

15 November 2017 VSACT Meeting Notes: Transportation

- **Updates**
 - No meeting in December!!! **Next meeting will be Wednesday, 17 January 2018 at 10AM**
 - The TVC is down to only 1 individual for the entire region to assist Veterans in obtaining employment; these positions are actually federally-funded. Waiting for approval to achieve more positions
 - Have a position specifically for advocating for Veterans within the Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System
 - Bring Everyone in the Zone is getting close to opening up a Veterans One Stop in Copperas Cove, TX
- **Transportation Discussion for Central Texas: – Peggy Cosner, Executive Director of HOCTIL, Member of Central Texas Council of Governments Operation Transportation Advisory Committee**
 - HOCTIL is incredibly involved in collaboration in community in order to assist individuals they serve as long as it is ethical and legal
 - ****It's important to know that the umbrella of "transportation" is all-encompassing when referring to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee: it even includes park trails, sidewalks, railways, highways/roads, etc.**
 - It's anything that moves people; it's not simply in reference to our area's major roads and bus systems
 - Transportation is often taken for granted, as most of us have vehicles. However—as we know—it is very difficult for those Veterans we are presently serving
 - This specific committee within CTCOG was developed to follow specific Acts in order to improve and increase transportation issues, which incorporates public transportation
 - The responsibility is that they do not develop/create legislature or ordinances
 - Instead, they function as a point of leadership and make recommendations/priorities for transportation within our region
 - Meetings are quarterly
 - The Chair is the head of the Hill County Transit System, Texas Workforce Solutions, Aging and Disability, HEADSTART, Indigent Health, an individual from BEITZ, the Defense Alliance, etc.
 - There's a large representation present within this specific committee
 - All recommendations are then sent up to the Killeen Temple Metropolitan Training Organization (STMP); from there, it moves up to TXDOT

- Huge, complicated, moving puzzle for decisions to work.
Funding is also a huge component to this all
- Primary focus in 2012: the need was determined and the outcome was that the HOP needed to update their website, have regional media, place maps with routes and times at bus stops, along with placing maps/routes at agencies throughout the region
 - These have all been completed
- The HOP 60 years ago began with rural services; In 2000, they began the Killeen division. The Temple Division then began in 2002. Funding for the urban system comes from the Federal Transportation Administration as well as TXDOT, along with local funds
 - Additionally, Medicaid has also assisted with transportation for non-emergency medical appointments
 - The majority of the largest transportation area is Killeen: has the largest usage of the HOP, along with the primary need
 - The problem, however (after paratransit and complying with ADA), was that it was determined the service size implemented and the funding, with these changes, was not sustainable and had to be cut back
 - The HOP is looking for major, sustainable, on-going funding. Potentially looking at tax increase options
 - Another proposal is that the authority would be the HOP; they would get the funding from tax increases, and disperse it across the region
 - The issue is, while the tax is very little and would be incredibly beneficial for the community (highways, sidewalks, etc.), people do not like the idea of an increase in tax
 - Looking at other cities (Waco, for example, is actually ran by an interstate, contracted company instead of the city itself)
- The City of Temple reached out to HOCTIL and asked what could be done to fill this gap (since if an individual is not within ¼ a mile of their local bus stop, ADA transport will not pick them up)
 - HOCTIL will now provide a pre-paid credit card to access Uber, etc. to individuals in need.
 - The average charge of transporting an individual to/from is \$15-\$20 via public transportation. So, HOCTIL will be issuing a pre-paid credit card of that amount to individuals once/month.
 - How do we refer individuals to this? To start, give Peggy a call at: **254-933-7487**