**Transportation**

**How do you get there from here?**

**Public Policies: Dagmar Ridgway, Presenter**

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1. **Brief bio, talking points…**
2. **As professionals in the CT Aging Network one of our biggest challenges is developing and advocating for comprehensive transportation programs that provide independence and accessibility. Each community’s needs are unique, the barriers we face are similar; I like to take a TEAM approach to solving them.**

 **T - Take stock: Identify needs and document gaps in service, policy**

 **development & limitations, best practices.**

 **E - Educate: Municipal leaders, passengers, families, community, donors.**

 **A - Advocate: Listen, connect, develop programs, and secure funding.**

 **M- Market: Transportation = independence, overcoming passenger &**

 **public perceptions, use technology/social media to get out the**

 **message, resource info and garner community wide support.**

1. **Highlight two unique programs and how policies have been successful:**

 **Canoe Brook Center: Bus & Medical Transportation Systems**

 **Municipality purchased vehicles, established sinking fund for vehicle**

 **purchase & replacement schedule. Medical transportation for all ages:**

 **Town purchased 3 vehicles, volunteers provide manpower, gas & repairs**

 **funded by passenger donations & community fundraising. Program**

 **overseen by Senior Center Transportation Coordinator providing 12,000+**

 **rides per year, safety evaluations, and passenger handbook.**

 **Encompass Pilot Project: FTA funded pilot project currently**

 **offered to Greater Hartford and Greater New Haven Transit District**

 **partner municipalities. It is a true example of how public and private**

 **entities can partner with each other to envision and create responsive**

 **transportation services for passengers who need it the most. Encompass**

 **provides an on-demand private car service with door-to-door service and**

 **fully trained vetted drivers, all at about half the taxpayer cost of the**

 **prevailing Transit District services. Get full details here:** [**Encompass link**](https://www.encompass.m7ride.com/) **.**