

County Connection Advisory Committee Report to Board, July 2023

The ongoing purpose of the advisory committee is to bring feedback to the County Connection Board of Directors reflecting the voices and needs of the communities, riders, and other stakeholders represented by our advisory committee members.

Since our last report to the Board three new members have been appointed to fill vacancies on the advisory committee so we're making progress toward full membership.

July 2023 Advisory Committee Meeting

Our advisory committee held its regularly scheduled meeting on July 11, 2023. Based in part on the feedback received at the last Board meeting, we have been more proactive in reaching out to advisory committee members to determine whether they are able to attend the in-person bimonthly meetings and if not, what are the barriers to attendance so that we might address those. At the July 11 meeting we obtained a quorum, including all three new members, and were able to work through our entire planned agenda, described more fully below.

As part of the onboarding process for our new members, Director of ADA & Specialized Services Rashida Kamara provided an informational update on an upcoming new member orientation workshop, and provided a review and led a discussion on the advisory committee bylaws, which was helpful for all committee members as we contemplate new ways to maximize our effectiveness.

Reports From Staff

At the July regular meeting the advisory committee also received several reports and updates from staff. County Connection staff member Rashida Kamara (Director of ADA), went over the New Member Orientation and asked for feedback from all members, she also led a discussion on the bylaws and allowed for questions. Melody Reeb (Director of Planning) provided a report on the Clipper START program; staff member Pranjali Dixit gave an update on the Fall Bid process. Committee members and staff in attendance received the reports and updates on these ongoing projects but no action is required at this time.

Selection of Chair/Vice Chair

Due to the fact that the advisory committee is currently in the process of onboarding several new members and anticipates additional appointments in coming months, the advisory committee will agendaize the selection of a new chair and vice chair for our September regular meeting.

Committee Vacancies/Future Plans For Advisory Committee/Input from Board

Despite the recent appointments to the advisory committee, vacancies still exist for the districts of Danville, Orinda, Clayton, Lafayette and San Ramon; we respectfully request that the Board help facilitate appointments of members from those jurisdictions.

When recruiting new members, please consider constituents who are local riders, closely connected with their communities, and who can bring diverse perspectives and viewpoints to the advisory committee, particularly viewpoints from underrepresented and marginalized populations. The recent appointees bring a valuable new perspective and a breadth of practical experience to the advisory committee, and we hope that future appointees can do the same. Our next meeting in September, with our new members fully up to speed, will be a great opportunity for our advisory committee to discuss how we can best fulfill our role at County Connection, so if the Board has feedback about how our two bodies can work together more effectively, please provide your thoughts and recommendations so that the full advisory committee can consider the Board's input.

We also encourage each Board member to connect directly with the advisory committee member serving the same jurisdiction.

Our next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Ian McLaughlin, Vice Chair