Solution Activity at the July 11th, 2018, Chelan-Douglas CHI Meeting

<u>Current issue that needs a solution in Chelan-Douglas Counties:</u>

Part of the programming at The Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment is to get a job and/or volunteer to give back to the community, find some purpose in their day, and be able to get back on their feet. The barrier that is happening is that these individuals are unemployed, don't have the funds for bus tokens, and are not getting jobs because they are showing up for interviews after walking in the heat/cold. Are there any resources for these individuals that are trying to become active members of the community?"

The number is the score that the solution received out of 50

- **47)** Major employers (Eg., Confluence, WVC Stemilt, etc.) offer bus waivers for individuals interviewing.
- **35)** Create a community care fund that can be used by an agency to purchase tokens, gas cards, etc. (will need criteria for access)
- **34)** Promote the idea of getting funded bus passes (limited to this program) that can be "coded" to the Link Transit phone app. ? source of funding.
- **33)** Community services organizations raise funds for bus token scholarships. Disperse through agencies with job search.
- **33)** A non-profit or Link Transit could offer vouchers, from grant funding to pilot the program, to distribute free passes or vouchers to qualifying social services organizations to give clients.
- **32)** Partner with stores who can distribute paid coupons for folks who need them. Backed by funders.
- **30)** Active EBT card doubles as bus pass or will get you a steeply discounted monthly bus pass. Tokens can't cover all basic activities (job search/interviews, grocery shopping, picking child up) and a pass does not require individuals to repeatedly justify their transportation needs.
- **30)** Tokens are free and available at multiple locations and backed by funder.
- **29)** Partner with local businesses and/or philanthropic groups to gather spare change at stores or restaurants. Spare change collected and tokens are purchased then distributed to the center for distribution.

- **28)** Offer an uber like service: carpool style, employment benefit, grants, local donations/car money
- **27)** Non-Medicaid transformation dollars distributed to the Center for allocation to members for transportation employment, treatment, housing and appointments. 90 days past/180 day limit.
- **26)** If organizations/programs that require bus tokens can pass out to participants for free funded from Link Transit.
- **26)** Provide \$ for gas for volunteer drivers/mentors- target the retirement community
- **26)** A supportive service that helps with transportation (gas cards, bus tokens) that works in conjunction with unemployment benefits
- **24)** Is it possible when an applicant is filling out an application to add a question if "transportation is a barrier?" If applicant answers yes, could that signal a referral to be placed to appropriate agency to help with bus tokens.
- 23) Incentives for local companies to provide transportation when needed.
- **22)** Job seekers- attend SkillSource ACE workshop (bus tokens provided). Enroll in OJT/train program and receive transportation assistance.

Farmworkers-OIC

Veterans- Esecurity

Link-Grants available?

-Reduced rate

Community Foundation ongoing grant

- **21)** Employers provide bus tokens to applicants. Employers fund certain number of tokens per month. Applicants can show proof of interview and receive tokens from Link Transit.
- 21) Community-based, micro-lending-based out of Link station.
- **21)** Are there grants that would cover bus tokens? Can the county be approached to offer additional funds? What challenges are the bus providers facing to meet this need?
- **20)** Employers can provide volunteer opportunities and fundraising.
- **20)** Link public transportation, jobforce/workforce, case management to assist and DSHS

- **19)** Representation at Chamber meetings. Looking for more community help. I think more people need to be aware of that this is a problem.
- **19)** 24/7 fuel and scale accessible hybrid cars/vans providing door to door support and transportation. Clients would have access to basic hydration, snacks and antibacterial wipes. Drivers trained to engage with basic employment conversation/interview and role-play.
- **18)** Opportunity for those needing bus tokens to be able to work-community service for them-garbage pick up in their neighborhood or other needs-so many hours=bus tokens.
- 17) Connect with MCO case manager for funding options (for Medicaid people).
- **16)** Community fundraiser to purchase tokens.

Ideas from the CHI meeting:

- Maybe we can use Crunch Pak as a example a current program (how do they structure it and use the funding).
- Chelan High School sends students on Link Transit. The High School provides the transportation, so the students do not have to pay.
- Social Services agency could fund the money for the bus tokens.
- The barrier with employers providing the bus tokens, is that they might not want to provide the funding.
- If someone qualifies for a cell phone, then the Link Transit app (TransitLink) could automatically upload.
- What if we in corporate Wenatchee Shuttle, churches, and social service agencies.
- Volunteer pool could be a resource.
- Mobility Council has talked about this and Spokane has gotten a fleet of vans for a volunteer drivers.
- Through the WSDOT grant funding, Chelan and Douglas Counties are not getting enough applications and funding.
- In this area we have UBER connect. With the specific and high rated drivers the could be reimbursed.
 - Incentive for them to keep giving good service.
 - <u>UBER</u> has started helping with transportation for health care.

Establish:

- 1) Criteria
- 2) Access for users
- 3) Identify funding

What is currently existing?

What does funding look like?