

## SMAC Meeting Minutes for February 24, 2020

**In Attendance:** Mary Bruns (chair), Jim Donnelly, Lisa Hammon; Ken Gray, David Pitman, Mike Awadalla

**Others Attending:** Anthony Macias (Staff), Meredith Gerhardt (Office of Emergency Services), Dale Martin (LivHome), Gail Garrett (ACOA)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Mary Bruns at 9:07 am. Mary noted that our scheduled speaker, Jennifer Williams, was unable to attend today but will come to the March meeting. Additional time will be spent on the Infographic.

**Agenda:** Lisa Hammon moved, Ken Gray seconded, and the committee approved the agenda.

**Minutes from January 27, 2020:** Ken Gray moved to accept the minutes, Jim Donnelly seconded, and the minutes were approved.

**Introductions:** Introductions were made by all attendees.

**Infographic:** Mary assembled several pieces of information and a summary of data. There is quite a bit of data in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Coordinated Plan. We need numbers specifically for Contra Costa County. Perhaps we could have one regional figure and then local statistics. Meredith said that she has a background in demographics. Lisa suggested looking at the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) website for County data. How are disabilities defined? Seniors are over age 60.

What is the purpose of the Infographic? Educate: the need for transportation, funding, accessible transportation. Jim asked the question: do we have a problem? A crisis? A Concern?

Mary said that we need a visual to use for applying for funding/grants and to educate the public and decision makers.

Anthony said we could use the Infographic for the ACOA report for the year, the Board of Supervisors, and for the SMAC newsletter.

Ken said that CCTA is the key agency re: transportation and that we could provide the Infographic to the CCTA Board.

We need to have the Infographic done before the August 27<sup>th</sup> event which means that the deadline to have it complete is the June 22, 2020 SMAC meeting.

What data is important: total population, seniors, disabled, low-income, safety, transit, driverless cars. We need the information to be for a "higher level" user, not for the end-user (so limit information such as the current transportation services available for seniors/people with disabilities).

Meredith asked about a map of the existing services and the needs (gaps).

There is a big need for more transportation services for people with dementia/Alzheimer's and mental illness.

The Infographic will need contact information.

We reviewed the Point in Time Infographic and the Housing Infographics.

Meredith and Lisa will work on the text for the Infographic and Meredith will present at the March 23 meeting (Lisa is unable to be there). Ralph Dennis and Elaine Clark (formerly of Meals on Wheels) have offered to help with the Infographic layout/graphics.

**2020 Event Update and Planning:** Jim presented the information: three of the four top speakers have confirmed: Fiona Ma, California State Treasurer; Dr. Aronson from UCSF and author of "Elderhood;" and Kim McCoy Wade, Director of the California Department of Aging. We are waiting to hear from Nari Rhee, Director of the Retirement Security Program at UC Berkeley. Hopefully there will be a panel with topics such as caregiving, nutrition, and socialization and a video at lunch (Senior Rally Day?).

Kim McCoy Wade will present the Master Plan for Aging. There will be a County/State implementation panel with speakers such as: County supervisor(s)/staff; Kim McCoy Wade, Debbie Toth (Choice in Aging), and Laura Cepoi (AAA).

Instead of printing and distributing hard copies, we will have flash drives. Lorna is coordinating the co-sponsors and lunches. The SCAN Foundation is covering the cost of things that the County can't cover such as the flash drives which will contain the speakers' slides, information about sponsors, and more. The only handouts will be the program, speaker bios, the flash drive and some paper for notes. Co-sponsors include the Area Agency on Aging, SCAN Foundation, Hillendale, CA Department of Aging, and the Ombudsman, but more will likely be added.

Questions for the speakers will be taken in writing via speaker cards.

Mary asked about other elected officials, and Jim said "No," because that was covered by Fiona Ma. Some will likely attend, though.

Next meeting of the planning committee for the event is Monday, March 9 at 9 am. Hopefully Lorna can attend to represent SMAC. "Save the Date" notices will go out in April.

### **Program Updates:**

Ken – Tri Delta has a successful "Tri MyRide" program going (there was an article in the newsletter). It was started because of limited parking at the new Antioch BART station. It is in two geographic areas at the moment – Antioch and Pittsburg. It is \$2 to ride from your home to the BART station. Another program is partnering with United Taxi, Uber, and Lyft as an alternative for people with disabilities. Tri Delta pays a portion of the cost. This program has also been very successful. There are 22 transit operators in the Bay

Area. Transfer trips are an issue and the operators are trying to coordinate when transfers are involved. Mary said that County Connection is also working on a “one seat” program that would eliminate transfer trips. One operator would provide the entire trip.

Mike – Care Patrol – Mike shared that due to the high cost of senior housing in Contra Costa, Care Patrol is providing more housing in the valley because the cost is considerably less. He also mentioned that Care Patrol is placing homeless folks in shared housing.

Anthony – AAA – There is a Public Hearing on March 18<sup>th</sup> and it will cover the Needs Assessment Survey and a draft of the Area Agency on Aging Four Year Plan.

David – Monument Community Shuttle (MCS) – The shuttle is free. There was a workgroup at the end of January. It was very well-attended. The shuttle has 12,000 riders per year. Future funding is in jeopardy because County Connection is not extending the contract past June 2020. The funding is complicated. The MCS buses are going to be “wrapped” by the Census Bureau and contain information on both programs.

Dale – LivHome – The LivHome program provides senior focused home care and care management. It is similar to Hillendale’s program. Their transportation costs are \$33/hour.

Lisa – Choice in Aging – The SilverRide program is expanding. Hopefully on July 1, 2020 it will become a permanent program with more carpools. Choice in Aging has its own bus to transport participants and also provides two shopping shuttles to Concord senior housing facilities, the SilverRide program, LINK paratransit, and some participants come via private transportation. Jim reminded Lisa about the intergenerational program. Lisa also talked briefly about the Aging in Place Campus which will have new program space and 81 units of low-income senior housing.

Gail – Advisory Council on Aging – Gail mentioned that the Community Health Development Center in N. Richmond does not have transportation problems! Family members drive the participants and some still drive themselves. She also mentioned the CoCo Café that serves lunch every day. Jim mentioned there are 19 CoCo Café’s at Senior Centers in the County!

Jim – Mobility Matters – Jim mentioned that there are two large senior apartment complexes in Danville and San Ramon that are each 5 miles from grocery stores but do not provide shuttle services (even though they were “promised”). Mobility Matters is currently providing 170 rides per week with 200 volunteer drivers. Elaine Welch said that they need 2,000 volunteer drivers to serve all of the needs in the county!!

**Next meeting: Monday, March 23, 2020 at 9 am. Jim will bring coffee.**