

The Mobility Messenger

Coordination in Action.

A PUBLICATION OF THE DENVER REGIONAL MOBILITY & ACCESS COUNCIL
Volume Four • Issue Three • October 2011

DRMAC IS A PROJECT OF THE COLORADO NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT CENTER



DRMAC Relocates

DRMAC's new home is now at Sherman Gardens, 190 E. 9th Avenue, Suite 440 in Denver. DRMAC decided to move when the former office building was put up for sale. The new location has 838 square feet, more than three times our old space. The new office has a waiting area, two perimeter offices with mountain views, one interior office, and a small meeting area, making DRMAC well-suited for future growth. Only three blocks from our current office, DRMAC staff will still have easy access to downtown. We appreciate your patience as we get things back up and running, as the move was completed at the end of September.

We welcome any office equipment donations, particularly a small refrigerator, small microwave, desk chairs, fax machine, or a printer. If you can help DRMAC in any way please contact Angela at executivedirector@drmac-co.org or 303-861-3711.

Please see page two for more information on our upcoming Open House!

DRMAC Announces Partnership with Mile High United Way 2-1-1

DRMAC and Mile High United Way are pleased to announce their new partnership! Recently DRMAC decided to partner with Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 and share the TransitOptions database to enhance 2-1-1's ability to provide transportation recommendations to their callers. This is the first of many steps to create a call center with a vision of "one call, one ride!"

Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 is a free, multilingual, confidential service that refers callers to programs that can help stabilize individuals and families with basic human services such as food and shelter, and provide access to other community resources. The Colorado 2-1-1 database holds more than 10,000 services across the state of Colorado, supported by nearly 3,500 agencies, and provides one place where people can get accurate information quickly. "Every time I have called, the referrals have helped me," a client reports. "I'm so grateful." Last year Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 received over 150,000 calls.

DRMAC launched TransitOptions, a transportation database accessed at <http://database.gettingthereguide.com>, in June, 2011. This interactive online tool helps individuals find the best transportation resources to fit their specific needs. The tool is also helpful for human service organizations that need to help their clients find transportation resources. The information in this database is based on DRMAC's Getting There Guide, which has been published since 2005 and can be found at www.gettingthereguide.com. TransitOptions has the same information as the Getting There Guide, except that it asks the person questions to help narrow down the transportation providers to a few options which meet the individual's needs.





Hank Braaksma, Chair,
DRMAC Board of Directors

Chairman's Report

What a great year it has been! The interest shown in DRMAC activities has grown beyond our metro region. In fact, DRMAC has drawn the attention of national organizations all working toward the same

goal of coordinated services providing access and mobility for individuals who don't have many options available. Whether it is an aging population, persons with restricted mobility or veterans, funding organizations recognize that the need for well-coordinated transit services is critical to meeting the growing needs of these groups.

Please take some time to read the various articles in this newsletter to see what DRMAC has either accomplished or undertaken. If you are not a member but you or the clients of your organization have a difficult time just getting where they want to go, you may want to consider applying to become a

DRMAC member and help lead the way to better transit service coordination for the Denver metro area. More information about DRMAC membership can be found on the website (www.drmac-co.org).

Consider this scenario: You or a loved one living in the Denver metro area, do not drive and want to go somewhere. You can't afford a cab. You don't want to ask a family member, friend or neighbor – as my 90 year old mother used to tell me, she didn't want to bother other people. Or maybe you don't have someone you can ask. In the future, you make one phone call to a central number and like magic you get the ride you need! DRMAC and DRCOG (the Denver Regional Council of Governments) would like to make that possible and have started down the road (excuse the pun) of creating a system to make it happen.

The process of creating this "one call – one ride" network may take a few years to reach but it is the goal of these two lead agencies and others that help to fund great projects that can have a dramatic positive effect on individual lives. With all the things pointing in the direction of providing coordinated transit services for persons who have a tough time getting from point a to point b, it is exciting to inform you that work is underway to create an easy way to access transit service!

DRMAC Open House... Please Join Us!

*The boxes are unpacked, the files are in order, and we can't wait to show off our new space!
You are invited to join DRMAC members and friends in celebrating our new office.*

*Tuesday, November 1st
from 3:30 to 5:00*

Sherman Gardens, 190 E. 9th Ave, Ste. 440, Denver
Refreshments will be served

Please do not park in the lots immediately surrounding the building, as those spots are reserved for tenants. Five hour metered parking is available just north of the building on 9th Ave., west of the building on Lincoln Ave., and east of the building on Sherman St. Free, two hour parking is available north of the building on Sherman St. Accessible entrance is located on the west side of the building.



DRMAC Launches New Transit/Accessibility Task Force

After attending a Spontaneous Living, Public Transit, and ADA workshop sponsored by Meeting The Challenge in Colorado Springs, DRMAC has launched a new Transit and Accessibility Task Force. The workshop posited that the current system of paratransit for people with disabilities is unsustainable, unequal, and was never the intention of the ADA from the beginning. They offered several solutions to this problem but started by suggesting stakeholders need to come to the table to remove barriers from the fixed route transit system, remove barriers from the public rights-of-way, and advocate for riders with disabilities to stop using paratransit and use the fixed route system (when appropriate).

The Task Force has representatives from DRMAC, RTD, Denver Regional Council of Governments, Easter Seals Colorado, Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, Colorado Center for the Blind, Special Transit, and the City and County of Denver. The Task Force has met for the first time and will add more representatives as members continue to meet and discuss barriers and potential solutions.

DRMAC Welcomes Kelli Schlicher to Staff



*Kelli Schlicher,
DRMAC Project Coordinator*

DRMAC is proud to introduce Kelli Schlicher, Project Coordinator for DRMAC. Kelli originally joined the staff as an intern in early spring and has since been promoted to Project Coordinator, working 30 hours a week.

Kelli brings with her a wealth of knowledge and energy – and we're thrilled to have her aboard! She graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. Urban and Regional Planning in 2010 and moved to Denver last summer to pursue her Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado at Denver.

As DRMAC's Project Coordinator Kelli has the following responsibilities:

- Processing new DRMAC members
- Conducting new member orientations
- Attending local outreach events
- Scheduling, organizing and conducting DRMAC workshops
- Updating and disseminating Getting There Guides
- Assisting with volunteer driver program meetings and scheduling volunteer driver trainings
- Helping manage the DRMAC website and TransitOptions
- Attending Local Coordinating Council meetings
- Attending DRMAC council meetings

Welcome Kelli– and thanks for your great work!



Volunteer Training

DRMAC continues to take a lead on volunteer driver program coordination by partnering with Special Transit to launch an Accident Procedures and Medical Emergencies training for volunteer drivers. This is not only a great learning opportunity but also a way for volunteer drivers to network with like-minded volunteers.

The training will focus on a driver's responsibility when faced with an accident or emergency situation. Topics will range from minor collision management to fire and evacuation techniques to medical emergencies relating to diabetes, epilepsy, and dialysis.

The training will be held at three different locations, to accommodate volunteers from across the Denver metro. Please contact DRMAC staff or check the DRMAC website for more information.

Calendar of Events

DRMAC meetings

First Tuesday of each month

1:00-3:00 pm at the DRCOG office, 1290 Broadway, Denver

October meeting will be replaced with special event- see below!

Veterans' Transportation Task Force

First Monday of the month

2:00-4:00 pm, location varies

Older Adults and Transportation Workshop

Wednesday, October 5th from 9:00 – 11:00 am

Gill Foundation, 2215 Market St., Denver

Register by emailing kschlicher@drmac-co.org or

calling 303-861-3711

Free for RTD and contractor employees

and \$15 for other attendees

DRMAC Open House

Tuesday, November 1st from 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Sherman Gardens, 190 E. 9th Ave, Ste. 440, Denver

(see page two for more details)

Welcome New DRMAC Members

Since the publication of our last newsletter, DRMAC has added nine new members, bringing our total membership to 49 organizations or individuals. New members include:

Boulder County Aging Services

CareConnect

Denver Office on Aging

Denver Office of Disability Rights

Douglas County Government

Mental Health Partners

Passage Quality Mobile Transit

Veterans Helping Veterans Now

Vivian Stovall, Citizen Member

DRMAC features a member each month on our Member On The Move section of our website. We encourage you to visit the website each month to learn more about our member organizations. And if you would like to be featured, please submit an article on your organization and a logo to DRMAC staff. For a full list of DRMAC members, please visit <http://www.drmac-co.org/members.html>

The Mobility Messenger is published by the Denver Regional Mobility & Access Council, located at 190 E. 9th Avenue, Suite 440, Denver, Colorado 80203. It is also available in PDF format on the DRMAC web site, www.drmac-co.org. Phone: 303-861-3711. All articles in this newsletter may be reprinted, with attribution, without permission.

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