Improving Behavioral Health Through Transportation

USAging Conference
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nadtc
National Aging and Disability Transportation Center
Our Mission:

To promote the availability of accessible transportation options that serve the needs of Older Adults, People with Disabilities, Caregivers and Communities.
National Aging & Disability Transportation Center

What We Provide:

• Technical Assistance & Training
• Publications & Resources
• Partnership Coordination
• Community Grants and Coalitions
• At least 1 in 4 older adults experiences some mental disorder, such as depression, anxiety, or dementia.

• Two-thirds of older adults with mental health problems do not get the treatment they need.

• People aged 85 and older have the highest suicide rate of any age group.

• Due to population aging, the number of older adults with mental disorders is expected to double by 2030.
Treating Substance Use Disorder in Older Adults
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—SAMSHA*

• 23% of SUD treatment programs in the U.S. offer services tailored to older adults.

• Illicit drug use is more common among current older adults than among previous generations of older adults.

• Older adults are affected by co-occurring mental disorders and SUDs.
  ▪ 1.5% ages 50 and older (1.7 million) had any past-year mental illness and SUD.
  ▪ 37% with a past-year SUD also had any mental illness.
  ▪ 11% of older adults with any mental illness in the past year also had an SUD.

How are Transportation Providers Responding?
Rides to Wellness (810) 780-8946

Rides to Wellness is a comprehensive non-emergency medical transportation program that provides mobility management, door-to-door service, and same day service to riders going to medical or other health and wellness-related appointments.

Who can use Rides to Wellness?

Rides to Wellness is open to all passengers of the general public who reside in the MTA’s service area. If you are interested in utilizing the services of Rides to Wellness, please call (810) 780-8946 for more information. In addition to serving the general public, Rides to Wellness provides service to passengers who may be connected with Rides to Wellness partner agencies. Rides to Wellness partner agencies provide transportation to older adults, persons with disabilities, and the transportation disadvantaged in Genesee County. Please click on the links below to learn more information about the partnerships and how an agency you may be affiliated with offers Rides to Wellness transportation to its clients.
Barre, Vermont

Keeping You Connected

Vermont has many options for mobility if you don’t have access to a car or have a condition that can impair your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Whether you need a ride to doctor’s appointments, work, or for personal errands, there’s public transportation options available in cities and towns throughout Vermont. There are many programs that fill gaps in existing transportation services for certain groups like older Vermonters, as well as individuals with disabilities.

How to Schedule a Ride:
1. Contact the Local Transit Provider (listed in this guide).
2. Provide your name, trip origin and destination, travel day and time of appointment, and name of anyone accompanying you.
3. Receive confirmation from Local Transit Provider and you are ready to ride!

FAQs:
Who is eligible?
Adults who are 60+ and/or persons with disabilities.

Do you need advanced notice before scheduling a ride?
Yes, advance notice is required for most rides, but check with your local transit providers. Call ahead to determine the appropriate notice. For Medicaid ride eligible riders please call VPTA at 833-387-7200.

Is priority given based on trip type?
Medical and critical care appointments are prioritized first. See other side for all possible trip types. Check with your local provider for more details.

Who are the Community Drivers?
Community Drivers are verified by background checks, have a clean driving record, and complete a vehicle safety inspection.

Older Adults & Persons with Disabilities

MOBILITY PROGRAM

Getting around made easier.

www.ConnectingCommuters.org

Formerly Older & Persons with Disabilities Program (OPD)
29 percent directly provide or contract mental/behavioral health screening or services.

72 percent have some form of partnership with a mental health or behavioral health organization.

32 percent say they would like additional training and technical assistance on dementia-friendly communities.

74 percent of AAAs have a partnership with Public Health. Of those with this partnership, 60% developed or expanded their partnership during the pandemic.

72 percent of AAAs have a partnership with mental/behavioral health organizations. Of those that do, 21 percent began or expanded this partnership due to the pandemic.
Pikes Peak AAA Supports Human Services Transportation for Older Adults and People with Disabilities
MTA, Vtrans, and Pikes Peak AAA all advocate for developing partnerships with behavioral health providers and recommend steps a transportation agency can take to get started:

1. Reach out to make contact via email or cold call. If possible, have someone make an introduction. Be clear about your goals.
2. Ask for a time to meet.
3. Learn about the behavioral health provider’s operation and needs. Describe your organization’s work.
4. Explore ways to collaborate; create a partnership plan.
5. Discuss funding and possible pilot. Talk about sustainability.
6. Formalize the relationship and arrange to meet regularly.
7. Maintain ongoing evaluation.
Q&A

• What steps have you taken to provide rides for older adults and people with disabilities who are under care for behavioral health? What has been most successful for you?
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