

Chelan-Douglas Coalition for Health Improvement
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2019, 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Introductions and Icebreaker-All

Attendance: See Sign In Sheet

Link Transit Presentation-Richard DeRock

- Overview: Link was established in 1990. It was put on the voter ballot for sales tax to start the Link Transit system. Link Transit was established for people that do not have the choice to drive their own vehicle. 1/3 of our population does not drive. Link Transit grew rapidly. 1999 passed for a tax repeal. 45 % of the revenue was lost. The Link Transit Board said that the public knew what they were voting on. It took Link Transit a while to increase and get to the level of services that were in the past.
- In 2015, an increase in services went to the board and got the system back. There is now Saturday services. There is no extra revenue for an increase in the system. We can keep what we have today. Link Transit is the largest urban system in a rural area. 40% of the population lives in a 1/4 mile of a bus stop. The transit system is available to 40% of the population. 58% of the population does not have a choice for other transportation. This area has had the same routes since the year 1991. In recent years, the population has increased abundantly. There is no service in different developed areas, such as Fancher Heights in East Wenatchee.
- Who are the riders?
 - 50% of riders have been riding 2+ years. 18% of riders have been using Link services for 10+ years. 32% would have driven self if transit was not available, such as traveling from Leavenworth to Wenatchee. 17% have no choice and would not have traveled. The demographic of most users of Link Transit is young males. The majority of riders have lower wage jobs. How does Link Transit run? 76% of revenue is from sales tax, 20% from grants, 3.5% from fares and .5 % miscellaneous.
- King County Metro has 23% revenue from fares compared to our region at 3.5%.
- Environmental Footprint: 42 propane powered vehicles.
 - Congress Tax credit has given some money back.
 - The first Link Plus to use propane, which it actually cleans the air during use. Second in the US to have battery electric buses. There are 2 electric vehicles in the fleet and the cost is half of diesel. There will be 10 more electric vehicles coming. First in the world for 200 KW, which has 270 mile range from being charged.
- Why do we want to have more transit when the buses are empty?
 - Link averages 13 people an hour, which is fine for a rural area.
 - It may be true that a bus was empty, but people get on and off at different locations. Link Transit is 1 of the 377 transit systems that achieved all six federal performance measures.
- What does Link want in the future?
 - Link Transit received broad based responses from the survey. The transit system took from the list, what could actually be done. From there, Link mailed surveys out to

everyone and an online version were available. Most responses supported a 0.02 sales tax. This raise in sales tax would increase or make possible for Sunday services, increase frequency in bus schedule and later services. Some community members cannot use our system to gain access to employment. Some people cannot get to work. In agriculture, some employees work second and third shifts. The buses currently do not run at those hours.

- What will it cost?
 - 5.5 million a year. A 0.2 sale tax increase is what it would cost community members. If passed, it would start phasing in January 2020 to make an impact on the community.

Discussion:

- This expansion is in Chelan and Douglas Counties, but excludes Bridgeport?
 - Eastmont and Waterville Districts decided to pay into the system, Bridgeport decided not to.
- The campaign leader attended to ask the CHI member to vote “yes” for the sales tax increase that will be on the ballot August 6, 2019. This will benefit those receiving education and expanding services for those seeking employment. It can also help Senior Citizens.
- As a worker who had to go to Chelan, Link is the mode of transportation that was used. It saved a ton of money instead of using a personal vehicle. This service has developed and become an intricate part of our community.
- There have been recent levies that have failed. Is there a way to make more of an impact on getting voters?
 - In the past, Link Transit seems to pass if people show up to vote. That is why we are getting the word out. Transportation is part of health.
- The NCW Mobility Council conducted a survey last year on transportation. The results show that if this is passed it would be beneficial to our community.

Moving Forward with CHI Action Plans-All

- The Chelan-Douglas Coalition for Health Improvement decided on focus areas for 2019 at the beginning of the year. The CHI worked on the focus areas from January to April of 2019. Through a voting activity the coalition members were able to rank the focus areas of low, medium or high importance. From ranking the focus areas, it will help develop the September, October, November and December Chelan-Douglas CHI meetings. This will be the coalition deciding what the CHI should focus on for the rest of 2019.

North Central Accountable Communities of Health Board Updates-Brooklyn Holton and Sahara Suval

- The NCACH Board has added Cathy Meuret from NCESD.
- Opioid Workgroup shared that the rapid cycle grant has closed. On the NCACH website, there is a tab to see what projects have been funded. If you are interested in the opioid crisis efforts, there maybe partnership and collaboration opportunities.
- Link Transit came and presented at the Board meeting about the proposition of a sales tax increase.

- The NCACH has a contract with OHSU. There is a discussion on what the ACH will be and pursuing what the ACH will look like at the end of the Medicaid Transformation Project. The Board meetings are open to the public. Anyone can call-in and there is a public comment section on the agendas.
- Through the CHI Community Initiatives there is an opportunity for \$450,000 to be dispersed in the region (Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan Counties). The NCACH Board has authorized the CHI to invest 450,000 dollars to catalyze expansion of existing programs or develop new programs. This is to improve the health of the communities within the region. Applications went live last week. Like many of ACH funding this is geared for the community. 10% to 20 % of a person's health is in the clinic. 80-90% is affected outside of the clinic. This funding is to help collaboration between partners, especially healthcare and community-based organizations (CBOs).
 - There will be a webinar hosted tomorrow at WorkSource in East Wenatchee and through Zoom.
 - Please consider applying and share as much as possible.
 - Is it \$450,000 per CHI or total?
 - It is total for the region. The application can be from \$500-\$150,000+
 - If this is successful then we could possibly get more funds for next year. This will only happen if it is successful though.
 - Will the webinar be recorded?
 - Yes, it will be uploaded to the NCACH website.
 - We are asking all applicants to write a Letter of Intent to see if there can be any collaboration.
 - Please consider being an applicant.
- The Coalitions for Health Improvement have a Facebook page. Please "like" the Coalitions for Health Improvement page and "join" the Chelan-Douglas CHI group.

Thank you for attending the Chelan-Douglas CHI.

Meeting Adjourned