



St. Johns County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, August 18, 2004

Northeast Florida
Regional Council
Brian D. Teeple, Executive Director

St. Johns County Commission
Hon. Jim Bryant, Chair

State of Florida Transportation
Disadvantaged Commission
Peter Gianino, Chairman

MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the St. Johns County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board was held on Wednesday, August 18, 2004, at 2 p.m., at the St. Johns County Council on Aging, 180 Marine Street, St. Augustine, Florida. In lieu of Comm. Bryant's absence, Ms. Conroy called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. with the following members:

Present

Shirley Conroy
George DeAntonis
Cathy Guiry
DeWeece Ogden
Betsy Preuss
Shalanda Vickers

Excused

Comm. Jim Bryant (chair)
Gwen Pra
Rick Tallman

Absent

Don Addison
Joe Purvis

Others Present: Brian Nourse, Greta Larkin, Lisa Love, and Cathy Brown from St. Johns County Council on Aging, and Others

Staff Present: Stephen Jones and Jeanie Palmer of NEFRC

Ms. Conroy asked each present to introduce himself/herself and state the agency each represented.

Announcements

CTD Award Recognition - Mr. Jones announced that at the CTD Awards Banquet at the TD Annual Conference, Mr. Marc Wichman was nominated for, and received, the William G. Bell Lifetime Achievement award.

*Additions, Deletions, Changes to the Agenda

Mr. DeAntonis moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Preuss; motion passed unanimously.

*Approval of Minutes

Mr. DeAntonis moved approval of the minutes of the quarterly LCB meeting of May 19, 2004; seconded by Mr. Purvis; motion unanimously carried.

Northeast Florida Regional Council Update

Update on Medicaid Funding Crisis and Recent CTD Actions

- Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Contract – Mr. Jones gave a quick update on the Medicaid allocation. He explained there has been a huge ongoing disagreement between the American Health Care Administration (AHCA) and the Transportation Disadvantaged Commission. The TD Commission has signed a contract with AHCA to administer all the Medicaid non-emergency transportation funds that AHCA has designated around the state, which was approximately \$67 million. The problem was the TD Commission came up with a formula to distribute those funds that was very unequal. It cut funds from eight counties (three severely), but left 59 harmless. The three severely cut counties were Duval, Orange-Seminole-Osceola, and Miami-Dade, who banded together to form a coalition to get that formula overturned. Mr. Jones said part of the problem was that Medicaid is holding back \$10 million in a contingency fund for transportation. There have been numerous meetings about this around the state.

Ms. Conroy said she felt that the TD Commission was losing credibility. The members of the Duval legislative delegation were at the Jacksonville meeting in force and were very upset about what was happening. They

did not pass a resolution at that point. The resolution discussed was to support the Coalition's proposal, and they indicated strongly that they were going to take a look at the makeup of the Commission.

Ms. Brown said they are a contractor and a responder, and decided the best thing for them to do was to take care of business at home, and not attend most the meetings. Being a small county, they didn't feel they would influence any decisions made.

- Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Program Monitoring – Mr. Jones reported that the planning agencies around the State have been given first-right-of-refusal to do the Medicaid monitoring, but no one has received a contract yet. Ms. Conroy said she reviewed the section on safety monitoring and sent in detailed comments because crucial things were omitted. None have been incorporated into the handbook yet.
- Upcoming CTD Meetings – Mr. Jones said in the packet was a list of upcoming Medicaid meetings. He encouraged the members to attend. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 27.

2004 Rural Capital Assistance Grant Allocations - Mr. Jones said St. Johns County got a van this year from this grant.

Federal/State Legislative Issues

- TEA-21 Re-Authorization Update – Mr. Jones said TEA-21 is at a standstill. Ms. Conroy said that FACTS has a small grant of \$3,000 to promote the highest funding possible for TEA-21. She said that legislators are here now in the districts, so this is a good time to call to tell them to fund TEA-21 at the highest level possible. This is going to affect every transit system for six years. Mr. Jones said this will affect allocations for 5310, 5311 and 5307.
- TD Program Media Coverage – Mr. Jones said he included some news articles about the Medicaid issues.

Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) System Update

Quarterly Non-Sponsored Trip Report - Mr. Nourse reviewed the quarterly report of April 2004 to June 2004, stating that Medicaid trips were down a little this quarter from 12,453 to 11,995. He said there was a huge drop in the Sunshine bus trips from 21, 479 to 13,916, and a drop in the number of TD trust fund rides from 5,426 to 4,863. Deviated fixed route, ambulatory, and stretcher trips were down, but wheelchair trips were slightly up. Average cost per trip went from \$8.20 to \$9.07. Mr. Nourse explained as the number of trips increases, typically overhead is spread out over more trips, and cost per trip decreases. As trips decrease, average cost per trip increases. Total vehicle hours went up slightly and average cost per vehicle mile went down from \$1.69 to \$1.65. There were no accidents of a serious nature this quarter. Mr. Nourse noted that March was always the busiest month for transportation.

Sunshine Bus Program Update – Mr. Jones asked why the Sunshine Bus trips went down. Mr. Nourse felt it was because of the bus terminal's relocation. He explained how the move caused the decline in trips. Mr. Nourse said he knew the move would cause a drop in trips, but it was worse than he thought it would be. Mr. Jones asked about advertising. Mr. Nourse said the billboard was a one-time deal, and they had ads in the paper prior to the May 4 schedule change. They are still on community TV. Mr. Jones suggested advertising the bus stop's new location on the side of the buses.

Old Business

Update on Section 5307 Funding for SJCCOA – Mr. Nourse said if they get the 5307 funding, they will have two years in reserve, and most of that will be used to find new transportation headquarters.

Mr. Nourse introduced Lisa Love, who has been with the COA as a manager for the last five years. He said she recently revamped their prescription assistance program making it very productive. She's worked in many areas including being dining room supervisor and volunteer coordinator. She has now accepted a position in transportation helping Mr. Nourse.

New Business

Biennial Planning Agency QAPE Review – Mr. Jones said the Regional Council had its Biennial Quality Assurance and Program Evaluation (QAPE) review from the Commission. The review went well except for the following two items that were cited: (1) not submitting consistent TDSP updates as required, and (2) not having quorums at meetings in some counties.

Review/Update of LCB Grievance Procedures – Mr. Jones distributed St. Johns County's current grievance

procedure, and a proposal that was done by West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC). With respect to all the Medicaid issues, there is concern the number of grievances will increase. The WFRPC went through the TD Commission's requirements for grievances and cut as much as they could from their grievance processes and tried to streamline as much as possible. Mr. Jones asked the St. Johns County LCB to do the same thing. He said he was concerned about staff time and board member time if grievances increase. He asked the members to take home and read, and give him suggestions. He will put this on the agenda for discussion in November, along with a proposal from the Council. Ms. Brown expressed concern about anonymous complaints.

Future LCB Meeting Dates/Times – Mr. Jones said historically, the LCB meetings are scheduled around the board chair's availability, with other consideration given to board members who cover multiple counties. Currently, Baker and Nassau counties meet on the same day, and Putnam and Clay counties meet on the same day – one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Right now Flagler County LCB meets on the 5th Tuesday or the 1st Tuesday of the month depending on the number of days in the month. Mr. Jones asked how this board felt about meeting at 2 p.m. on the same day that Flagler County had its meeting. Discussion ensued. Consensus of the Board was that the change was okay with them. The Board members asked for a new schedule so they could put the dates on their calendars. Ms. Brown suggesting having a meeting together (at the same time) with Flagler County. Mr. Jones said that was a possibility, and that has been discussed in the past. The next meeting for St. Johns LCB tentatively was set for Tuesday, November 30 at 2 p.m.

Member and Department Reports

Update on FDOT 5310/5311 Grant Application Reviews / Awards – FDOT was not present at the meeting today. Mr. Nourse said they received \$58,130 with 5311 funds.

Mr. Jones said that the Council's GIS person informed him the company that was helping the MPO do their boundaries do not have correct boundaries. He said that we need Scott Clem, thru the TCC channels, to engage the MPO to get their boundaries straight as soon as possible so that those boundaries can be transferred to the St. Johns County GIS department to be put on their GIS system as a layer. He asked if Ms. Brown could work on getting that done, so everything will be ready to go when the 5307 funds are received. She agreed.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is tentatively set for **Tuesday, November 30, at 2 p.m.** at the St. Johns County Council on Aging, 180 Marine Street, St. Augustine, Florida.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.