



CORTPO Technical Board
January 6, 2025, 11:15 a.m.
COEDD, 400 N. Bell St, Shawnee

Meeting Minutes

Jim Greff	P	Cory Swearingen	P	Kim Holmes	A
Amy Hill	P	Melissa Fesler	P	Cynthia Gedra	A
Randy Heisler	P	Wendy Rutter	P	Jackson Hurst	A
Chris Peters	A	Crystal Stevens	P		
Tina Lowery	P	Sheri Hutchins	A		

1. Call to Order **11:15 am**
2. Roll Call - **Jim Greff-here, Amy Hill-here, Randy Heisler-here, Chris Peters-absent, Tina Lowery-here, Cory Swearingen-here, Melissa Fesler-here, Wendy Rutter-here, Crystal Steven-here, Sheri Hutchins-absent, Kim Holmes-absent, Cynthia Gedra-absent, Jackson Hurst-absent. We have a quorum. 8/13**
3. Introduction of Guests **There are no guests**
4. Mobility Manager update – **Kristen – I sent out the transportation chat survey via email last week. I haven’t received it back from anybody, Clorisa did confirm she received it, but I wanted to check with everyone to see if they did. AMY- What day did it get mailed out? Kristen – Last Friday Cory – What was it again? Kristen- it was a transportation chat survey. It’s 3 or 4 questions. All Board members- did not receive the email. Kristen- I will send it out again, I wondered if it made it out when I didn’t get a response to it. It’s about 3 or 4 questions about when you want to set those up and how they will be done. Also working on the 2025 Calendar for Mobility Management, Clorisa and I have scheduled engagements for the ROC bus. Todd and I will be presenting at the SWTA conference in Tucson next month. Unite us has been inundating us with referrals, this typically happens when an organization has training on it. I sent 8 of those referrals to COTS, 3 to Melissa, and a couple just needed resources. Melissa, I never heard back. So, this is what’s happened United Us is an excellent referral organization. They speak directly to the customer and they know we will be calling them, the Oklahoma Transition Council I’ve been getting calls from them also and those are more case workers that are reaching out to me and they haven’t been great about reaching**



back out. I am going to see if we can make that process a little better and reach directly out to the people needing assistance rather than having that middleman because I don't feel we are addressing that person in a timely manner. So, you guys know how these referrals are going with Unite Us, this gentleman has Humana and insurance through Medicare/Medicaid, and he has already utilized his 12 trips, and he has dialysis; lives in Seminole comes to Shawnee for treatment. And Tina has been referred to you guys after this. He's using Humana and so he has used those trips, he contacted a private transit, and they quoted him \$120 per trip 3 times a week. So that is the kinds of things we are dealing with and the people we are working with to make sure they get in touch with you guys. To overcome those challenges because nobody has a car payment sitting in the bank every week to go to their medical appointments. In the month of November, we did 3 speaker presentations between Clorisa and I and 2 community engagement events. So, make sure to reach out to us if you have those opportunities come across the board. I will send that email out to all of you again and I will be in touch with everyone within the next couple of weeks. Any questions or suggestions on Mobility Management? Cory- My question is, when you get in contact with Unite Us and then contact the customer is there communication after that. Do you respond to them, or do you respond to the agencies in the area? Kristen- It's a data collection system there that you can add all the information and take notes in the system. So, like the man that was quoted \$120 per ride, I put what company he contacted, the quote, and the referral to COTS in the system. Tina- So Kristen do you send that through email? Kristen- no it's a contained system; I give your information straight to the consumer and they reach out to you. Cory- so after you give the information to the consumer that is where it stops for you? So, in the United Us system that's the last connection. Kristen- not necessarily, the case stays open, and they are basically a client of mine. It's like a case management system so I can go back in and check in with them. That is what we have been doing, if a person doesn't get back to us within a couple weeks we go in and reach out to them to make sure they don't have additional needs. One gentleman that was referred to AAA needed a lot of assistance, so it was an urgent referral that went out that could get him assistance right away. So, I worked with him, referred aging to him to get some food due to food insecurity issues and they were able to work with him to help with



some hearing issues. We usually stay within our region but if I see someone that pops up with a need, I will grab it and send it to those who can help. Are you guys on Unite Us? Cory- we are not currently on it, we have had the training but since there are so many platforms that we must be on, it has been difficult to be active participants and make it useful not only for us but for the agencies that are on it. Kristen- Here's the negative with Unite Us, it is a great platform with a lot of functionality, there is reporting functionality, it really is a useful tool but there are so many. Unite Us is great right now since there are no costs associated with it, but they will be rolling it out with costs and their anchor client is SSM, which is where we are getting a flood of referrals from and SSM is not going to recontract with them at the paid for rate. So, I'm afraid it isn't going to stick around for very long. What we have seen with them is in the Shawnee Seminole region not a lot of people know of the resources available to them. Tina and I have talked about how to do the outreach outside of the system and how to reach out to them. There are people within blocks of you guys and don't even know that you are there. Cory- thank you for explaining it to us, we weren't sure how the whole program worked, and we knew eventually there was going to be a cost to it, and you know if you had one person dedicated to the program that is one thing but there are so many platforms already. Kristen- ya, I think that is how Cristi from southwest Oklahoma uses it, all the referrals come through her, and she sends it out. If you guys want to do it that way, I'm fine with it. You are more than welcome to come over here and look at the system and see if it is something you want to use. Again, cost-wise Mobility Management isn't going to be able to afford it unless we get a nice grant, and we don't have that right now. Amy- do you want to do a demo day? Kristen- absolutely, in fact I can set it up on zoom and show you guys everything it has. Amy- that would be great. Wendy- so you said it is going to be paid later because we do a lot of rides with SSM. Tina and radiation send us a lot of rides daily for radiation until the 23rd. So, we were trying to figure out how we can get more rides, so what your saying is it is only free for the Unite Us for now. Kristen- I have a program that we use and the guy that did the demo for our program is the one that told us there was going to be a cost. Olivia looked into it, and she is the one that said it was costly, but she is on leave until the 27th so when she gets back, we can get more information. Like I said, we can look at it and see if we want to



continue to use it as a free program because it does go out to so many agencies and does have some great things about it and because it is HIPPA compliant there is a lot of information in there we can use in regards to who needs more assistance and lists it out, it's more than transportation. I'll send it out to you guys and see if it is something you want to join us and look at.

5. Approve November 2024 minutes – Clorisa- the attachment didn't get sent out with the original email, so I sent it this morning. Do I have a first and a second Tina 1st, Amy 2nd
6. Yearly ROC Bus Schedule: Clorisa- We tried to have one per county between Kristen and I know of and are registered for. We are registered with Cops N Kids instead of Touch a Truck. We had a booth at Cops and Kids last year and the bus at Touch a Truck. It went well but I think the bus would be a great addition to this event. Tina- Clorisa that Sorghum Festival, is in Seminole County. Clorisa- Ok we will change that and find something in Hughes County to register for. Melissa- I had the ROC bus scheduled, and it didn't show up so I would confirm with Angela that it would be there. I did it online so I'm not sure what happened there. Clorisa- ya, I got an email confirming all the dates with her. Tina- Melissa, what kind of training do you do on the ROC bus? Melissa- I use the ROC bus 4 times a year for training. We do videos, paperwork, etc. that is needed. It's a lot easier to take the drivers on the bus for 1 hour and go to their locations. It's a lot easier. Tina- do you do all the drivers at once? Melissa- no we do it for 2 days, that's why it was bad when they didn't show. Crystal- what happened with the scheduling Melissa? Melissa- so they said that well finally I got an email after I said no one showed up and I happened to have Jacks number who is the driver. He said thanks for checking on me, he thought I already knew he had shoulder surgery, I did not. So, he had shoulder surgery, and they didn't black out those days on the online schedule. Amy- ya, they should have blocked out if they didn't have a backup. I'll discuss that with Andrea at our next board meeting.
 - a. Okfuskee County – Okemah Pioneer Days – April 26
 - b. Hughes County – Wewoka Sorghum Festival – October 25 (**this is Seminole County**)
 - c. Pottawatomie County – Cops N Kids – August 23
 - d. Lincoln County – Prague Kolache Festival – May 3



- e. Logan County – Guthrie 89ers Days – April 20th
 - f. Seminole County – Seminole Made in Oklahoma Festival – April 5
7. Public Sessions: March 5th is the Annual GIS Day at the Capital. This day is an opportunity for the public and private sectors to highlight the uses of GIS and to showcase how technology is being used as a decision-making tool throughout the state of Oklahoma. It will be held on the second floor of the State Capital Building. The event is free to the public. COEDD/CORTPO has hosted a table at GIS Day for the last 17 years. **Tina- what is GIS? Clorisa- Geographical Information Systems, it's a mapping system. That is what we do all our visuals and inventories through.**
8. This next year CORTPO will be hosting monthly community sessions around the Region, including Logan County. If you have any suggestions of locations or events, please share them. **Clorisa- Kristen and I have been talking about how we are going to complete this. We are going to host in-person and virtual meetings with people to get feedback and conversations about what is needed, wanted, and what possibly could be done to help communities. Not only in our Region but get feedback from their concerns all over the state. Kristen- these ties back to the email that I sent out. Clorisa, we are hoping to do at least 1 to 2 events per month throughout the year. I have received a good response to the new LRTP survey that went out, I really appreciate everyone sharing it. If you have any questions or events, you want us to speak out about it and let us know. Kristen- those exposures have really helped, letting people know what we do here and how we can help.**
9. Kristen and Tina were on ShawneeCTV. If you haven't seen it, the link is on our Facebook page. Did anyone see Kristen and Tina on Shawnee CTV. **Tina- no I don't even want to see it; it was such a stressful day I was afraid how it turned out. Clorisa- it's on our website and Facebook page. Kristen- by the power of editing you can't see how nervous we were about the tornado outside the window. Tina- I had drivers out and I'm freaking out and the sirens were going off. Clorisa- ya, they removed the sirens from behind you guys, you can't even hear them. Tina- really, thank God they didn't show any window with everything flying by. Kristen- I think in one scene you can see your eyes look at the window then it cuts to a different scene. Kristen- you look great Tina, they keep flashing the number to COTS on there, it was a good interview. Tina- I left there and went back to my office, and everyone was in the basement. We have 4**



floors of apartments above us, and everyone was down there. I sent messages out to the drivers to get the riders off the road and into safety. We have had drivers drive through tornadoes to get their passengers to safety before. I had a driver several years ago that got an award because he safely got his riders to safety because the tornado was right on him. So, I'm down there trying to get messages to the drivers and there is no reception in the basement, and I finally had a huge meltdown and my boss is like, "what's going on" and I was like, I need to get away from all these people, it was horrible just horrible. Kristen- when they said we are going to keep rolling, Tina did have them stop rolling at one time so she could contact her drivers, I appreciate you doing this with me. Clorisa- I don't know why you guys didn't just do it in the lower hallway. Kristen- everyone from the office was down there and Daniel said, "No we are good we can just do it up here." Clorisa- so everyone was downstairs, and you guys were up here. Tina- Fiona was just amazing, she's like it's no big deal to her. Clorisa- but it is on our Facebook page, and it has gotten quite a bit of likes so I'm happy you guys were able to get that done. We would like to do it in every county with the transits in those areas. I know Stillwater has a CCTV channel; we will have to go with the ones in the other counties. Tina- I would like to see the unedited version.

10. The Regional LRTP will be done by the end of this Month. It took me a little longer due to needing to wrap up the CIP department. Keep an eye out the end of this month to the beginning of next month for the plan to be sent out for comments. I would appreciate any suggestions you have. Clorisa – I know I wanted to have it done by the end of January, but we are closing, or we have closed our CIP department. I had 4 projects open, and they are all in the process of closing at this time. I hate to close it since it is very important to the communities, but the department isn't self-sustainable and there is no way we can hire someone with that knowledge for what we can pay. I'm currently finishing up the Environmental Justice chapter. That is a new chapter that COEDD/CORTPO doesn't have already. ODOT said that we needed an approved Environmental Justice manual for the requirements to become a RTPO instead of the current RPO status. I will have the initial report done by the end of February. I will send it out to everyone on both Boards and ODOT for comments before opening it up to the public



comment period. I love getting edits from everyone, it shows that you took the time to read through what I have worked so hard on.

11. I will finish the work on the Active Living Plan and work on the pilot for the American Trails Program. Clorisa- The Active Living plan is still in the works but won't be finished until after the LRTP has been approved since that is on the deadline. I have most of the mapping for the USGS American Trails pilot for Oklahoma done. I do need to go out and walk a few more than I don't feel I got accurate information on. I have communicated with both Elizabeth and Tatyanna from USGS on what their requirements are and hopefully give them what they need to be added since Oklahoma isn't currently on the Trails map.
12. Old Business - No old business
13. New Business – Clorisa- Kristen and I have been researching grants that we would like to apply for this year. If we could get a letter of recommendation from you it would be helpful. Kristen- also if there are any grants that you want to apply for that we could partner on, we are more than willing to help. Clorisa- If you need letters of recommendation from us on a grant please reach out, we would be very happy to support your applications. Tina- we are fixing to start on our 5311 grant. Kristen- did you get the SSM grant this year? Tina/Cory- no we didn't get it. Clorisa- The last thing keep an eye on our Facebook. Grant season is opening again, and I will be posting everything that crosses my desk whether it is planning to construction. A lot of our municipalities are on Facebook and use that resource for funding. Tina- what is your website again? Clorisa- COEDD.net
14. Adjourn Clorisa- It has been a great meeting; I appreciate everyone being here. Do I have a first and second. Wendy 1st and Cory 2nd.