

Minutes

CITY OF LAKEWOOD ADA TASK FORCE MEETING September 27, 2022 7:00-8:00 PM

Meeting is recorded

<https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/accordions/ada-task-force/>

1. Members present:

Tracy Greenberg, co-chair
Sean Mott
Chris Cowen
Ahmie Yeung, co-chair
Sarah Kepple

Others present:

Michelle Nocht, secretary
Andrew Fleck, legal counsel
Chad Berry -Human Services Director

Absent, Thomas McGraw, Christina Tayman, and Michelle Slife

- 2.** A motion was made by Ms. Yeung and seconded by Mr. Mott to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2022, meeting, all members voting yea, the motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

- 3.** Michelle Nocht presented an update from Steve Metzger, a consultant from DLZ, and a report on current progress. Mr. Metzger reported that all the on-site evaluations of the facilities had been completed. The city approved the expenditure to hire DLZ to complete the PROW assessments and Mr. Metzger planned on having staff ready to begin in October or November.
- 4.** Chad Berry the director of Human Services for the City of Lakewood described a pilot Transportation Accessibility Pilot (TAP) program. The program was created to provide rides to doctor's appointments for residents with disabilities who are ages 18-59. Ms. Greenberg noted that she s the scope of the program did not allow for other types of transportation, such as grocery store visits or to exercise classes, which may have contributed to low usage. Director Berry stated that the program was funded by Lakewood Hospital Association dollars. Hired Senior Connection, a transport service the department already uses for non-medical senior transportation. Also, partnered with Lyft rideshare for folks who do not need assistive devices. Ms. Greenberg was asked by Mayor Summers to try out the program, and she said there were some difficulties using the system, such as not being able to choose which type of ride she needed on a case-by-case basis, and not being able to use rides for other than medical appointments. Both Ms. Greenberg and Ms. Yeung expressed concern about the requirement to provide the name of the doctor to the ride service provider. Director Berry acknowledged there had been some issues that have been corrected and acknowledged that the program had not been marketed as robustly as it might have been.

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Ms. Yeung shared some instances where the program might be helpful to the parents of a disabled child in getting the child and the parents to the child's appointment. Mr. Mott asked if the program and the funding were at risk. Director Berry said the funding source is secure but the specific funding allocation may be utilized to support some other programs, such as the neighborhood paramedic program. The ride program utilized \$60,000 a year, and when all the funds aren't used, the funds are used for senior transportation.

Councilwoman Kepple asked about the program application process and offered to help market the program with a video. Ms. Greenberg share concerns about needing a doctor to sign the form in order to be approved for transportation. And Ms. Yeung stated that she felt women were particularly vulnerable with recent legislation being passed, asking for the doctor to sign the form might prevent them from utilizing the program.

Ms. Cowen suggested sending program information to providers who could refer patients to the service.

Dir. Berry said the new Cove Community Center has a Bistro with grab N go meals and other inclusive events and services for everyone in the city to enjoy. He said they worked hard to go above and beyond to make the facility accessible, had assistive listening devices on hand, and agreed that they could use more parking for ADA and more parking in general

5. Adjournment