

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG)
Monday June 28, 2021

Present: Tom, James, Shahan (special guest) Aznive

Regrets: Mark, Paula, Patty, Jayne, Anthony

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the work of consultants whose scope is to look at potential savings for transportation services for persons with disabilities in the municipality of Hamilton.

This includes DARTS, Taxi Script and HSR

Working group members were concerned:

- Not clear why taxi drivers are not receiving the incentive payment for picking up persons with disabilities.
- DARTS services appear to be underfunded to provide necessary trips.
- Conflicting information regarding the City approved eligibility criteria and the new direction to assess eligibility for services of all passengers.
- Risk to the community of persons with disabilities who are struggling to access accessible transportation in order to work, go to schools/training, volunteer, access medical needs including picking up medications, go to clinics and hospitals, and to get groceries and fulfil all other necessary transported needs.
- Need commitment from city to better support the transportation needs of all citizens of Hamilton, especially

those who have been approved as eligible and/or grandfathered for accessible transportation.

SPWG confirmed we need to make our concerns known to City Council with a motion and have a delegation in cooperation with DARTS.

Greatest concern is City will undergo cutbacks in funding which will dramatically impact the lives and human rights of people with disabilities in our community.