

CONNECT-ABILITY
Transportation Workgroup
Meeting Summary
December 19, 2007

Present: Robin Wood, Lisa Rivers, Carlos Pascoa, Glendine Henry, Jim Quick, Ricardo Almeida, Lisa Barney, Joyce Armstrong, Noreen Shugrue, Mary-Ann Langton, Quincy Abott

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

1. Approval of Meeting Summary

The workgroup approved, with one minor change, the summary from the October 17 meeting. The Meriden transit district only covers Meriden.

2. Workplan

The group reviewed the revised workplan and prioritized the following 5 objectives.

1. Develop model transportation voucher system that can be replicated in other communities
2. Develop navigational broker system that can be replicated across the state
3. Enhance existing transportation information and materials
4. Develop state agency work plans to enhance awareness of available options and to create and implement new options
5. Support the implementation of accessible taxis in Connecticut

The workgroup will work on the following objectives during the 1st quarter of 2008

3. Enhance existing transportation information and materials
4. Develop state agency work plans to enhance awareness of available options and to create and implement new options (Noreen suggested that employers be included in this objective).

The following tasks/activities were assigned to workgroup members to accomplish the objectives.

- Research existing transportation options
- Develop an inventory of transportation options
- Workgroup to provide existing options to Glendine for compilation (Jim suggested the following three categories should be used as the information is collected 1) advocates, 2) employers, and 3) state agencies. Jim also suggested the following website as a resource- www.disaboom.com and,)
- Noreen suggested adding the following two questions to the research and collection activities: 1) how widely available is the information and 2) who is using the information.
- Noreen has offered to assist with baseline measures
- A needs assessment survey will be developed and distributed to DDS, BRS, DMHAS

- A transportation resource directory will be developed and distributed

Transportation Discussion

Bus Service Initiative – Phase II

ConnDOT's fiscal budget includes \$5 million in funding for expansion of bus services. Ricardo provided a summary of the listening sessions in each of the five regions around the state to review the ideas raised in the previous listening sessions and to define other unmet service needs and gaps in bus service. DOT is hoping to conduct service design meetings in each region in Jan/Feb 2008 and have a draft final service plan in March 2008, approval of the service plan including an implementation schedule by April 2008 and services to begin July 2008. Service suggestion can be provided directly to DOT via e-mail at dotadmin.ctrides@po.state.ct.us.

Getting on Board Guides

Glendine met with DOT and rideshare to begin the development of the guides. Rideshare provided a copy of the 3 existing guides in pdf format to Mintz & Hoke. Rideshare will begin the data gathering in the next couple of weeks. It is anticipated that a draft will be ready by summer 2008.

Glendine also reported that the City of Stamford has developed a taxi voucher program called Share the Fare. The City used some of their Dial-A-Ride municipal funds to implement the voucher program. While the voucher program is useful to increase the transportation options for the elderly, individuals with disabilities are unable to utilize this service because there are no accessible taxis in Connecticut.

Robin reported that DDS is in the process of making changes to their waiver program. Robin met with the DDS staff person responsible for the waiver and would like to set up a meeting with DDS, DSS and Glendine to discuss the Department of Social Services non-emergency medical transportation program.

Mary-Ann suggested that a video be developed on how to take the bus. It was suggested that the workgroup look at existing resources such as the Easter Seals Project Action website. Mary-Ann also shared some creative ways to help individuals who use public transportation. One idea was to put bus fare in a zip bag so it is readily and easily available.

Southern Career Advisory Workgroup meeting is 2 PM on January 4 at the Disability Resource Center at SCSU to plan for a transportation workshop for students and parents. The workshop activities may include "the amazing race" concept and will provide information on how to safely use public transportation. Glendine will participate in the planning meeting.

ADA Complaint Form

ConnDOT does not have a formal procedure for filing ADA paratransit complaints. Ricardo reported that DOT staff is planning to develop a standardize complaint form for ADA paratransit users. ADA paratransit operators are responsible for receiving and

responding to complaints, but paratransit users sometimes send their complaints directly to the Federal Transit Administration in Boston instead of contacting the local operators; which does not give the paratransit operators opportunity to respond.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next meeting: 10:00 a.m., January 23 at the office of Protection and Advocacy, 60B Weston Street, Hartford.