapoisett COA

Gary StFleur, MassRides

Ivan Britto, M.O. Life

Tanja Ryden, HST

Erik Rousseau, SRTA

Mary Ellen Defrias, SRTA

Angie Azevedo, SRPEDD

Abril Novoa-Camino, MassDOT

Karen Sullivan, SCIL

Linda Larsen, YMCA

Siggy Meilus, CEDC

Mike Moran, Family Service Association

Jill Maclean, City of New Bedford

Mitchell Zahn, MRC

Eileen Wheeler Sheehan, ABLE

Linda Hennessey, Healthfirst Family Care

Filomena Tripp, SCIL

1. **Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Recap from last meeting**
	1. **Role of the RCCs**
		1. Provide a forum for open discussion about local unmet needs and framework in which service delivery is initiated
		2. Assist with implementation of relevant EO530 recommendations
		3. Improve core services in the system
		4. Provide innovative services and/or new connections to existing services such as travel training or volunteer driver programs.
	2. **Update on RCC work from across the state**
		1. Update from the GATRA RCC
			1. Met in April, June, and August
			2. Elected Co-Chairs to lead the group at the June meeting
			3. Identified medical transportation as a priority
			4. Planned to organize a medical transportation forum and invite transportation providers, social service agencies, and hospital/medical professionals to be held in November.
		2. RCCs in the Pioneer Valley, Merrimack Valley, and Metrowest areas each sent out needs assessment surveys to stakeholders in their regions.
		3. The North Shore RCC met on August 5. Based on the priorities the group identified in its first meeting, the RCC split into working groups to address safety of older drivers, falls prevention, and employment transportation.
		4. The Cape & Islands RCC met on August 11 to review the results of their rider and consumer survey. Nearly 250 individuals filled out this survey. Lack of sidewalks emerged as a barrier to mobility, and negative perceptions of transit also prevent people from accessing transportation services.
3. **SRTA’s Comprehensive Service Assessment (CSA)**
	1. Mandated by the MA legislature.
	2. A comprehensive look at SRTA’s fixed route service.
	3. Extensive Public Participation process.
	4. Identified unmet needs.
	5. Developed Service Alternatives.
	6. Based on feedback service alternatives were put into funding scenarios.
	7. Can be downloaded at [www.SRTAbus.com/CSA](http://www.srtabus.com/CSA)
	8. Public comment period ends October 3, 2014.
4. **Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan Update**
	1. Includes Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Mattapoisett, Marion, New Bedford, Rochester, Somerset, Swansea, and Westport.
	2. Federal Transit Law requires CHST plans to be locally developed.
	3. They identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes.
	4. In MA, these regional CHST Plans have been developed by Regional Planning Agencies.
	5. CHST plans must be developed with public participation that includes public, private, and non-profit transportation and human services providers.
	6. A public meeting will be held at SRPEDD on October 1, 2014 from 4:00-6:00PM.
5. **Review of Current Unmet Needs Discussion**
	1. Mr. Rousseu talked about SRTA’s interest in travel training.
	2. Ms. Sullivan from SCIL spoke about the travel training program they have. SCIL does travel training on SRTA buses for their clients. Ms. Sullivan also spoke about an accessible taxi pilot program. She mentioned that there is no regulation of accessible taxi prices and trips can often be expensive. Ms. McCrillis added that Yellow Cab still has a few accessible taxis.
	3. Ms. Sullivan mentioned the need to get information about existing services out to people. Getting information out to shelters, soup kitchens, people who get meals on wheels, etc.
	4. Mr. Moran mentioned that he has a cable access show and would be willing to have a guest talk about transportation issues on his show.
	5. Ms. Coucchi suggested marketing the bus with a focus on how much can be saved by taking transit. She also suggested having a “promo video” about existing services that could be shown in the checkout lines at Walmart or the waiting rooms at hospitals.
	6. Ms. Novoa talked about the Worcester RCC and stated that the RTA did a presentation at the RCC meeting about bus services.
	7. Ms. McLean talked about the need for transportation for 3rd shift workers in the industrial parks.
	8. There was a discussion about the Boston Hospital Shuttle and long distance medical transportation. Riders find it difficult to schedule appointments into the small window necessary to make the shuttle possible.
	9. There was a discussion about the homeless in the area and the need for vouchers for bus passes and taxi trips.
	10. Ms. Larsen talked about a program she has at the YMCA that provides local roundtrip transportation to medical appointments in the greater New Bedford area.
	11. The need to coordinate services using the major medical centers was brought up.
	12. Transportation to/from the seafood processing plants in New Bedford is a need.
	13. A connection from New Bedford to Wareham is needed in order to access services.
6. **Next Steps**
7. **Wrap Up and Next Meeting**
	1. Next meeting will be in late October or early November.