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**Charlevoix County
Transit**

Press Release

Charlevoix County Veterans Transportation Program Announced

Boyne City, MI, January 10, 2018: The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners recently approved a joint effort between the Charlevoix County Veterans Affairs Office and the Charlevoix County Transit to provide expanded transit service to veterans of the County.

Currently, Charlevoix County Transit provides free transportation to veterans going to the Gaylord VA Clinic. This cooperative project between the two county departments will allow the Transit to provide service to other VA Clinics in the region. Currently, the Veterans Affairs Office plans to authorize transportation on a regular basis to Gaylord, Saginaw and Traverse City. The two departments will establish a trip authorization procedure that will allow Transit to provide service to veterans without a long paperwork process for the veteran. Trip requests outside of the "scheduled-regular locations" will be handled on a case-by-case basis and the departments are developing a policy for authorizing those trips. "It is our intention to create a fixed schedule that will make travel easier for our veterans to use. Once we establish days with the central schedulers at the clinics, we will announce the travel schedule to the various clinics so our veterans will know when to schedule appointments" stated John Hess, Director of the County's Veterans Affairs Office. This joint project is a win-win, stated Transit Director, Jill Drury. "By entering into a service agreement [such as this], the Veterans Affairs Office isn't creating a whole new program or duplicating services already in place; they're just helping us expand on what we already do."

For more information contact Deb at Charlevoix County Transit, 582.6900 or the Veterans Affairs Office at 547.7220. Additional information, once it becomes available, can be found on each department's webpage on the Charlevoix County website (www.charlevoixcounty.org).

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