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DIRECTOR

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SHYCOLE SIMPSON-CARTER
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2021***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at the City of Goldsboro Anteroom, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Members in attendance: Shycole Simpson-Carter, Chairman, Berry Gray, Secretary/Treasurer, Freeman Hardison, Jr., Steve Wiggins, and Hiawatha Jones (via phone)

Members absent: Brent Heath, Vice Chairman and Gene Aycock

Others in attendance: Don Willis and LaShonda Oliver

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Steve Wiggins and seconded by Freeman Hardison, Jr., the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of July 29, 2021.

Director's Report

Financial

The rural program is showing a gain of \$989.84 in July. The urban program is showing a loss of \$.29 in July. Note that there are three pay periods for the first month of the new fiscal year. The urban funds will remain about balanced throughout most of the year due to the grant reimbursement process.

GWTA continues to watch for the results of the state budget to see whether the urban bus service will see the SMAP operating assistance restored, and whether the rural van service will see the ROAP operating assistance restored. GWTA has planned to receive \$239,000 in ROAP Funds and \$195,001 in SMAP funds, which would be consistent with the last level of funding provided by the NCDOT. Once ROAP funds are confirmed, GWTA will seek applications from agencies seeking to use funds to purchase trips. Recommendations will be brought to the Board of Directors for approvals.

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The NCDOT released the FY22-23 Community Transportation Program (CTP) application call for projects on July 12, 2021. This grant will fund GWTA's rural Administrative expenses. In addition, the call for projects includes Capital projects and also additional Rural State Operating (RSO) funds which we have used for the Mount Olive Service and additional rural trip demands. Applications will be due by October 8, 2021 and the GWTA Board of Directors will be provided the application for review and approval at the September 30, 2021 meeting.

NCDOT and NCHHS had provided substantial funding for trips to vaccines during the spring. These funds have been very helpful; however, there is a significant amount of funds remaining. On August 17, 2021, additional flexibility was announced in the ability to use these funds through September 30, 2021.

The FY21-22 FTA grant application for urban operating, preventive maintenance, and ADA service has been submitted. The grant is proceeding through the FTA review process. GWTA will use CARES and ARPA funds for operations costs and capital this year GWA will continue to use FTA appropriations that have carried over from previous years for this fiscal year to cover ADA and maintenance costs. This approach reduces the need for matching funds from Goldsboro. The NCDOT has managed the FTA 5307 Governor's Apportionment funds in prior years, which has allowed GWTA to tap into funding for ADA services beyond the normal cap amount. However, NCDOT is working to transition their management of these funds completely to the FTA. GWTA is seeking clarification on the potential impact on our ability to draw additional ADA funds.

GWTA was reimbursed by NCDOT for the requested CARES Act funding to cover the operational deficit and losses during fy21.

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners met on August 3, 2021 and took action to re-affirm GWTA as the designated recipient of NCDOT funding for public and community transportation services.

Marketing and Public Relations

Director has begun the process of planning our annual efforts with QCA for the coming year. QCA expects to attend the September Board meeting to present the marketing plan for the Board's approval.

Outreach and Activities

Director participated in the quarterly NCPTA Board of Directors meeting in Wilmington on August 6th. Director participated in a monthly Small Urban call with the NCDOT on August 17th. Director met with the Emergency Manager and Dialysis Center representatives to discuss their annual emergency plan on August 19th.

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Training

Operators will receive refresher training on Emergency Procedures and Accident Reporting on August 26th.

Medicaid Broker Contract Updates

ModivCare did not reach out to GWTA prior to the end of July to request an extension to our Interim Provider Agreement. Director pointed out to ModivCare on August 3rd that there had not been a mutual agreement to continue services. Subsequently there was agreement to continue, with GWTA expressing that the rate structure offered would not extend “as is” into September. GWTA staff participated in a teleconference with ModivCare on August 9th to discuss issues and concerns with services since the transition to managed care. On August 13th Director held an additional teleconference with ModivCare to reset negotiations. ModivCare communicated on August 19th that a counter-proposal was under review by their attorneys.

GWTA and our peers continue to receive trip requests on a very short notice, making it difficult to provide services. This is being addressed with NCHHS and the Private Health Plans, as well as with each broker. OneCall is offering many more trips to GWTA than ModivCare at this time. NCHHS Deputy Director Dave Richard announced they will extend flexibility for CT/PT providers dealing with the new broker model through the end of November to assure beneficiaries are served and providers are paid.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Submitted by: LaShonda Oliver