

# INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT COORDINATION

October 28, 2005

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Transportation Building

395 John Ireland Boulevard – Room 461

## Meeting Notes

### Meeting Attendees

Randy Halvorson, Committee Chair  
Robert Johns, University of Minnesota  
Ernie Venegas, Department of Employment & Economic Development  
John Kowalzak, Department of Human Services  
Brian Osberg, Department of Human Services  
Toni Baker, Board on Aging  
Dave Christianson, Metropolitan Council  
Joan Willshire, State Council on Disabilities  
Tom Lencowski, Department of Education  
Donna Allan, Office of Transit  
Noel Shughart, Office of Transit  
Judith Ellison, Office of Transit  
Diane Contreras, Office of Transit

The meeting opened with a welcome, introductions, and a review of the minutes from the last meeting. It was noted that each agency would have the opportunity to make presentations on their coordination programs.

### MNET Program

John Kowalzak, Department of Human Services, made a presentation to the committee on the Minnesota Non Emergency Transportation Program (MNET): Using a brokered system for some metro services. Part one of the presentation spoke to the history of MN Medicaid Non Emergency Transportation, timelines and involvement in the creation of MNET, reasons why DHS went to MNET, and the scope of the project. Also addressed was the process of how a customer works with the broker to determine their level of transportation need.

Part two of the presentation focused on graphics that showed the level of total clients eligible for MNET services in the seven county metro area, the statewide NEMT, STS, FFS STS expenditures, clients served, and trips by modality.

Preliminary findings from the first year show that the new program:

- stopped continuous growth in NEMT expenditures with a slight decrease in overall expenditures of about \$1.2M when administrative costs are factored in;
- served more clients, increased access to needed health care;
- increased trips by 9.8% from 59,900 to approximately 64,900 per month for residents in the seven county metro area;
- increased utilization in seven county metro area from approximately 6,800 clients per month to 7,600 per month (an 11.75% increase);
- decreased cost per trip from \$19.27 to \$16.67 per trip;
- more trip management needed to further decrease cost per trip; and
- DHS is in a better position to absorb increase in the number of people eligible for Minnesota Health Care Programs.

### **Committee Mission**

Committee members reviewed the draft vision/mission statement. A number of suggested changes will be incorporated into Draft 2. However, wording on some of the mission statements could not be agreed upon in the meeting time allowed and will be discussed further at the November meeting.

### **Draft Report to the Governor**

A brief report of the committee's work will be forwarded to the Governor and his staff on November 1. This report will provide an overview of the committee's activities to date, a draft of the committee's vision/mission statement, and future activities.

### **Schedule and Activities**

The committee agreed to meet once a month for the next six months to develop a course of action for complying with the Governor's request. Once this course has been accomplished, the group will not

have to meet as often. Future meeting agenda items will be developed from these meetings.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday, November 21, 2005, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Office of Aeronautics training room. Agenda items will include the Minnesota Coordination Study and revised draft vision/mission statement. Until a set date and time can be established for future meetings, meetings will be scheduled by members' availability.