



Locally Coordinated Meeting Minutes

01-31-07

Attendees:

Lori Lorman, NTS
Bob Jeniski, NTS
Patrick Hurlihy, Dept. Health & Human Serv.
Mary Beth Smaha, Area Agency
Kit Morgan, NH Dept. of Transportation
Camille Pattison, NRPC
Tim Roache, NRPC
Matt Waitkins, NRPC
Karen Baker, NRPC

Mark Sousa, City of Nashua
Lance Forrester, Care Ride
Donnalea Lozeau, Southern NH Services
Ruth Haden, Granite State Organizing Proj.
Klaas Nijhuis, Harbor Homes
Meghan Brady, St. Joseph's Comm. Serv.
Pat Murphy, Town of Merrimack Welfare
Sarah J. Knoy, Granite State Organizing Proj.

The meeting began at 12:10pm.

Tim Roache introduced himself and let the group know that he would be transitioning into the position that Camille had started. He passed around the sign in sheet and those in attendance introduced themselves. He explained that the goal of today's meeting was to talk about the next steps for the locally coordinated planning process and to update the group on what is going on with the State human service oriented transit planning effort. Tim introduced Kit Morgan (NHDOT) & Patrick Herlihy (NHDHHS). Kit and Patrick proceeded to explain efforts at the state level regarding their respective agencies.

Kit spoke first, telling the group of his presentation of the Statewide Coordinated Plan in December to the Governors office and the discussions on where to go from here, what the plan would require next, future legislative action, and a statement from the Governor. He added that the person he met was receptive to the plan but we are nonetheless in a holding pattern regarding implementation of the State plan. Also, he said that they are currently looking for proposals from transportation human resource groups and action from the Governors office on legislature until a statewide coordinating council (SCC) is established. Tim added that the planning commission group may form a regional council (RCC). Mark Sousa asked if the new State budget guidelines would affect this. Kit did not think so in when related to the DOT adding that there is federal money in the DOT program and that no general funds were earmarked.

Patrick Herlihy said there would be some effect and referred to the 130 vacant positions given up due to the 6 month vacancy and they were looking to staff in house since there is no transportation staff currently. Without giving away too much Patrick told the group of an RFP that has been crafted working together with a taskforce along with the commissioner for a broker model which would need approval before it could be released. Listed below are some highlights of what would be involved in creating a broker model:

- Brokerage would be for transportation for non-emergency medical needs (ex. wheelchair van)
- Steps would include a Gatekeeping (Verifications - Medicaid client, Medical trip)
- Manifest and dispatch rides
- Establishing rates

Patrick added that this would benefit the providers partially due to the fact that they would no longer have to get paid through Medicaid system because the broker would handle it. He continued saying, once the RTC's are up and running, there would be phases of transition (the broker would have to work and be willing to work with this framework or model). Finally, the evaluation process outlined in the

RFP would be used in making the selection for a broker. Meghan Brady asked if this would be regional brokers and if there was any indication of more money coming. Patrick answered statewide and referred to the \$200,000 State subsidy for the TANF program which was also included in the RFP. He added that if they get the money and if it works well, they will go back to the legislature for more money. Tim thanked Patrick and Kit for the updates of the on goings in the State.

Tim proceeded to pass around handouts of Appendix F (Regional Coordination Council Memorandum of Understanding) and G (Regional Coordination Council Bylaws) of the Statewide Coordination of Community Services plan. He spoke of the logic for NPRC to stay at the front of this process and the need for agencies interested in being part of the RCC. He continued saying how we should keep the group together and talk about MOU and Bylaws at the next meeting. Lance Forrester said he would need more time to read before deciding about being involved. Meghan felt there should be more discussion on vehicle sharing and the insurance issues involved with it. Tim said to save any further discussion regarding this for the next meeting and that today's discussions so far should be used as the first step.

Tim moved onto #4 of the agenda. He went over the short term goals identified in the LCTP (public outreach, education, and identifying funding sources) and asked for review and support from the group. He added that information obtained from the group could be used to get to the key players.

Mark Sousa referred to the Hudson elderly transportation issue and the public outreach would be a good tool for this. Lance suggested along with education that an action be attached to it (ex. What do I need, what do I do). Tim suggested going to the decision makers and establishing an impact fee to deal with elderly transportation. Donnalea Lozeau felt the low income groups get lost due to a disconnect with other transportation providers. Meghan suggested letting the public know how they can help (volunteering, donations, etc) to fund programs. She added that the real issue is the lack of money. Donnalea added that the county commissioner should be at the table and that the service demonstrated to be county wide rather than agency driven. She referred to the amount of money in surrounding states that goes towards transportation (\$8.00 pp in Maine, \$1800 in MA, and only .16 cents pp in NH). Meghan said that the high property taxes are a big affect of this. Kit felt coordination should be explained (what it is and how it works). Make the dollars go further or as far as they can.

Tim asked the group to pull together materials and ideas and to bring them to the next meeting. Pat Murphy informed the group of the rich amount of elderly in Merrimack belonging to several different organizations or groups and their concerns and thinking regarding transportation needs in the future. She felt that this group would be good to get in helping to establish a grass roots group. Donnalea felt that the mindset of the need for a car to get around needed to be changed and that youth should also be a target. Tim referred to a youth effort underway in Peterborough which included some hip advertising. He suggested developing some draft materials.

Ruth Heden wanted to meet with Milford elected officials along with an NRPC representative. Another request was having specific DOT project grants listed. Tim informed the group that NRPC would provide support when groups where applying for grants. In addition, NRPC could make determinations.

On a last note, CART (located in Derry) does not service Pelham as stated in the plan and a correction will be made.

Next meeting will be on March 28, 2007 at 12 Noon.

Meeting adjourned at 1:07pm