



Lewiston Disability Advisory Commission
MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2024
Lewiston City Hall – Back Conference Room – 1134 F Street
Lewiston, Idaho 83501

Members Attending: Chairman Constance Vance, Matthew Ruth, Mark Havens, Jessica Grainger, Eric Peterson

Members Not Attending: Mike Feeney, Amy Brogan

Non-Members Attending: Nikki Province, Leah Burris

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Meeting called to order at 12:04pm

II. CITIZEN COMMENT

A. None.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. AFTER HOURS TRANSPORTATION: Mr. Havens begins the conversation by laying out the two distinct issues with this topic that have arisen in the last year. The first is that people with disabilities typically work non peak hours and if they do not have a car, that presents an issue. Asotin County Community Services tried to address this with a grant, which they subcontracted out to COAST, which would provide after hours transportation. COAST could not keep up with the demand due to lack of drivers so the program did not unfold like expected. Asotin County Community Services took over the grant and provided the services only to their own clientele. Chairman Vance states for OUI's vocational program, those individuals are provided job coaches and Medicaid pays gas mileage. She believes Asotin County Community Services operates similarly and so they probably do not provide transportation for non-clients because they would not be provided reimbursement for those travel expenses. Ms. Grainger states for OUI, their clients that work usually have to walk, sometimes in dangerous conditions, or they use their own money to pay for rides, or do not work hours when they cannot get transportation. She adds sometimes schedules line up where they can get rides, but after hours is especially a problem. Mr. Ruth states he sees this same thing. Mr. Havens states he would like to talk to Transit Manager [Suzanne Seigneur](#), but knows she would probably say it's not cost effective and wonders if Dial-A-Ride could run after hours. Mr. Peterson states Dial-A-Ride cannot run outside of regular Transit hours due to ADA. Ubers and taxis are also a very limited option and more expensive. Mr. Havens states the second issue with this topic is the hospital releases patients after hours. They may arrive by ambulance and then do not have transportation home. As a result, some people wait around the lobby all night. The ambulance will take them home but then they get billed. Mr. Peterson comments that for the Fire department to assist, the Fire department would need

more people, as well as additional vehicles. He adds the city could contract with other services and this would address a different need than the Transit system. Mr. Peterson suggests doing an analysis of the need which could then be provided to City Council to request funding. There also wouldn't be the issue of dealing with federal money and accounting for it. Mr. Havens agrees it points out a difference that the job scenario would be planned rides whereas the hospital release issue would just be on demand. Mr. Havens states he was stunned to learn how frequently people are released from the hospital late at night or in the middle of the night, which he learned from a group that recently met to discuss this issue. Mr. Ruth states that doesn't surprise him at all as he has clients go to the hospital every single day. Mr. Havens states this isn't a hospital problem, it's a community problem. They don't want to pay for it to be solved. Mr. Havens adds he does not know what the answer is but it will cost money.

Mr. Peterson follows up on the idea of doing a study to determine cost and investigating how this service could be provided. He states it is needed for our economy and the growth we hope to get one day. He also states this is a good topic for them to focus on this year, along with the new reporting system the ISS Department has been working on. Mr. Peterson adds that some people without vehicles are not disabled, they just cannot afford one. Chairman Vance confirms that if a person with a disability wants to volunteer at the rodeo or a community event, they are unable to do so. Ms. Grainger discusses the possibility that maybe the need is there for a Transit system but it's not being documented. Chairman Vance discusses the idea of doing a community survey to determine the need. Mr. Peterson discusses that DAC has not had any goals except these two items so it would be nice to create a list of these as goals and then assign someone to lead the projects. Mr. Peterson wants to put this on a future agenda. Mr. Havens states Chairman Vance brought up the third goal which would be that for after hours events, individuals would need to be brought home, whether they are out for social reasons or volunteering. Mr. Havens asks to put on record that nobody says these services have to be free but DAC is recognizing that Transit does not run Sundays or at night, and taxis and Uber do not run at night around here. Mr. Havens adds they may want the hospital, as well as employers such as OUI and Disability Action Center, to be part of the discussion. The focus needs to be on people with disabilities but if other people could benefit, that would be good. The Commission discusses Sheryl with Rideshare which is a Medicare eligible transportation system, which sometimes offers other rides for small fees, but that this is not a long term plan. Chairman Vance discusses possibly applying for a grant that would provide a rideshare option. Mr. Havens states Interlink has thought about having paid on-call drivers that could be called when someone needs a ride, with the hospital being the main source. They wouldn't necessarily stay awake all night but if called, could respond. He adds that in big cities you have taxi cabs lined up in front of hotels or airports so maybe in this concept the driver stays at the hospital waiting for people to need a ride. Mr. Havens comments he thinks it would be necessary to find a better understanding of the need which may help with getting a grant and getting the City involved. Mr. Havens adds that just yesterday he transported a veteran three times and when he asked him how he would get home the gentleman said he knows someone but will have to pay him. This gentleman is a veteran, disabled, and member of our community. He had to attend a required meeting that gets over between those off hours. He has a constraint on his own ability to be successful because of this situation. Ms. Vance asks if the City could offer a grant to a transit service such as a taxi company. Mr. Havens comments that Moscow/Pullman have so many Ubers to pick up individuals at the bar but for some reason it hasn't developed in the Valley. Mr. Peterson requests to have goal setting for DAC for the year be put on the next

agenda as an action item. Mr. Peterson comments that being disabled, it is difficult to ask for rides and is not a viable way of getting places, as people are working or unavailable. Ms. Grainger comments it would be nice if groups did have access to funds to get volunteers for coaching or participating in sports, but if they don't have a ride, they are unable to participate, and wonders if there can be some sort of incentive to get more volunteers to transport people. Chairman Vance comments that's why it would be nice for the City to get a grant to help.

IV. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. MEETING MINUTES: Approval of September 12, 2024 meeting minutes

1. Mr. Ruth motions to approve the minutes. Mr. Havens seconds the motion and all vote to approve the minutes.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. As stated previously in the meeting, Mr. Peterson requests goal setting be on the next agenda.

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

A. None.

VII. STAFF LIAISON COMMENTS

A. None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Meeting adjourned at 12:59pm.

Mike Feeney - Term Expires 07/27	Eric Peterson - Term Expires 08/25
Mark Havens - Term Expires 07/27	Amy Brogan - Term Expires 04/25
Constance Vance - Term Expires 07/27	Jessica Grainger - Term Expires 09/25
	Matt Ruth- Term Expires 03/26

The City of Lewiston is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, and activities and encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided at this meeting, please contact Nikki Province at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting at 208-746-3671, ext. 6211 or nprovince@cityoflewiston.org.