



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES– February 15, 2023

The meeting was held in-person only at the ODOT District 11 conference room with appropriate safety precautions available and was called to order shortly after 9:00 am by Deborah Hill, OMEGA Regional Transit Planner. A welcome to attendees was offered. Introductions by attendees were made and the agenda for the meeting was reviewed. 16 were in attendance, 4 excused absence, and 3 absent. Of note, Harrison County had an alternate member attend: Danny Williams, Safety Director, Harrison County Public Transit.

A review of the Regional Unmet Needs was presented with unmet needs categorized. The regional unmet needs should drive the choice of SROI (Social Return On Investment) project choice. In the development of the regional SROI project, this meeting was intended to provide additional understanding and also to determine areas of focus for the project which will take place under contract with the Voinovich School at Ohio University. An open discussion of regional issues that could benefit from SROI analysis was conducted. Some of the issues mentioned and considered included:

- *No Shows and late cancellations for medical appointments (Doctor's offices and hospitals are now cancelling appointments with little or no notice)
- *Hospital and office double and triple booking appointments
- *Short or Long wait times at appointments. Out of County (OOC) trips are most impacted by this.
- *Discharge or admission unknowns
- *Critical Vehicle shortages – inflation and lack of supply have caused price increases of \$20,000 per vehicle (implies much higher match as well) also federal mandates of only purchasing from certain listed vendors hampers potential alternative vehicle purchases
- *Driver shortages – wages, benefits, training, limited potential of workforce pool
- * Employment and Workforce Development – shifts, dd population, employer buy-in

At this juncture, Mandy White with the Voinovich School at Ohio University took over the meeting discussions. She and her colleague, Dr. Allison Rickett will be the leaders for our regional project. Ms. White helped define SROI steps for completion and also helped the group to focus on the areas we wish to have studied. Some issues better lend themselves to SROI projects. After considerable discussion it was decided that the SROI project would focus on the areas of medical/health and employment. Ms. White led a discussion about who the target audience is for the project as the audience can influence what proxies, or data points, you choose. The group decided that our audience consists of the following groups:

FUNDERS – ODOT/JFS, private funders, private foundations, and corporate foundations
Health Systems – regional and also physician offices, social workers
Insurance Companies
Employment/ Workforce – DD, quality of life, dignity, and independence

It was also strongly noted that an over-arching and all-encompassing focus MUST be kept on the client as they are 100% impacted at all times. Though SROI aims to quantify services, and thus “put a number” on the less tangible aspects of transportation, we never want to lose sight of the client and making certain all decisions are person centered first and foremost.

Deliverable products from our project are expected to include an Impact Calculator which would allow for time period vs time period evaluation and also for calculations based on different variables. There would also be a power point presentation which could be used in part or in whole by OMEGA members in various situations, A report will also be prepared as well as one or two requested one-pagers on specific items to be determined as the project evolves. The Voinovich team is also available to help with visual graphics if needed (though it is thought that OMEGA staff can provide this benefit).

After the conclusion of the lengthy SROI discussions, it was agreed that next steps will be for the Voinovich team to supply a scope of work, cost and tie frame estimated and some contract language to OMEGA for review. We will then proceed with the processes involved in contract development and adoption. After the ONEGA Executive Board has voted on this issue, the next step will be to invite Dr. Ricket and Ms. White back to a Steering or RCC meeting to hone in on the proxies we wish to discover, and discuss what data they need supplied to them from the region.

Next, the 2023 regional initiatives were briefly reviewed. Region 9 is planning for the beginning of the rewrite of the Regional Coordinated Plan which is due to ODOT in June 2024. We are also actively working to provide CarFit Senior training events in each county in the summer of 2023, looking for ways to better secure direct feedback and inclusion of the disabled populations in the region, beginning a pilot program for transportation companions, entering into an SROI project, and committed to the preparation and distribution of a medical-transportation one page info-paper, “How to effectively utilize public transit to create more positive patient health outcomes” to address medical scheduling issues and how they can better interact with public transit capabilities.

The meeting calendar for the rest of the year was presented and reviewed. The group voted that they preferred to have Steering meetings consistently at ODOT District 11, while the RCC quarterly meetings will travel throughout the region.

For the good of the region: All regional mobility managers and the regional transit planner will have completed and be certified in Age Sensitivity Training and Car Fit training by the end of February. There was also an offer to provide regional Braun lift training for mechanics in both the public transit and the transportation sectors. There was very great interest in this and the transit planner will be arranging this training free to the OMEGA members. The initial plan is to offer the Braun training in conjunction with the RCC meeting scheduled for April. The transit planner will send information to all members as it evolves.

The meeting adjourned at 11am.

