



Notes from forum held 7 March 2022 Via Zoom

Facilitator: Sarah Gibb, Community Waikato

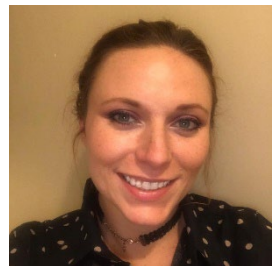
Note taker: Amantha Bowen, Waikato Regional Council

Attendees: Amantha Bowen, Sarah Gibb, Andrew Wilson, Ngaire Holmes, Marnie Goodman, Anne Gummer, Bridget Doran, Carole Grant, Chan Kim, Cilla, Cr Jennifer Nickel, Julie Taverner, Maurice Flynn, Greg Morton, Nicky Patterson, Peter Boyce, Robyn Atherton, Ruth Rhodes, Sheryll FitzPatrick, Tom Rowland, Tracy Boyd, Tricia Dawson, Wayne Thompson

Apologies: Cr Angela Strange, Mark Tamura, Nigel King

1. Welcome: This session taking place via Zoom. Our first Forum meeting of 2022.

2. Introduction of new appointment: Amantha Bowen as Community Transport Lead, based at Waikato Regional Council (WRC). Former Total Mobility Coordinator at WRC, Amantha has been appointed this new role which is designed to support the members of this forum and bolster community transport throughout the region.



3. Announce the WRC Community Transport Grant: Confirmed fund from Jul '22

Amantha expressed thanks to Community Waikato, Waikato Regional Councillors, Waikato DHB, Trust Waikato, the forum members, and all those who supported the creation of the Community Transport Lead role and the Community Transport Fund. The fund will come from \$1 from each property's rates, equating to a fund of \$200,000. Available from July 2022, it is to support the operations of the community transport providers across the region.

There will be a framework devised to structure how and to what the funds are allocated - Amantha has asked for feedback from providers on how they'd like to see the funds used and any ideas they have around the framework for allocation/application. Please contact Amantha.Bowen@waikatoregion.govt.nz or 07 859 2778 to feedback or set up a call. She said she was eager to meet with the Forum members to learn about how their organisations work, and how she can support their needs.

Some feedback already given includes supporting providers in understanding and navigating the National Travel Assistance funding; providing training around the use of hoist equipment. Similarly support for any organisations who are looking to replace their vehicles.

4. Update access to health services and COVID advice (and info on RATs) – Greg, WDHB

Greg acknowledged that some providers might choose not to continue operating due at this time. For those who do continue he has sourced RAT tests to distribute out. Only use them for when you have symptoms. More might be sourced if needed, but distribution issues have occurred. Instruction sheet and box of tests for providers. Sarah and Amantha will be in contact to distribute these as well as the masks (see *item 5*).

Greg explained that cases are expecting to peak mid to late March. Auckland has peaked, and we're trending a couple weeks behind. Note that outpatient procedures will be rescheduled/canceled during peak outbreak.

RE: WDHB funding for service providers: Ongoing funding to current providers will continue and the funding level remains the same. Contracts are in place until July 2023. There are 4 geographical areas that the DHB will target first for any **new** agreements, providing they can source the funding for it.

DHB will be putting up a webpage that highlights transport options. Greg will also be revising the NTA process at the DHB.

Reminder that the hospital has a pool of hospital volunteers who can bring a wheelchair to meet the shuttle van and bring the patient to their appt.

5. Availability of KN95 masks

Community Waikato have sourced some KN95 to distribute out to providers. Some available now but more to come. Let Sarah know if you would like some for your volunteers and provide a postal address.

6. Other News

- **Transport Symposium** coming this year! 27th Sept 2022, at Claudelands in Hamilton (will move online if needed).
Any ideas for topics, please let Sarah or Amantha know.
- South Waikato have a new wheelchair van, carries two wheelchairs and four passengers.

7. 2022 Forum dates

Please email through any agenda item suggestions to Amantha Bowen
Amantha.Bowen@waikatoregion.govt.nz

Monday 13 June 1.00 – 3.00pm

Tuesday 27 September Symposium

Monday 5 December 1.00 – 3.00pm

Actions:

- Sarah will find out the process for contacting Waikato Hospital Hosts to pre-arrange a community transport vehicle being met with wheelchair assistance.
- Greg to send Sarah a copy of the new transport services brochure to share with the Forum. This will be uploaded onto the website too.