



Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission

August 15, 2012

Ms. Mary Kaplan
Interim President
NH Endowment for Health
14 South Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Theme Implementation Grant 1619.04
Barriers to Access: Sullivan County Mobility Project

Dear Mary:

The UVLSRPC has spearheaded the Sullivan County Mobility Project to provide better access to health care, social services, and community resources for the residents of Sullivan County. By most measures the project has accomplished its goals. It has succeeded in bringing together disparate interests into a cohesive community of practice where individuals that understand the needs for community transportation are working together in common purpose. As stated in the new logo for Sullivan County, we are “Moving Forward Together - Sullivan County Mobility.”



As we have reviewed our work plan, we believe that each of the objectives that have been within our control has been met. The goal of expanded coordination with the DHHS non-emergency Medicaid transportation program could not be achieved as the plan to put all Medicaid services into managed care appears to have precluded that option. Transportation providers around the state are eagerly awaiting the implementation plans that the three Managed Care Organizations that have been selected by the State of NH to provide all case management services including transportation. Full coordination of human and public transportation services will remain a goal and objective.

The Endowment grant has made possible the assistance the region needed to achieve many of its goals. New routes have been established, a volunteer driver program has been implemented, feasibility for new routes has been considered, and the standards and quality of services has been significantly improved. Funding through the NH DOT has been creatively deployed and has replaced the vast majority of the funds allocated by the Endowment for this project. The transportation program is flourishing and has improved mobility throughout the region.

The financial report for the final period shows a balance of \$9,217.90. The balance is result of efficient use of personnel time, excess match remaining in the volunteer service line item, and some remaining marketing and education funding.

Reflecting on the accomplishments achieved through the assistance of the Endowment for Health, we see one area that still requires attention – public and policymakers education on the value of the transportation services.

UVLSRPC has concluded that the production of short video would be the most effective way to tell the story of the people that depend on public transportation. We had not considered this at first because we felt strongly that it fell into the second category of needs behind launching the volunteer driver program and assuring that we had the appropriate match to leverage all of the available DOT funds.

Now that the volunteer driver program allows for in-kind match and the other elements of the service are on a path to sustainability, we would like to propose that the balance of this grant be used on a one time basis to cover the production of a video and funding for RCC members to present it to the public. For example, CATS staff time specifically for this purpose could be billed to the grant. We estimate that video production will be approximately \$7,500 and any balance of funds would be used to reimburse the staff time of the presenter. Naturally, should you indicate a willingness to entertain this request; we would prepare a formal proposal.

Sincerely,

Christine Walker
Executive Director



Attachments:

Financials; Updated Work Plan; Narrative.