

LEE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

County of Lee Transit Building, Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, NC

Board Members Present: Jim Payne, Mary Upchurch, Jim Turner, Dave Shabez, Trudy Forrest

Board Members Absent: Comm. Ricky Frazier, Vera Marks, Karen Oldham, Donese Pulley

Staff Present: Debbie Davidson, Sid Morgan

8:30 a.m. Jim Payne called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The Agenda and Minutes could not be approved due to a quorum not being present. The Board agreed to proceed with the Agenda and see if other members arrive. There were no public comments. Protocol for Public Comments was reviewed by Debbie Davidson in accordance with the open meeting laws for public meetings.

8:37 a.m. Board member Trudy Forrest arrived at the meeting making a quorum for action items to be approved.

Debbie Davidson introduced Sid Morgan, Transportation Coordinator for the County of Lee Transit System. Debbie reviewed the History of COLTS. It was established in October, 1992 following a grant funded study to coordinate the system. COLTS is funded with Federal and State funds through the NC Department of Transportation; local fares, matching funds from Lee County Government and contract revenue. COLTS is governed under the compliance and regulations of the Federal Transit Administration. Sid discussed the new Zone system routing, the DASH route that is a bus stop type system that operates daily at specified stops, and the out of town medical availability. There are no "free" rides on COLTS. Every trip is funded by some means of payment. This includes public fares supplemented by grant funds. Evening and Weekend service is available through the Stevens Center Ride ability program for individuals with a disability. COLTS uses customer satisfaction surveys to note new service needs. The system currently employs 31 van drivers and three administrative staff. The administrative staff salaries are covered in part by NC DOT grant funds. The Drivers are under operations standards with hourly salaries covered by contract revenue and grant funding. The system has 18 vehicles in the fleet. Vehicles are funded 90% by federal and state funds. The remaining 10% by Lee County. Vehicles may be requested for replacement once they meet 115,000 miles as of October 1 in the previous grant funding cycle which is July 1 through June 30. It takes up to 1.5 years for the actual van to be replaced by a new one. Most of the time, the vehicles have in excess of 160,000 miles by the time they are replaced. They are sold at the NC Surplus Auction in Raleigh. Proceeds are returned to the county to help with costs associated with the fleet including local match and extended warranties. Trudy Forrest commended the system on its operation as she has been a passenger using the services.

Jim Payne asked for a motion to accept the agenda and approve previous meeting minutes – Mary Upchurch made the motion to approve with Jim Turner seconding the motion. All were in favor.

Debbie Davidson reviewed the January 2016 Finance Report. A copy of the report is attached to the original minutes. The FY 2017 Lee County Budget is due on March 7, 2016.

Debbie Davidson provided updates on programming. Judi Womack will retire from her contract position of Caregiver Advisor on April 15, 2016. A request will be made to the Lee County Board of Commissioners to make this position full time and include assistance with Senior Center Operations. Debbie discussed the upcoming Boomer, Senior and Caregiver Expo scheduled for August 31, 2016 at the Civic Center. She reviewed options that with the retirement of Judi, the Expo could be difficult to do without her expertise and the timing of the position being filled by a new person. The Civic Center construction will most likely be in progress in 2017. With this fact, the Expo would not have space in 2017 for the event. Debbie suggested alternative options that include a September open house and health fair event at the Enrichment Center, a Caregiver Symposium in November featuring local home care and long term care sessions for caregivers, and a fitness showcase in May. Various discussions took place and a motion was then made by Mary Upchurch to cancel the Expo for 2016, evaluate options for events to include the services provided by the Expo, and consider holding it again in the future once new staff has been trained. Trudy Forrest seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old/New Business

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at the Enrichment Center. An overview of the FY 2017 budget proposal will be presented. With no further business, Trudy Forrest made a motion to adjourn seconded by David Shabez and all were in favor. The Board adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Debbie Davidson, Secretary 

Jim Payne, Chair 