

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – March 20, 2023**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., in the Commissioner's Board Room, 69 N Main St., Marion, NC.

Members Present

Tony G. Brown, Chairman; David N. Walker, Vice-Chairman; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis; Lynn Greene

Members Absent

Ashley Wooten, County Manager

Others Present

Victoria Craig, Clerk to the Board; Bobbie Sigmon, DSS Director; Alison Bell, Finance Director

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

DSS Update

DSS Director Bobbie Sigmon presented the Board with Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) updates. There are currently 8 social work vacancies, but there has been a lack of applications. Mrs. Sigmon has reached out to surrounding colleges to recruit social workers.

There is a projected 35% increase in Medicaid. Due to this, Mrs. Sigmon asked for 8 Medicaid workers, a supervisor, and a clerical position to cover the additional services expected to come to the County. There hasn't been a set amount for how much the government will aid in Medicaid expansion. Mrs. Sigmon mentioned to the Board that she's looking to hire an income maintenance program manager.

Mrs. Sigmon requested regular rotation for vehicles.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to draft a letter to Senator Warren Daniel, Representative Dudley Greene, and Representative Jake Johnson requesting that the state reduce the age of a juvenile, seconded by Commissioner Ellis.

Chairman Brown asked to have the letters sent to other counties as well. Vice-Chairman Walker amended his motion to reflect those changes, seconded by Commissioner Ellis.

By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Transit Update

Transit Director Jason Hollifield delivered a presentation to the Board with the community impact report.

Types of Demand Response Services Funding:

- EDTAP – Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program
- Employment – Single-day trips or subscription rides to work or job interviews
- Managed Care – Contracting with ModivCare and MTM
- Medicaid – Non-emergency medical transportation in collaboration with McDowell DSS
- RGP – Rural General Public transportation for anyone who does not fall in other brackets
- Senior Center – Providing subscription rides for seniors ages 60 and above

Modern fleet of vans that are all wheelchair accessible. Last year there were 25,827 trips which covered 197,917 miles. There were 3,501 out-of-county trips and 22,326 in-county trips. McDowell Transit assisted 546 individual riders and their caregivers and added 286 new riders to the program. There were 1,843 wheelchair trips and 4,147 trips for people with mental or physical disabilities. There were 6,092 education rides and 4,789 employment rides.

McDowell County is one of eleven communities chosen to receive a portion of the \$10.4 million FY22 USDOT Rural Surface Transportation Grant to implement Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina (MEE NC). This program will accelerate the deployment of high-quality, on-demand transit services to rural, low-income communities throughout North Carolina, leading to more equitable mobility and improved access to opportunities, services, and resources for transportation disadvantaged populations.

Radio Dispatch Fleet

- All McDowell Transit vehicles will be equipped with VIPER radios to aid in dispatching in regions in the county with poor cell signal.

Fleet Expansion with ADA Minivans

- The McDowell Transit fleet will gain an additional two ADA accessible minivans to improve transportation efficiency.

Hosting 2023 Multi-Agency Roadeo

- McDowell, Avery, Madison, Mitchell, and Yancey County Transportation will come together in McDowell County to participate in a day-long training. Topics will include defensive driving, pre-trip inspections, CPR, first aid, bloodborne pathogens, ADA, wheelchair securement, van evacuation and more.

Vaya Health Update

Dustin Burlison from Vaya spoke with the Board about some updates from the State. The State is proposing to post a Request for Proposal (RFP) for one private insurance contractor, which would delete local relationships with systems such as Vaya.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to approve a letter being sent to legislation in support of contractors like Vaya Health to keep local relationships instead of having one

contractor for the entire state, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion at 12:28 p.m. to recess to March 27th at 11:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's Board Room, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Attest:

Victoria Craig
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown
Chairman