

**Medicaid Infrastructure Grant
Transportation Workgroup
Meeting Summary
April 18, 2007**

Present: Jim Quick, George Ducharme, Lisa Rivers, Ricardo Almeida, Jayne Kleinman, Glendine Henry, Kerri Fradette, Sandy Fry, Robin Wood.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

Sandy Fry, Principal Transportation Planner from Capitol Region Council of Governments presented information regarding the Locally Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Program (LOCHSTP) in the Hartford Region. The LOCHSTP Plan must cover Jobs Access, 5310 Program, which provides vans to non-profits for senior transportation, and New Freedom Initiative, which provides services above and beyond ADA requirements (door to door/curb to curb service).

Sandy shared the transportation gaps, strategies, and actions for the LOCHSTP initiative. The needs assessment found many areas with no service which limits the ability of residents to access medical appointments, work etc. One of the strategies is to provide a mobility manager who will field calls and provide information on transportation services. The workgroup wanted to know whom are the grantees involved with LOCHSTP and if the initiative is statewide. Sandy stated that the law does not specify who can do LOCHSTP. Lisa Rivers, from the Department of Transportation (DOT) will provide list of lead agencies who responded to the solicitation for projects in each region (Northwestern, South Central, South Eastern, and South Western).

Jayne Kleinman requested a copy of the commuter lines map. The example of one of the workgroup members was used to highlight the need for transportation from the member's home in Willimantic to Hartford. The DOT reported that there is limited bus service from Willimantic to Hartford. The bus leaves in the morning with afternoon and evening return service. Jayne also suggested that the AAAs be contacted to get information about their current transportation initiatives. Jayne forwarded the bus schedule information with the times and pickup locations to the member.

The voucher system was discussed. Robin Wood from DMR clarified that DMR does **not** have a voucher system. Instead, DMR clients who have a personal plan also referred to as a Person-Centered Plan or an Individual Plan may include transportation as part of their budget. However, DMR Clients can only use DMR-approved transportation providers. Clients cannot use natural networks for transportation.

The promising news is that DMR would like to review current transportation policy to allow greater flexibility to clients needs. The client's Fiscal Intermediary (FI) will help them implement their Individual Support Agreement and manage financial accountability and employer responsibilities.

Jim Quick highlighted the need for transportation to get from one town to another, and cited as an example the difficulty of getting from Meriden to Wallingford. The DOT reported that they have added new bus service from Meriden to Middletown, but acknowledged that there are still gaps in service.

The workgroup reviewed the transportation goal and objectives, evaluation requirements and the technical assistance needs. The workgroup suggested the following questions that may come into the Technical Assistance Center:

- How to get from point A to point B
- How to get a license
- How to get transportation from my town to--
- What are the existing options and are there accessible
- Who to go to for local transportation services
- Financial assistance to help pay for transportation

Potential resources include CTRides.com, Metropool, and the transportation guide - Getting on Board, etc. Currently the guide is only available in the Northwestern, South Central and Southwestern Regions.

The evaluation plan was distributed and the data elements for measures were discussed. The workgroup suggested the following changes to the evaluation grid:

Outcomes – Increase/enhance the existing transportation system

Data Elements - # of new/enhanced transportation options

- # of individuals informed about the voucher system
- # of employers/employees informed about the employer transit subsidy
- # of employers who use the employer/employees who use the employer transit subsidy

The workgroup also reviewed the employer recognition survey and suggested the following changes:

1. My company is planning to provide transportation from specific locations to my site.
2. My company provides telecommuting, flextime, or shared work to accommodate employees transportation needs.
3. Question #2 - My company is within a ¼ mile of public transportation vs. My company is within a block of transportation.
4. Question #4 - change the word opportunities to options.

The Employment Summit Employer Award criterion was distributed to the workgroup members. Some ideas for the award include:

1. Recognition of employers who provide flextime or telecommuting options to employees to allow for their transportation needs.

2. Employers such as VNA Healthcare who used Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) matched savings accounts program to help employees purchase a car.

Glendine reported that the RFA is in the final stages of completion.

Recommendations to Steering Committee

Since the transportation strategies will not be completed by the end of June, the workgroup is recommending the following to the Steering Committee:

1. Continue to work on the transportation objectives and address gaps/areas not covered by the local initiatives
2. Provide guidance/assistance to local pilot initiatives
3. Provide continuity and input/changes related to transportation for the website
4. Provide transportation research assistance to the Technical Assistance Center
5. Continue to engage employers regarding transportation options
6. Be a repository/clearing house for creative approaches
7. Begin meeting every other month after Employment Summit

The workgroup discussed meeting every other month or on an as needed basis and continue to share information electronically when the workgroup is not meeting, on the off months. Glendine will continue to provide on-going information to workgroup via e-mail, fax and phone. It was suggested that this bi-monthly meeting begin after the Employment Summit on June 27th and after recommendation and approval by the Steering Committee.

Mintz & Hoke, the communications agency, would like to get transportation articles for submission to various Business Journal and Business Magazine publications beginning in July. Topics include:

- Issue of the Month
- Successful transportation stories
- Highlight various transportation options, such as Easy Street

Resource Distribution: Best Workplaces for Commuters website: www.bwc.gov
Quarterly MIG booklet
National Transportation Week, May 13-19. DOT staff will inquire CT is participating in any activities to highlight public transportation.
Frequently Asked Questions about Transit Commuter Benefits
Newtown Bee Newspaper Editorial - A Push for Public Transportation

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

