

RTCC Meeting Notes

07-23-26

Attendees:

Ava Wolf (HOTCOG)
Brook Lamb (McLennan County Health Services)
Danielle Utrera (Veterans Affairs)
Frank Patterson (McLennan Community College)
Heather Travers (McLennan County Health Services)
Jana Svacina-Waldrop (Waco Transit)
Jason Pettegrow (HOTBHN)
John Vorderkunz (HOTCOG)
Judge Jay Elliott (Falls County)
Judge Lloyd Lane (Freestone County)
Judge Shane Brassell (Hill County)
Misty Hendon (HOTCOG)
Rep Pledger (HOTCOG)
Russell Devorsky (HOTCOG)

Virtual Attendees:

Alisha Alvarez (TXDOT)
April Torres (Hill County Indigent Healthcare)
Serena Stevenson (Waco Transit)

Judge Elliott: Call to order at 1:00pm.

Rep: We need ideas about how to coordinate, where coordination is needed, different ideas between groups and then discuss how to fund them. Reach out to your community and clients to find out what's needed, what they're missing.

Committee: Discussed if we need a set route between Waco, Temple, Falls. What do veterans need.

Discussed outreach with social workers and veterans getting to outlying counties like Brown, Brazos, Mills etc. Discussed veterans being reluctant to ask for help.

Discussed how to approach the alignment of our services. Where can we align to begin to promote that, a type of measurable way to see how can we partner and make the connections. Agencies need to coordinate and collaborate about what we should do to fix some schedules initially set out a time frame to evaluate how those are progressing and then from there tweak them based off of you know where we see the demand and the need being met. Providers making that initial commitment to be out there aligned, where can we work together with some set timeframes or fixed, and then begin to promote that with the community and then engage and see if we have some

efficiencies or if we're, you know, just not out there at those right times. But the alignment is be key for us to do anything together.

Discussed veterans getting beneficiary travel and getting paid to ride the bus. Not all veterans qualify for that benefit.

Match funding for veterans. Federal dollars can't match federal, but you can make a contribution.

Dani: Requested more information on how federal vs local match works and information on writing a white paper.

April: Will coordinate with Rep on getting a bus stop for people coming from Hillsboro to Waco for work instead of having to pick up at each individual house.

Committee: Hill county has a lot of large industrial projects that will be employing hundreds of workers.

Rep: Federal funding for this next year, we estimate having \$400,000 dollars that can't be used because we don't have local match. There is funding to make transportation for these employers, but they have to reach out and tell us what they need and be willing to put matching funds in.

Serena: Mentioned these discussions need to happen at the beginning before employees are hired so that there's enough time to advertise and for the employer to let people know this is available.

John V: I do think like a white paper making the case to VA National, because there is precedent. The ADRC, the Aging and Disability Resource Center program that we operate in statewide, we're going to be participating in a program called Medicare Administrative Claiming. And that is a program that anybody in grant-funded stuff knows you don't double-dip, you don't double-bill. This is a program that essentially allows you to use federal dollars as local match to further draw down. And so, it's essentially because there was tons of Medicare money across the nation that was not getting drawn down because it was getting allocated, and the states didn't have the funding to match. So, there is precedent there at the legislative level. At the federal level, for creating federal match. And I think that's absolutely worth us leading the way and trying to explore that.