

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT COORDINATION

May 26, 2009

Hiway Federal Credit Union Administration Building

Meeting Notes

Members Present

Kelly Wosika, MN Department of Education
Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council
Brian Osberg, MN Department of Human Services
Doug Benson, MN Department of Health
Mary Koep, MN Board on Aging

Members Absent

Robert Johns, University of Minnesota
Joan Willshire, MN State Council on Disabilities
Bonnie Elsey, MN DEED

Guests

Keith Kapsch, Homes Murphy
Sarah Lenz, Mn/DOT

State Agency Staff

Bob Ries, MN Department of Human Services
Deb Schaufert, MN Department of Human Services
Kelly Schroeffer, MN State Council on Disabilities
Gina Baas, University of Minnesota
Mike Schadauer, Mn/DOT Office of Transit
Noel Shughart, Mn/DOT Office of Transit
Diane Contreras, Mn/DOT Office of Transit

Public Attendee

Michael Weidner, Paratransit Providers Association

Welcome

Mike Schadauer welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that they introduce themselves and the organization they represent.

STS/CVO Solutions (Issue: Client/Vehicle Sharing)

Sarah Lenz, Mn/DOT Office of Transit, co-presented with personnel from the Office of Commercial Vehicle Operations information on this issue at the Spring Workshops for Grantees in Bemidji, Mankato and the Metro Area. Their presentation spoke on STS statutes and rules, applicability-motor vehicles that provide service on a regular basis, and which vehicles are not applicable. They also addresses what "for hire" means under Minnesota Statute §221 and "Medicaid transportation" reimbursement through the Department of Human Services. They spoke to what STS really is, what the STS rules cover, how it applies to organizations who have a mix and match fleet, insurance limits on vehicle size, and the benefits and drawbacks of being STS certified.

Sarah noted that the reaction to their presentation was generally favorable, especially from the DT & H operators. It cleared up, for many, the confusion between what Mn/DOT and DHS regulates.

Sarah noted that more work needs to be done on this issue. They must initiate a public participation process, get interim interpretation from Mn/DOT legal counsel on “for hire” interpretation relative to DT & H/ADC and have appropriate legislative changes. However, she thinks that any proposed legislative changes should be driven by an organization that it affects rather than Mn/DOT

Noel noted that some organizations and individuals are confused about STS certification. They think that if their certified by Mn/DOT, they are also DHS certified. He noted that the paper published by the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditors-Non-emergency Transportation Services, states that STS providers must be certified by Mn/DOT, but no mentioned of maybe having to be certified by DHS.

Noel also noted that Alan Herrmann, Carver Area Rural Transit, provides STS and receives reimbursement through MNET. Noel will invite him to a future meeting to speak of the plus and minus of providing this service.

Solving the Insurance Dilemma (Issue: Client/Vehicle Sharing)

Noel introduced Keith Kapsch, an insurance broker from Holmes Murphy, who spoke to attendees of the Metro 5310/Human Services meeting about the advantages of forming an insurance consortium here in Minnesota. Holmes Murphy provides services to transit insurance consortiums in Iowa and Illinois.

Keith thanked the committee for this opportunity to speak to them about the merits of forming an insurance consortium program. He reported that organizations are reluctant to seek other avenues of insurance because their insurance agent warns that their premiums would go up. However a brokerage company is more knowledgeable of STS and ATS regulations and because of that there’s a good chance that their insurance rates could drop or stay the same. Even though the providers would be insured as a group, they still would have individual policies.

To see if this program would work for Minnesota, providers need to complete and send in the Basic Underwriting Information Checklist. The committee suggested ways of getting this information out to the providers, such as Town Hall Forums, sending them a letter and/or setting up video conferencing information meetings. Mike suggested that Noel and Kelly Schroepfer meet and prepare a letter that would come from the committee recommending their participation.

Council on Transportation Access

Noel reported that S.F. No. 1226, Minnesota Council on Transportation Access, was vetoed by the Governor.

ICTC Workplan Update

Noel reported that the committee’s work is well underway on the items listed in its work plan. He suggested that the committee, at its June meeting, may want to review the 20 recommendations listed in S.F. No. 1226 to consider adding some of these recommendations to its work plan. A copy of the 20 recommendations along with the work plan will be sent to the members with the meeting minutes.

Noel reported that he should hear next month if the committee's United We Ride Demonstration Grant they applied for has been selected.

Member Agency Reports on Transportation

Gina Baas, University of Minnesota, reported the University's grant with Hennepin County expires at the end of June. Gina also reported that they had some technical difficulties and was not able to gather the results of the coordination web site. She hopes to have this information available for the June meeting.

Brian Osberg, MN Department of Human Services, reported that the MNET program was not approved by the Legislature. He noted that this is a major setback in their efforts to coordinate in the metro area.

Noel Shughart, Office of Transit, reported that next Thursday he will meet with a staff person from the Office of the Legislative Auditor to talk about the ICTC committee. Noel also reported that he had the opportunity to attend a couple local group presentations on coordination.

Kelly Wosika, MN Department of Education, reported that the Legislature cleaned up language and statues currently in place on school vehicles.

Mary Koep, MN Board on Aging, reported that the Board is involved in the "Community for a Life Time" program.

Bob Ries, MN Department of Human Services, reported that with the veto of MNET, 11 metro counties will be responsible for 20,000+ calls a month for 80,000 rides. There is no process out there right now to take over MNET and questioned how do they meet the needs of these people without a process.

Kelly Schroepfer, MN State Council on Disabilities, reported that the council will be hosting Transportation Dialogue sessions again this fall.

Deb Schauffert, MN Department of Human Services, reported that they are going forward with their contractors focusing on transportation service and the rates they are paying.

Doug Benson, MN Department of Health, reported that they are interest in the outcome of the emergency medication transportation conflict of transporting patients to the nearest hospital rather than to the best trauma hospital.

Next Meeting Date

June 23, 2009 (CANCELLED)
Hiway Federal Credit Union Administration Building
840 Westminster Street

