

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT COORDINATION

April 22, 2008

Hiway Federal Credit Union Administration Building

MEETING NOTES

Members Present

Bob Fischer, MN Department of Education
Doug Benson, MN Department of Health
Robert Johns, University of Minnesota
Mary Koep, MN Board on Aging

Members Absent

Bonnie Elsey, MN DEED
Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council
Brian Osberg, MN Department of Human Services
Joan Willshire, MN State Council on Disabilities

Guests

Ken Rogers, MN State Council on Disabilities for Joan Willshire
Jean Meyer, Mn/DOT Office of Transit District Project Manager

Others

Bob Ries, MN Department of Human Services
Judy Ellison, Mn/DOT Office of Transit
Noel Shughart, Mn/DOT Office of Transit
Diane Contreras, Mn/DOT Office of Transit

Welcome, Introductions

Robert Johns welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that they introduce themselves and the organization they represent.

State Coordination Model: Kentucky/Ohio

Noel Shughart made a presentation on Kentucky's Human Service Transportation Delivery (HSTD) Coordination Model. Before Kentucky developed their coordination model they used a voucher system for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation. This system didn't work well as they found that understaffed state case workers in each county issued thousands of vouchers for transportation, payments to providers were delayed, fraud and abuse occurred in billing for ineligible trips, and costs escalated.

To develop the HSTD Coordination Model, they received input from external and internal stakeholders. With their input the new model established a series of transportation brokers throughout the state whose job is to secure the most cost

effective transportation delivery for the human service clients from various programs. Their goal is to improve accessibility, timeliness, safety, provider/recipient accountability, customer satisfaction and cost. The brokers are accountable for trip data, complaint tracking, phone reports and financial line item budget. To learn about customer satisfaction, they have a 1-800 number, and conduct phone and rider surveys.

Funding for the program comes from public transit fares, workforce fees, the Department for the Blind, Vocational Rehab facilities and the Medicaid Capitated System. The capitated system incentive is to reduce cost for the brokers. Under this payment system a broker receives a payment for each Medicaid recipient in their region. This payment is a flat rate payment received at the end of the service month after expenses are incurred. Since the program began they provided over 2 million NEMT trips for a cost of \$52 million.

The results from of the HSTD Coordination model indicate it saves money, eliminates fraud and abuse, provides safer transportation and quality service, and resources are better used.

Noel provided an information sheet on how the states of Minnesota, Florida, Kentucky, and Ohio compare in 10 areas with Medicaid Service. The comparison also notes who governs the public transit group, the number of counties lacking public transit, and their principle purpose for coordination.

Vehicle Sharing: STS Regulation Impact

Jean Meyer, Mn/DOT Office of Transit Project Manager for District 6, reviewed four examples of vehicle sharing by transit providers in southeastern Minnesota. The providers entered into an agreement to transport clients to and from their home to each agency, to medical appointments and social activities. Vehicle sharing also allows agencies to transport clients from different parts of a service area at a cost savings.

State Agency Guidelines Workplan

Noel reported that at last month's meeting the small subgroup of committee members reported on developing guidelines for local planning. From the discussion at this meeting, the subgroup was asked to go back and look at the five key recommendation areas; Coordinated Planning, Vehicle/Client Sharing, Cost Sharing, Reporting and Evaluation, and Demonstration Project. A matrix was prepared listing a Statement of Objective, Action Items, Implementation Timeframe, Parties Responsible and Status for each of these key recommendations. In most cases some of the action items were completed. For the action items that are pending, Noel has a suggested timeframe when they should be completed. It is hoped that the developed guidelines will encourage local organizations/agencies that are in the business of providing service to participate in coordination planning.

Bob thanked Noel and the subgroup for their work on this matrix and asked members to review the document and bring back any issues/concerns to the next meeting.

Member Agency Reports on Transportation

Doug Benson, MN Department of Health, noted that their organization's budget is being discussed by the Legislature/Governor.

Mary Koep, MN Board on Aging, reported that 1.7% has been cut from their programs and 4% in administration. However, she feels that they will manage quite well and are looking at ways to get more bang for the buck.

Ken Rogers, MN State Council on Disabilities, reported that their Town Hall Meeting on Transportation was very successful.

Judy Ellison, Mn/DOT Office of Transit, announced that Mike Schadauer has been hired to replace Donna Allan. Mike spent three years as Rail Project Development Engineer where he managed preliminary design of stations for the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit project. Most recently he has been the Transit Director for the Metro District managing the Northstar Corridor Rail project, the Central Corridor Rail project and other transit planning efforts. Judy also announced that the Office of Transit will hold Transit Application Workshops for Section 5311 (Public Transit), Section 5310 (Elderly & Disabled), Section 5316 (Job Access & Reverse Commute) and Section 5317 (New Freedom) on June 4 in Detroit Lakes, June 5 in Grand Rapids, June 11 in Rochester, June 12 in Windom and June 18 in St. Cloud.

Bob Ries, MN Department of Human Services, reported that the Provider Training Unit's focus group meeting went very well. He noted that the rural providers have concerns about high fuel rates.

Bob Johns, University of Minnesota, reported that the Center for Transportation Studies continues its work on the Coordination website.

Bob Fischer, MN Department of Education, noted that his agency is waiting on the Legislature to see if their budget will be cut. He noted that the high cost of fuel is a big issue with school transportation.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for May 27, 2008. However since that is the day after the Memorial holiday, Diane will check with members about an alternative date.