

Summary for the MIG Steering Committee

Workgroup:

Transportation (Glendine)

Date of Meeting:

May 16, 2007

Workplan Outcome(s):

Increase access to affordable and accessible transportation for job seekers with disabilities

Strategies:

- 1) Coordinate statewide activities around affordable and accessible transportation
- 2) Explore innovative transportation strategies, including the use of a person-centered voucher system
- 3) Partner with the Dept of Transportation's strategic planning process
- 4) Develop local level initiatives

Accomplishments completed since prior workgroup meeting:

- 1) Mintz & Hoke would like us to brainstorm topics for transportation articles for business journals, general publications, issue of the month, and other purposes:
 - Transportation for Walgreen's distribution center
 - MIG top employers -- innovative approaches to transportation that already exist
 - Easy Street -- how they allow modification of their vans
 - JARC -- Job Access Reverse Commute
 - AARP
 - Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT). Contact Gloria Mills
 - Commissioner of Connecticut Department of Transportation
 - Interview the Governor about recent remarks about United We Ride and the task-force
 - Head of the Transportation Committee in the State Legislature
 - The [Connecticut Public Transportation Commission](#)—The Connecticut Public Transportation Commission is directed to hold public hearings in metropolitan areas within the state, as determined by the Commission, for the purpose of evaluating the adequacy of rail, bus, motor carrier and other public transportation facilities, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 13b-11a (b) and to make yearly recommendations to the Governor.

- Connect to Work Center Work Incentive Planning Assistance Project
- Municipal grant programs
- LOCHSTP, New Freedom Initiative
- 5310 – The Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program which has been assisting people with their transportation needs since 1975
- 211 initiative
- Commuter services, Rail services

Problems/Issues encountered:

- 1) The handout on tax benefits for transportation is focused on employers, which is good, but should also have a section for employees (Joyce will look into this). There is also an IRS guide available on this subject
- 2) The list of LOCHSTP planning groups is not useful at this point because they have already given their recommendations to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and the DOT will issue its final plan in June (Jayne will send this plan to Glendine)

Major tasks to be completed before the next workgroup meeting:

- 1) Jayne offered to do an inventory of resources and to evaluate transportation web sites (for now). If anyone has any ideas, web sites, or other information, please forward to Jayne.
- 2) We need to develop a feedback form for the MIG web site and Technical Assistance Center. Was the information people received about transportation actually helpful? What would they like to see in the future? Etc...
- 3) We need to coordinate better with what is happening nationally. Project Action and United We Ride are run through the Federal Department of Transportation, yet Connecticut is not fully utilizing their resources

Guidance/Input for the steering committee (**Recommendations**)

1. Transportation for work-related needs must remain a focus throughout the entire grant period for both employers and employees
2. There is much information available about transportation. It needs to be simplified and made useful to people. Mobility managers are a critical piece
3. Assign a full-time assistant or intern to help MIG staff gather and coordinate

information about transportation. 100% of this person's time would be devoted toward this one objective

4. MIG workgroups should plan their meeting schedules around the availability of public transportation
5. The Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) are where elders are sent nationally when they have transportation issues. We should have an educational meeting about what the AAA's do in Connecticut around transportation
6. AARP and CACT (Connecticut Association for Community Transportation) are doing innovative work around improving transportation systems and distributing information. We could be partnering more strongly with these groups
7. Likewise, we need to reach out to JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute). This group has been meeting for years and has accomplished a lot. It is recommended that the July workgroup meeting be devoted to learning about JARC
8. To get youth involved with the Transportation Workgroup, we should reach out to KASA (Kids As Self Advocates). Heather Northrop is the convener of this group
9. A toolkit for transportation must include resources from the National AARP, Area Agencies on Aging, JARC, the 15 regional planning organizations, Connecticut Department of Transportation, and 211
10. The MIG (whether it be staff, consultants, workgroup members, public relations firm, or whoever) should write numerous articles about transportation per our discussion above