

Volunteer Driver Peer to Peer Forum

Concord – On September 30, 2016 the State Coordinating Council for Community Transportation hosted its second Volunteer Driver Peer to Peer Forum. Twenty-eight representatives of volunteer programs from around New Hampshire attended the event in order to network with colleagues, participate in a roundtable discussion, and learn new techniques for volunteer recruitment and retention.

Heather LaTourette, RSVP Coordinator, and Jennifer Sanders, Director of Volunteer Services, both of Southern New Hampshire Services, gave an informative and interactive presentation on volunteer engagement. The presentation encouraged staff to tell their agencies' stories and to invite potential volunteers to join them in making a difference in people's lives. When recruiting volunteers it is important to be specific about what skills or time commitment is needed.

Heather and Jennifer noted that agencies need to have a culture of appreciation matched by data that shows volunteers their impact in the community. It is also important to ask for feedback and to manage feedback rather than avoiding it.

The hot recruitment tip of the forum was to recruit volunteers and hand out brochures at the exit of polling stations and as people are leaving town meeting. Make sure to check with your town leaders first!