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Meeting of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging
Transportation Advisory Committee
Friday, April 14, 2023
Hopewell Senior Citizens Center, Hopewell, PA

The Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging Transportation Advisory Committee met on Friday, April 14, 2023. The meeting was opened by Connie Brode, Executive Director of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging.

Item 1- Welcome. Connie Brode, Executive Director of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging welcomed all committee members to todays meeting and reviewed the agenda item of Fare Increase review and voting.

Item 2- Fare Increase Option Discussion- A discussion of the 4 options for the new Fare Structure were again reviewed. Option #4 of the Fare Increase was recommended by the Agency for discussion within the committee. Jessica Sunderland, Transportation Manager for the Fulton County Family Partnership, stated that she used Option #4 when developing their MATP budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Michele Heane, MATP Coordinator for PA Career Link Huntingdon County and Penny Stup, MATP Coordinator for Center for Community Action Bedford County shared the same information. Connie Brode indicated to the committee that the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging would be increasing its sponsorship for Shared Ride trips $2.25 under Option #4. Committee member LaVonne Lohr stated that she felt that the agency would initially lose some ridership due to the increase, despite the need for the increase. However, she felt that clients would come back after a brief, initial downturn due to the necessity of the transportation service. She indicated that she felt Option #4 was the best. Connie Brode indicated that within Option #4, trips to the Senior Centers for congregate meals and activities would return to a zero cost to the clients. Committee member, Marty Dombroski, stated that she was happy that CART is helping the Senior Centers address decreasing participation at the centers.

Item 3- Fare Increase Voting- Committee members voted on the new Fare Increase structure and voted unanimously for Option #4 (Zone 1 $35.00, Zone #2 $65.00). Connie Brode indicated that the committee approved Option #4 would be voted on at the next Advisory Council meeting on Friday, April 28, 2023, at Hopewell Senior Center.

Item 4- Discussion of Transportation Survey- Connie Brode provided a copy of an example survey for the committee to discuss. The committee discussed the survey as a means to share that CART is a public transportation service. Committee member, Bruce Maxwell, felt question #10 needed clarification on mobility assistance. Committee member, Marty Dombroski recommended a plan for a comments section within the survey. Lori Heaton, Deputy Director for the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging recommended combining questions #10 and #13. She also indicated a question related to different options for clients to pay for trips. Tony Molinari, Transportation Director indicated that he would be in discussions with Brandon Peters from the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission on any examples/ideas for the Transportation Survey. Jessica Sunderland stated that she would talk with Julie Dovey from the Fulton County Family Partnership to provide a copy of their transportation survey for the committee.

Item 5- Training Ideas for Transportation Staff- Committee discussed some training ideas for the Transportation Staff. Connie Brode indicated that a mandatory customer service training was being provided by the agency to all agency staff. Connie also indicated that wheelchair restraint training is also being created. Connie finally indicated that pre-hire physicals will be required for all new CART Drivers and Volunteer Drivers.

Item 6- Transportation Committee Meeting Schedule- Connie Brode provided to the committee a Meeting Schedule for 2023-2024 for the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Item 7- Next Meeting- Next meeting scheduled for May 18, 2023, 10:00AM at the Hopewell Senior Center.