



## Locally Coordinated Meeting Minutes 02-20-2008

### **Attendees:**

Raymond Blethen, Nashua Transit  
Eileen Brady, Nashua Soup Kitchen  
Meghan Brady, St. Joseph Community Services  
Gailyn Casaday, NRPC  
Ellen Groh, Granite State Organizing Project  
Ruth Heden, Granite State Organizing Proj.  
Sarah J. Knoy, Granite State Organizing Proj.

Bob Mack, City of Nashua Welfare  
Pat Murphy, Town of Merrimack Welfare Dept.  
Tim Roache, NRPC  
Fred Roberge, Easter Seals  
Mark Sousa, City of Nashua  
Matt Waitkins, NRPC  
Louise Woodworth, City of Nashua

The meeting began at 12:12 pm.

### **CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/MINUTES**

Tim Roache opened with introductions and asked if there were any comments on the minutes from the December 12, 2007, meeting, calling attention to the addition of Bus Route #9 as a project. There were no comments on the minutes.

### **UPDATE ON STATEWIDE COORDINATING COUNCIL (SCC)**

Matt Waitkins reported that the 2/7 SCC meeting was well attended, with about 30 people. The main presentation was on the IT architecture for the SCC. Ray Blethen noted that the SCC will have a database for eligibility to broker trips. The SCC software will not affect the RCC's individual scheduling.

Fred Roberge said there was discussion about the communication needed between department stakeholders and the necessary functions of the system, with an RFI planned to lead to an RFP, if needed. He also reported that there is no funding commitment, although the DOT does have some flex funding that they might use. Fred is a proponent of looking at what is needed first, before funding decisions.

Matt noted that the boundaries of the RCC regions are not clean replications of the RPC's. Mickey McGiver is on a committee to look at this.

In addition, a working group for outreach and communications has been set up. The Chair is Patrick Herlihy, DHHS. NRPC (Matt) is also on the working group.

On the agenda for the SCC meeting on March 6: more specifics regarding the RFI; definition of the borders of regions; outreach strategy; and funding strategy.

Mark Sousa asked Matt/Tim to provide him with the March 6 meeting notice, when available.

### **UPDATE ON DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAID TRANSPORTATION RFP DEVELOPMENT**

Matt reported that DHHS originally planned to develop an RFP for a statewide broker for non-emergency Medicaid transportation. However, on legal advice, DHHS will not be seeking a statewide broker. Instead, DHHS now intends to work closely with each RCC during the RTC (broker) selection



process. Assuming the selected Broker meets the requirements of the RFP, DHHS will contract directly with the Broker in each region. Fred noted that the DHHS will reserve the right to contract with a Broker that is not the chosen RTC. He also said that the SCC will develop a framework to approve the broker; many areas won't have RCC's and the broker won't necessarily be a provider.

Bob Mack pointed out that there are different reimbursement rates for different populations; the SCC software will not dispatch transportation, but will allow grouping of people by cost and efficiency. Meghan Brady pointed out that populations cannot always be mixed on a trip, because of safety or other concerns, so the situation is complex.

Fred said that there is a pilot planned in the Belknap-Concord area, where there is a higher concentration of TANFF recipients and more barriers to transportation than in southern New Hampshire.

### **RCC, RTC, AND NEXT STEPS**

Matt said 9 MOU's have been signed and returned, out of around 60 sent out. MOU's have been received from: Life Coping, Inc, Easter Seals NH, Inc, Town of Merrimack, City of Nashua – Nashua Transit, St. Joseph Community Services Inc., The PLUS Company, Inc, Granite State Independent Living, Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP) and Area Agency.

The “acceptance signature” block on the MOU will eventually be signed by the chairperson for the RCC.

The group discussed whether we should wait for the SCC work to progress further or continue planning. Fred pointed out that there is plenty of work to do—cataloging available resources, methods of collaboration, establishing who's moving whom—whether the SCC is set or not. Tim Roache said he thought the state and SCC group would appreciate it if we went forward and Meghan said we can be an example for other parts of the state.

Also discussed was who should be the chair of the RCC. Tim suggested that one of the members (groups who return MOU) be elected chair, with the NRPC providing support. Mark Sousa noted that this could be considered a conflict of interest and that perhaps NRPC should chair. Tim noted that there are four officers to be in place eventually: chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer. With no funding, there is no need for a treasurer yet and NRPC can continue in the role of secretary for now. Ellen Groh said we can continue to work without a chair or vice chair and Matt said NRPC could continue to facilitate.

Eileen Brady mentioned the new 211 system, a statewide system to provide referral information to social services. This is to be implemented in May.

Tim asked that everyone contact his/her peers to get involved in the work—with an MOU. Mark pointed out that we need more representation from other parts of this region.

Mark reported that the new Route 9 in Nashua is getting over 2000 riders in January (second month in operation), with lots of high school students, particularly those participating in after-school activities. The ridership will likely increase in the spring, when new shelters and new signage will be available. Another new route, targeting senior citizens, is being planned for a July 2008 start.



Matt said we need to develop a list of projects to amend the plan, especially for funding purposes. Tim noted that amendments to the plan require a public comment period and hearing, limiting the number of times per year to update the plan.

Matt said outreach planning is needed and Ruth Heden and Sarah Jane Knoy, both of GSOP, can provide good examples and input from the GSOP work. Ruth and Sarah provided copies of a notice describing a “dial a ride” system that they have submitted as a petition warrant article to the Town of Amherst. They also plan a similar petition warrant article in Milford.

**ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING’S AGENDA**

- Feedback on Appendix L. Task 4 – Scope of Work for Regional Transportation Coordinator (from SCC group)

**Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.**

TR/gdc  
#410-70