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*People would rather follow a person who is **REAL** than a person who is always **RIGHT**.*

Global Leadership Summit 2018

Prairie Lakes Story

Terry Hoffman, Director

Watertown Area Transit - Watertown, SD

Public transit is all about coordination and building creative relationships with various entities to bridge gaps in transportation created by a lack of resources.

Such a partnership was forged in 2015 between Watertown Area Transit and Prairie Lakes Healthcare System. Because of the success of this program and the volume of people served since the partnership was formed, administrators have announced a 1-year extension of the unique contract through May 31 of 2019.

“We are very proud to announce the extension of this contract with Watertown Area Transit for another year,” said PLHCS CEO Jill Fuller. “The number of people who have been aided by this partnership is astounding. The results have went way beyond our original scope.”

The partnership is a result of a community health needs assessment completed by Prairie Lakes Healthcare System. It was found that transportation to and from medical appointments was a barrier for some community members to access healthcare services and paying for public transportation was not an option for all. The partnership between Watertown Area Transit and Prairie Lakes Healthcare System was a natural fit to meet this need.

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Healthcare

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Residents may continue to use the transit service to travel to and from medical appointments at all Prairie Lakes Healthcare System locations, Brown Clinic and Sanford Clinic; as well as to dental, vision, hearing, chiropractor, mental health, pharmacy, and community health nurse appointments. Prairie Lakes will reimburse Watertown Area Transit for the cost of these rides.

“We are elated to continue our partnership with Prairie Lakes Healthcare System for another year,” said Terry Hoffman, Watertown Area Transit Director. “Bridging these gaps in transportation has resulted in a healthier community. People who struggled to pay transportation costs are able to keep their medical appointments as well as follow up visits. This service is vital to many in the community.”

From the beginning, the number of rides logged has been staggering. The monthly average has continued to climb, now surpassing the 1,000 rides per month plateau. Through April of 2018, transit buses have provided nearly 30,000 medical related trips to local residents. The contract language does not allow for out-of-town service.

“The numbers are staggering, considering what had been anticipated,” said Hoffman. “The generosity of PLHCS has been overwhelming, the recipients of the rides are very grateful and the uniqueness of the service is amazing. We promote the partnership and service every opportunity we are afforded.”

Hoffman added that PLHCS has been a staunch supporter of the transit system for many years, donating funds for purchases of transit vehicles and providing assistance through use of their marketing team including the production of a video and other marketing tools. PLHCS was the recipient of the Dakota Transit Association’s “Friend of Transit” award in 2016.

“This is a win-win situation for everyone and we anticipate the partnership continuing for the foreseeable future.”

Watertown area residents who would like to use the free ride service to medical appointments should call Watertown Area Transit at 605-882-5287 to schedule rides. Rides must be scheduled by 3 p.m. one business day in advance of the needed service. Watertown Area Transit does not offer same-day or emergency transportation. All residents are reminded that in a medical emergency to call 911 for immediate assistance.

Greetings to All

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

I would just like to add a few words to this August Tidbit. The Board of Directors and I have been working very diligently to put together a very worthwhile fall conference.

We have tried to gather speakers and topics of interest that will attract your attention. We believe we have done just that.

We have many opportunities to learn, share and mingle with our fellow transit workers.

I welcome each and everyone of you to the conference, and to those who couldn’t fit it in their schedule this year, you will be missed.

Spearfish Optimist Club

Barb Cline, Director

Prairie Hills Transportation - Spearfish, SD

The Spearfish Optimist Club awarded \$750.00 to Prairie Hills Transit. In 2018, the Club awarded more than 30 grants and scholarships totaling nearly \$20,000. The Spearfish Optimists are dedicated to supporting youth-oriented programs and activities within Spearfish. Prairie Hills Transit uses these funds to help support youth transportation to school. Funding enables us to help multiple families with vouchers for bus transportation.



Annually, Prairie Hills Transit is part of the Spearfish Optimist Home Show showcasing a bus which is wrapped to showcase Veterans and available transportation services. The Optimists have supported the work of Prairie Hills Transit for many years. Our appreciation goes out to them and the great work they do.

Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

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The following classes have been set up. Please go to dakotatransit.org to register or call Linda if you have any questions:

Dickinson, ND: August 30, 31, and September 1, 2018

Classes to be held at Public Transit in Dickinson—361 26th Street East

PASS Class Day 1—Thursday, August 30: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

PASS Class Day 2—Friday, August 31: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

PASS Recertification Class—Friday, August 31: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

MALTREATMENT AWARENESS CLASS—Saturday, September 1: 8:00 am to noon.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS—Saturday, September 1: 1:00 pm to about 4:00 pm.

**** Special Note:** All times are Mountain Time.

Deadline for Registration: August 17, 2018.

A block of rooms has been set up at the Dickinson Comfort Inn for the nights of August 29, 30 and 31 under the name: Dakota Transit Association. Please make your own reservations by asking for that block and you will get state rates of \$79 per night.

A big thanks to Tom Wanttie and Mike Mullaney for handling the big class in Aberdeen!

Hope to see you all at the DTA Conference!

Thought for the Month of August...

*“Develop an
‘Attitude of Gratitude’.
Say thank you to everyone
you meet for everything
they do for you.”*

DTA
Dakota Transit
Association

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Thanks to all!

- Jacque

www.dakotatransit.org