



Minutes for the RCC Meeting January 18, 2023.

The RCC Chairperson, Valerie Shaw, called the meeting to order at 9:03am. The meeting was held in person at the AAA9 conference room, Cambridge, Ohio. There were twenty-one people in attendance.

Madam Chairperson reviewed the housekeeping items and the meeting agenda and welcomed members. Ms. Hill called the roll and made sure the attendance sign-in sheet was complete. Shon Gress provided donuts and cookies for attendees.

Madam Chairperson reviewed the minutes from the last RCC meeting on November 16, 2022. Minutes were sent to all members prior to the meeting for their review. There were no corrections or additions. Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Kevin Davis; seconded by Shannon Hursey. Motion carried.

Shon Gress, Executive Director and CEO of the Guernsey County Senior Center provided our “Local Spotlight” segment highlighting the vast array of services provided by the Guernsey County Senior Center and handing out pamphlets about the senior center, senior transportation services, the January Senior Times Newsletter (which is distributed to over 1500 people monthly!), and an array of information packaged and provided by the Guernsey County Visitor and Tourism Department.

Slides of Mr. Gress’ presentation may be found in their entirety on the OMEGA website at www.Omegadistrict.org or are available by request to DHill@omegadistrict.org. The Guernsey County Senior Center is in its 51st year of operation with an annual operating budget of \$3.6 Million dollars. They are one of only a few senior centers working with more than one AAA area serving both AAA9 and AAA8. They have a robust meals-on-wheels program, which is levy funded, and supported by 80% of voters which is one of the highest supported levy initiatives for this program in the state. In 2022 they provided 200,000 meals at a food-only cost of \$685,000. Food delivery also allows for daily wellness checks. Senior transportation is provided six days a week with Saturday service from 8am-3pm. The Guernsey Senior Center is currently attempting to expand their transportation services to a 150-mile radius of Guernsey County as well as working on expanding their physical buildings. ALL services offered, and that is a very extensive list, are provided by donation only and never denied to anyone 60 or older who are residents of Guernsey County and have established need. Those over 90 are eligible for all services automatically.

Mr. Gress also spoke about the changing needs/requirements of baby boomers as they are aging and mentioned that the OMEGA counties have higher and older aged populations. He mentioned Scripps's Gerontology (Miami University) map which predicts the Ohio 60+ population, by county, with projections through 2050. We were able to locate and reproduce the map during the meeting and it was distributed to those present.

No ODOT officials were present at the meeting. Ms. Hill noted that ODOT is moving the 5310-funding cycle by about six months to correspond to the state fiscal year, so 5310 program LOIs which would typically be issued in February will not be issued. ODOT is also considering the adoption of a two-year funding cycle though that decision has not been made. The Mobility Ohio pilot project is seeking some additional/alternative funding and depending on the funding secured that pilot may need to be adjusted.

Madam Chairperson then introduced the featured speakers, Dr. Allison Ricket and Mandy White, both from the Voinovich School, who spoke about Social Return on Investment (SROI) and how it might relate to and benefit transportation issues. Dr. Ricket was not able to attend due to a family emergency, but Ms. White presented slides and concepts about how SROI is developed and provided some examples of SROI within the OMEGA region. The slides in their entirety are located on the OMEGA website at www.Omegadistrict.org. Following the presentation, we opened the floor for unstructured discussion of the topic and interest in developing a potential Regional SROI project. There was high and cohesive positive interest in the value that a SROI project could bring and the many various partners and stakeholders who would benefit from the project results. Ms. Hill is going to work with the OMEGA team to determine some potential funding partners for a regional project and the scope of work for such a project will be further discussed at the February Steering Committee meeting.

In regional business, Ms. Hill reviewed the Regional Unmet Needs, presented Appendix R, the 2022 annual update to the Regional Coordinated Plan which was submitted to ODOT in mid- December 2022, and reviewed some results from the Regional Survey of Unmet Needs for 2022. She also reviewed the RCC calendar for 2023 and asked for volunteers to host the three other RCC meetings in 2023 and for input on potential speaker topics. Access Tusc, CCCTA, SSOBC and possibly Carroll County have offered to host meetings. Possible meeting topics include how to create a volunteer transportation companion program which is a leading need in the region and inviting the State of Pennsylvania to speak about how they developed and offered transportation scheduling software to all public transits and lessons learned.

For the good of the region, it was noted that SEAT is no longer providing transportation in Belmont County and that Belmont County no longer has a mobility manager. Neff's fire department is getting four additional vehicles through ODOT to expand their services in Belmont to help provide wheelchair accessible transportation but the unmet needs of Belmont County residents, especially those under 60 or who do not have Medicaid will be great and very difficult to accommodate.

All those in attendance were invited to lunch at Theo's after the meeting concluded. Motion to adjourn was made by Shannon Hursey and seconded by Kevin Davis. The meeting concluded at 11:18am.

