**Tusco Bus Advisory Board Meeting**

**April 14, 2022**

**10:30 am**

**Tuscarawas County Senior Center**

IN ATTENDANCE: Drew Litty, Tuscarawas County Board of DD; Joe Krocker, Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services; Jill Cunningham, Mobility Manager; Cheryl Wetzel, Tuscarawas Senior Center Transportation; Kevin Hannahs, Society for Equal Access; Tuscarawas County; Tracey DeMattio, Horizon’s Transportation; Donna Merrill, Horizon’s of Tuscarawas and Carroll County, Inc.; ABSENT: Dave Haverfield; Jerry Waltz; Jamie Smith; Mike Harrington; Nate Kamban; Bill Cozart; Glenn Groh; Shannon Hursey; Sarah Gwyer; Deborah Hill.

Drew Litty, President called the meeting to order.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022 meeting was made by Kevin Hannahs and seconded by Jill Cunningham. All Yea; President declared the motion is approved.

Financial Report:

Cheryl Wetzel, Treasurer presented the financial report showing a starting balance in January, 2022 of $15,864.06. The United Way grant money was receiving totaling $10,000 with an ending balance of $25,871.50. Donna Merrill made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Joe Krocker. All in favor, the President declared the motion approved.

1. Mobility Manager Grant Report and Financial:

* Jill Cunningham reported a United Way Community Impact grant for $10,000 was received and is to be distributed between Access Tusc, Horizons, Inc., SEA and Tusc. Co. Senior Center Transportation.
* Each agency will receive a cashier’s check for $2,500.

A motion to grant the Treasurer permission to pay the four transportation agencies in Tuscarawas County (SEA, AccessTusc, Horizon’s, Tusc. Co. Senior Center) a cashier’s check of $2,500 for transportation to Tuscarawas County residents who don’t qualify for any transportation but are at the 200% poverty level or below as made by Jill Cunningham and seconded by Kevin Hannahs. All in favor of motion, the President declared motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. 5310 Mobility Management update – Letter of Intent was accepted from ODOT to allow the Mobility Manager to apply for 5310 grant which will be open at the end of March and is due May 13, 2022.
   1. Leadership Tusc will be finishing in May and was attended by Jill Cunningham.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. TuscoBus, has been awarded $10,000 from the United Way, Community Impact grant. This grant will be used for county residents who do not qualify for transportation through another source (JFS, etc.) but are at the 200% poverty level or below. Any resident over the 200% poverty level would be a sliding scale.
   * 1. Funds may be used for in or out of county medical transportation or work transportation with an expiration of 3 weeks.
     2. Passengers qualifying for the grant assistance may be reported to Jill Cunningham.
     3. United Way will received a quarterly report of grant usage.
2. TuscoBus has submitted an application to AARP Community Challenge Grant for bilingual decals on all 84 public vehicles. Jeff Bray (guest at January meeting) and Jill Cunningham collaborated on a bilingual rack card. The rack card is starting to circulate within the community, in hopes to see an increase in transportation phone calls. Jill Cunningham requested for transportation agencies to attempt to keep data on any increase in the Latino ridership to see where to focus the need.
3. Regional surveys are out and assistance from transportation agencies is needed to distribute for collection of data.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

* 1. Donna Merrill gave an update on the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and their requirement for public transportation. Horizon’s has obtained a DOT number and PUCO number on their vehicles 9 passengers and above. Inspection was conducted and driver’s files were surveyed for proper documentation. Transportation drivers must now have a DOT physical before they may driver. Also the physical documentation must be carried at all times when the driver is driving. Any vehicle can be stopped by PUCO for inspection, driver requirements, etc.
  2. Jill Cunningham reported Claymont School personnel contact her regarding transport for an ODE student to R.D. Drage school, however, availability was an issue and Jill was to report back to school officials.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jill Cunningham and seconded by Joe Krocker. All were in favor and the President declared the motion approved at 11:30 am.

Voting of Officers:

Jill Cunningham ask for nominations of 2022 officers. No nominations were presented, therefore officers didn’t change from 2021. Officers are:

* Drew Litty, President
* Bill Cozart, Vice President
* Tracey DeMattio, Secretary
* Cheryl Wetzel, Treasurer

Jamie Smith made the motion to accept the nominations, Joe Krocker, seconded.

Old Business:

* OMEGA Media Outreach Campaign has been completed. Inserts in publications were completed with 29,000 inserted into The Bargain Hunter, 7,200 inserts in the Times Reporter in September and December, 5,000 grocery inserts at Mako’s, 2,000 grocery inserts at Dover’s Giant Eagle. Inserts were also placed at the service centers at New Phila and Dover Buehler’s locations. WJER Radiogram both November and December issues and an ad placed in the Outreacher paper in December.
* Unmet needs/goals and strategies (with amendments), along with provider updated for the coordinated plan were submitted to OMEGA, as they will report for our region to ODOT.

New Business:

* COVID Access Team Spring events began January 13 and will continue through May 4. Flyers have been distributed to transit companies and also Allied Machine, St. Joe’s Catholic Church activity center. A grant was wrote by the Senior Center to cover the costs of the flyers. Ohio Department of Aging commented they were impressed with the team in Tuscarawas County and requested to assist other counties with a project. Also mentioned getting the flyers in Spanish.
* Mobility Management advertisement is on the bill board by Miller Studio.
* Treasurers Report:
* Present balance is $13,462.23
* Dividends received in the amounts of .57, .59, .67.
* A donation from the New Phila Elks was received in the amount of $2,400
* Ending balance 12/31/21 is $15,864.06
* Surveys for 2022 are open and link and QR code are active.
* Regional intake form to begin in 2022.
* Discussion was held about finding funding for unmet needs in the county. Jeff Bray, Latino Advocate, offered his assistance regarding unmet needs in the Latino community.
* Jill Cunningham reported local foundations require a non-profit to be a requestor and manager of funds. Jamie Smith made a motion to grant permission to Jill Cunningham to apply for grant monies on behalf of TuscoBus to fund unmet needs. , Nate Kamban seconded.
* Jamie Smith suggested no grant money for more than $50,000 combined for 990 filing. All members agreed.
* A suggestion that funds be available to residents that do not qualify for any transportation but are at the 200% poverty level or below. Any resident over the 200% possibly a sliding scale for eligibility.
* Funds possibly used for in and out of county medical transportation and work for only 3 weeks.
* Jill reported 50-60% of residents in the probation system have trouble finding transportation. It was also reported there may be funding available to purchase vouchers.
* A discussion was held regarding having a Spanish speaking operator in the call center for the Latino population. Jeff Bray made the suggestion.

Jamie Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jill Cunningham seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 am