



## **TRANSIT TIDBITS**

### **Issue 149 AUGUST 2024**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2024**

*The expert in everything was  
once a beginner.*

### **TRAINING DAY**

**Terry Hoffman, Co-Executive  
Director**

**Community Transit of  
Watertown/Sisseton Inc.**

Training Day 2024 has come and gone for Community Transit. Weighing the feedback received from our employees, we consider it a success.

Topics covered included the education on the use of NARCAN spray used to combat and reverse the effects of those who have overdosed on opioids.

CTWSI employees were also updated about Human Trafficking, and the role transportation plays in this horrific activity.

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The afternoon session tackled the topics of suicide awareness and prevention and stress in the workplace. Tucked in between the sessions was the presentation of the first annual CTWSI Employee of the Year.

Josie Reints, CNP for the Sisseton Wahpeton Lake Traverse Indian Reservation, provided the training for the NARCAN spray. She has worked in the Tribal Opioid Response Project and most recently, is establishing a “Medication for

Addiction Treatment Clinic” under the Asniyapi Field Health Clinic.

She guided the staff on the administration of the nasal spray used to reverse the effects of those who have overdosed on opioids.

"Narcan training can quickly reverse an overdose by blocking the effects of opioids," said Reints. "Opioids include prescription medications for pain, heroin, and fentanyl."

All employees received their certification to administer the drug following the training.

Doris Caldwell, Executive Director of the Phoenix Rising Educational Program (PREP), attacked the subject of Human, Labor and Sex trafficking in our region. She stressed the signs of Trafficking and the role transportation plays in the industry.

"Traffickers like to use buses because they never get pulled over," said Caldwell. "With your proximity to interstates, areas of persistent poverty and a large reservation, this area is a prime target for their activity."

Heather Stricherz of the Human Service Agency tackled the subject of workplace stress. Her presentation and activities that included audience participation provided lively conversation on the types of stress experienced and methods used to combat those feelings.

CTWSI Human Resource Consultant Natalie Remund recanted information she obtained earlier at a conference promoting the awareness and prevention of Suicide. Transit drivers in our system have been exposed to riders dealing with feelings of suicide in the past.

Waylon Brown is a driver for the SWO Tribal Transit which is managed by CTWSI. Two weeks after receiving NARCAN Training, he encountered an individual who was unresponsive having overdosed on opioids. Brown was able to administer the spray and revive the individual. Because of his actions that night and his daily performance in the community as a driver, Brown was named the Employee of the Year.



Employee of the Year, Waylon Brown, received his award from CTWSI Board President Randy Tupper.



We may consider implementing a dress code for future meetings.



Josie Reints provided statistical information about the use of opioids and NARCAN



Tara Manifold spoke to fellow employees about stress at work and how she deals with it.

**2024 DAKOTA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE  
Rapid City, SD  
Adam Sharkey, Deputy Director  
River Cities Public Transit**

We are closing in on the DTA Conference & Rodeo in Rapid City, South Dakota. We will be kicking everything off with the DTA Rodeo starting Friday night with a Q'Straint training taught by Lisa Nippolt, the regional manager for Q'Straint. It will be followed up by wheelchair securement training, rodeo overview, & questions. The following day, day two, drivers will have a chance to test their skills & knowledge on a road course, pre-trip inspection, passenger assistance, and a written test. These four parts will combine to a possible 1000 points. The top 5 participants from each state will be recognized with an award.

This year, the DTA board has decided to add a new award to the mix: Rookie of the Year. I appreciate and enjoy seeing all the new participants, and without them, it doesn't grow. Rookie drivers are a vital piece of the success and future of Roadeo, so it was a must to recognize them. The highest-scoring rookie from each state will receive the Rookie of the Year award.

I am looking forward to this year and can't wait to see everyone there at the DTA Roadeo & Conference.

## NEW TRANSIT DIRECTOR

### Senior Meals & Services Devils Lake, ND



Hello, my name is Cheryl Lyon. I started as the new Transit Director for Devils Lake, ND Senior Center on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. I come from a retail background for the past 16 years as a Store and then District Manager for an Indirect Wireless Company.

I am excited to gain the knowledge of the Transit Director and to be a part of an industry that provides this amazing, needed service to the citizens of our community. I had the privilege of meeting many of the other

directors at a Transit meeting in Bismarck and was appreciative of the welcome and knowledge of these directors.

I look forward to providing great service in my new position and gaining knowledge of the industry.

**A LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE 2024 CONFERENCE. Your DTA Board would love to have each agency participate.**

Your DTA Board Members would like to invite ALL agencies to join us in a Live and Silent Auction on Tuesday, September 17th at 5:00 PM. To make this event a success we will need each agency to donate an item or basket of items that showcases your agency and/or your local community with a minimum value of \$50. A good example is a hot tea basket with local tea and honey.

\*\*\*Remember, if you donate a gift card it needs to be one that can be used anywhere, not just at a local business in your community.

The proceeds from the auction are still to be determined, but looking into future training opportunities. The forms of payment accepted will be cash or check, but DTA is working on providing a VENMO payment option. If you have questions about the auction please reach out to Jalaya Seeger at [jalaya@bhsseeger.com](mailto:jalaya@bhsseeger.com).

## TRAINING UPDATE

Contact Information

Rod Graffing 701-845-4300

e [rod@southcentralseniors.org](mailto:rod@southcentralseniors.org)

We are looking at potential PASS training classes in October to be held in north central North Dakota. Exact dates and location TBD.

Are you or someone from your agency Interested in becoming a PASS trainer? CTAA now offers PASS - Train the Trainer certification 100% online. It's never been easier to become a PASS trainer.

If you have drivers/staff in need of training or re-certification and would like to inquire about or schedule a class, please contact Rod using the information listed above.

### Tidbit Articles:

Please contact me with articles for your agency.

### Recycle:

Please share your Transit Tidbit with your staff and any interested persons.

### Address:

Directors, please check with your bookkeepers as well as the rest of your staff to assure they have the correct DTA Mailing Address.

Thanks to all!



Jacquie Senger, Executive Director, DTA

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