

**CONNECT-ABILITY**  
**Transportation Workgroup**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**September 19, 2007**

**Present:** Joyce Armstrong, Dionne Arroyo (PCA), Jennifer Gorman, Cathy Ludlum, Jim Quick, Robin Wood

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

**1. Approval of Meeting Summary**

The group approved the summary from the August 15 meeting with the following changes:

- At the bottom of the first page, the topic changes from the presentation on Job Access and Reverse Commute to a paragraph about the Getting On Board guide. Suggest adding a heading to separate the topics.
- At the bottom of the third page, under #4 Resource Distribution, it says “A copy of the ... (APRIL) Toolkit... was distributed to the workgroup.” No one who was at that meeting recalled receiving this document. Suggest eliminating that item.
- Recommendations to the Steering Committee should be added to the summary.

**2. Suggestions for Transportation Section of Connect-Ability Web Site**

On September 17 a group convened to plan Phase 2 of our web site. The resulting list of changes was e-mailed by Glendine to workgroup members to discuss at today's meeting. Members discussed each item, and endorsed most of them.

- As was previously mentioned, driver evaluations through the Department of Motor Vehicles need to be accompanied by locations and providers of these evaluations. There should also be a list of testing accommodations.
- Regarding “How to network for rides safely” – create a fact sheet.
- Regarding an online transportation forum – the group did not endorse this item, as it would need to be monitored closely and it was unclear what (if any) plans there were to provide a monitor.
- A strong endorsement for more crossover links within the web site. Much is there, but you can't always find it from our section.

The workgroup added some ideas to the list:

- Travel training – Only Board of Education and Services for the Blind is listed as providing travel training. The Kennedy Center is a major source of travel training throughout the state and should definitely be listed as a resource.
- We need to provide a link to the Getting on Board documents.
- The Transportation in Connecticut document from Lisa Rivers which was distributed for today's meeting is excellent and should be included.
- Some towns offer tax breaks to people with adaptive vehicles. There may be other tax incentives from towns that would benefit individuals and employers.
- Try Another Way is a movement that encourages people to experiment with different ways of getting places, such as bicycles, carpools, and public transportation. This could be beneficial to people with disabilities as well as people without disabilities.
- PASS and (Plan to Achieve Self-support) and IRWE (impairment related work expenses) are not listed in the transportation section, even though both methods of stretching income typically include transportation expenses and/or objectives. Suggest crossover links from the benefits area where the descriptions are now located.
- The Tech Act Loan Program is not listed, but should be.

### **3. Opportunity!**

Robin shared information about a Mobility Planning Services Institute to be held in Washington, DC in just a few months. This is a major opportunity to provide input and apply for technical assistance to improve transportation in our state. This should be included in the Calendar section of the web site, but also information about it should be shared far and wide before it is too late – we only have two months to apply. Also, people should take a serious look at the APRIL Toolkit before they apply. For more about this conference, see the Disability Collaborative Bulletin, September 17 issue.

### **4. Number of Barriers to Be Addressed**

Transportation workgroup members looked at the list of barriers, i.e.: transportation is not accessible, unavailable, unreliable, and too expensive. The group feels that all four barriers are critically important and we should continue to work on all of them.

Feedback for Noreen:

- It seems like a lot of things to be measuring
- Nights and weekends are not addressed in any way
- Disability navigators are not addressed, and are critical

### **5. Workplan**

The group reviewed the current workplan and suggested adding the following activities:

- Create a document about What's Going On in Connecticut, current programs and development. Use Lisa's Transportation in Connecticut as a base to build upon.
- The Getting On Board guides are terrific, but there is nothing about local transportation providers for people with disabilities. Suggest creating localized inserts.
- There should be a document such as How to Plan for Transportation in the Individual Planning Process. No such thing currently exists.
- Massachusetts already has disability navigators. How are they funded?
- DSS has three transportation brokers for medical appointments only. This program has saved the state millions of dollars. Can it be expanded or replicated for nonmedical uses?
- We have been talking about accessible taxis. Let's look into incentives (federal, state, local) and also the Tech Act.

## 6. Recommendations to Steering Committee

1. Connect-Ability should fund publishing a Getting on Board guide for north-central Connecticut. (This has been discussed at several meetings, but as far as we know, no formal request has been made to the Steering Committee and hence, no action taken)
2. Include activities to increase transportation at night and on weekends, not exclusively during daytime hours. Workgroup members pointed out that job opportunities will be lost if people cannot work second or third shift. In addition, being employed includes shopping for appropriate clothing and handling other matters that cannot be accomplished if you are at work every day and cannot get anywhere at night.
3. There is much information available about transportation. It needs to be simplified and made useful to people. Mobility managers/navigators are a critical piece.

### 4. Guidance/Input for the steering committee (**Recommendations- August, 2007**)

- 1) Feasibility of Connect-Ability providing seed grants for 1 or 2 accessible taxis as pilots.
- 2) Funding to develop, print and distribute the transportation guide **Getting on Board** for the Northern Region. Cost estimate from DOT is approximately \$100,000.00. There is a huge need for this resource.

## **7. Miscellaneous**

There was a discussion about how to reduce the amount of paper wasted in all meetings by the facilitators attempting to guess how many people will be coming, printing materials for all of them, and then having some people not come or bring their own set of materials. It was suggested that from now on each workgroup member be responsible for bringing his or her own copy of the agenda and other materials. An exception would be made for very large documents, or if a member reported to the facilitator that it would be a hardship to print the documents him- or herself.

A copy of the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) Toolkit for Operating a Rural Transportation Voucher Program was distributed to the workgroup.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at the Office of Protection and Advocacy, 60B Weston Street, Hartford. **Please note:** the meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m., half an hour later than usual.