

CENTRAL MONTANA COORDINATION PLAN OUTLINE

1. Date Adopted by Board of Directors: 2-26-25

CMS currently has vehicles in its fleet with 2 more being transferred into our program within the next month: **a 2015 Ford Star trans. A 2016 Dodge conversion van, a 2017 Dodge conversion van, a 2020 Honda Odyssey, a 2019 Dodge conversion van and a 2024 Ford E 450**

The **2015 Ford E-450** is a 12-passenger cutaway; it has blue and silver stripes and blue lettering. This bus has fold away seats and will hold 6 wheelchairs, the wheelchair lift is positioned in the front of the bus directly behind the passenger door. This is used as a daily driver and has been used regularly to transport the folks from home to the sheltered workshop and back again at the end of the workday. This bus is equipped with a 2-way radio and drop-down chains and a backup camera. We are planning on Retiring this bus as a spare once the new 12 passenger arrives. The mileage on this bus is 1135838

The **2016 Dodge Conversion Van** is a white van with silver and blue lettering. It is a 5-passenger bus with 2 wheelchair stations. It is equipped with a 2-way radio. This van is used for daily routes in town. The Approximate miles on this van are 85654

The **2019 Dodge Conversion Van** is a white van with silver and blue lettering. It is a 5-passenger bus with 2 wheelchair stations. It is equipped with a 2-way radio. This van is used for trips to Billings and Great Falls and for in-town rides on off days, it was bought with cares act money. The Approximate miles on this van are 55180

The **2017 Dodge Conversion Van** is a white van with silver and blue lettering. It is a 5-passenger bus with 2 wheelchair stations. It is equipped with a 2-way radio. This van is used for trips to Billings and Great Falls and for overflow during the days when we need a 5th van running in town. The Approximate miles on this van are 88062

The **2020 Honda Odyssey** was purchased with Cares act money to help with single rides and social distancing. The van is Black with silver and blue lettering. This van is used to transport folks to Billings and Great Falls. The approximate miles on this van are 111894

The **2024 Ford E450** is a 12-passenger bus with 6 wheelchair stations; the wheelchair lift is positioned in the front of the vehicle directly behind the passenger door. It has a 2 way radio. This bus is used to transport the folks to and from their homes to the sheltered workshop in town as well as transporting of folks around town. The approximate miles on this bus are 10910

2. Agencies involved

CMS coordinates transportation with the following agencies:

- **Boys & Girls Club** – They have a 15-passenger van and have a contract with the CMS to provide rides for their larger groups and outings.
- **Central Montana Fair Board-** Contracts with the CMS yearly to provide rides to the community out to the fair.
- **Fergus County Council on Aging-** Contracts with CMS for Activities.

Other agencies:

Snowy Mountain Industries/Group homes – They have a 6-passenger minivan, one car and a 12-passenger van. CMS provides rides for their clientele to and from work at the sheltered workshop, the nutrition site, socialization and employment.

Medicaid Waiver – CMS provides transportation for medical visits, hair appointments, socialization, recreation and nutrition sites.

Valle Vista Nursing Home – Has a 12-passenger bus that is wheelchair equipped. They provide transportation for their residents to doctor appointments, shopping, a lot of their residents require an aide to stay with them when they are at appointments, and their driver has also been trained as an aide. They utilize the out of town bus for appointments to specialists.

The Villa (personal care home) – Uses the CMS to take their folks to appointments outside of their facility.

Caslen assisted living – Utilize CMS for Doctors, Shopping, Special events.

Strawberry Roane assisted living – Utilize the CMS for all their transportation needs.

DAV Travel – They have a 12-passenger van that is not wheelchair accessible. They transport only veterans to medical appointments in Helena, Great Falls and Billings.

3. Agencies not involved:

Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center – They have three state cars (2 are from the state motor pool), a van and a 12-passenger wheelchair bus. These vehicles are used to transport residents for doctor appointments and recreational outings. Because of their strict regulations, they are not able to coordinate the use of their vehicles with other agencies. They use the CMS to transport resident's downtown for shopping. These residents are supervised.

4. Needs Assessment:

The Fergus Council on Aging/Central Montana Shuttle does periodic surveys as well as a suggestion box in the entryway of the facility. We discuss transit needs in our TAC. Since the end of covid we have had little to no public involvement at our TAC meetings, I send out reminder emails as well as announce the meetings on the radio, every year I send out a letter inviting all agencies as well as school districts and churches to attend.

CMS is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 and 6:00, origin to destination demand/response rides for residents living in three retirement communities: (Eagles Manor, Esplanade and Fountain Terrace), as well as HUD housing: (Lewistown Apartments, Boulevard Apartments, the Meadows and the Ouellette Place.

Great Falls bus connects to another transit service in Great Falls that can take our clients up to the Amtrak station and goes as far as Browning. These services are quite popular and frequently used by people who have medical appointments that cannot be scheduled in Lewistown and for shopping in the bigger cities and to catch the Inter City Bus or go to the airport. Transportation service is also available for the surrounding communities such as Roy, Denton, Winifred, Grass Range Geyser, Belt, and Stanford, to meal sites and as requested.

The Transportation Coordinator speaks to other Health care providers about services needed and is a member of the Kiwanis of Lewistown.

We have found a need for a service from Winnett Montana into Lewistown, this service will include the town of Grass Range. We were hoping to have this service up and run in the summer of 2024 We are currently waiting for delivery of a 12 passenger and a 13-passenger cutaway scheduled to be delivered in March. Only one of the 2 buses were delivered, Due to the cost of our insurance we were unable to

secure insurance for 3 of our buses that require CDL license and they had to be taken out of our fleet setting back the time frame of these routes.

5. Public Involvement:

All meetings' times and dates are broadcast on the Radio Station. On Facebook and on our web page

Announcements are made at the Council on Aging meal site. Letters are mailed To churches, agencies, personal care homes, hospitals, and members of the TAC.

6. Private Sector:

Lewistown

7. Plan for Growth and /or increase ridership: We currently transport to Billings on Tuesdays and Great Falls on Thursdays. We have had limited travel to Bozeman again this year with plans to continue working with the medical facilities in the Bozeman area. When we receive our new buses that are scheduled to arrive in March our plan is to start a service from the Winnett/ Grass Range area to Lewistown. The plan is to have that bus running in the summer of 2024. We advertise in the local paper that is delivered to the surrounding communities as well as daily radio PSA's. Fliers are posted in clinics and businesses.

8. Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings:

Fergus County has only one Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). It is comprised of several individuals representing local agencies, including adults with developmental disabilities (SMI), Head Start, One Health, The School District, Central Montana Medical Center and nursing home, City Planner and County Commissioner and Fergus County Council on Aging. Due to the ongoing issues related to COVID-19 we have struggled to get people to attend TAC meetings. The TAC reviews all applications for new vehicles and operating funds. The TAC also reviews any other transportation related issues in the Central Montana community.

