



Flagler County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Northeast Florida
Regional Council
Brian D. Teeple, Executive Director

Flagler County Commission
Hon. Jim Darby, Chair

State of Florida Transportation
Disadvantaged Commission
Peter Gianino, Chairman

MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Flagler County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board was held Tuesday, June 1, 2004, at 10 a.m., at the Flagler County Administration Building, 2729 East Moody Blvd., Bunnell, Florida. Chairman Darby called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. with the following members present:

Comm. Jim Darby
Peter Giordano (for Edward Guida)
DeWeece Ogden
Diane Poitras
Sal Rutigliano

Others Present: Gary Willoughby and Jesus Lopez from Flagler Senior Services, Kathryn Lopez from Arc Angels of Flagler, Inc., Dennis Migliano and Others

Staff Present: Stephen L. Jones and Jeanie Palmer from NEFRC

Announcements

Introduction of New Flagler County Transit Director – Mr. Jones introduced Mr. Gary Willoughby, the new transportation director for Flagler County. Mr. Willoughby briefly described his background. Chairman Darby welcomed Mr. Willoughby and asked those present to introduce themselves.

Additions, Deletions, Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Jones had two additional handouts regarding: (1) a priority list of spending for TD trust fund monies, and (2) local standards that need to be included in the Transportation Service Plan.

*Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rutigliano moved approval of the minutes of the quarterly LCB meeting of March 2, 2004; seconded by Ms. Poitras; motion passed unanimously.

Northeast Florida Regional Council Update

Update on Medicaid Funding Crisis and Recent CTD Actions

- Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation RFP – Mr. Jones said in the packet is a list of funding allocations that was recently sent out by the Commission recommending an 11.88% reduction across the board statewide in Medicaid non-emergency funding.

Mr. Jones said there has been much discussion regarding how to divide the \$67 million in the Medicaid contract. One item discussed at the meeting was a proposal put together by the Suwannee River Economic Council that was an analysis done based on the \$67 million and the number of Medicaid recipients in each county in Florida as reported by Medicaid. They took the total Medicaid dollars (\$67 million) and divided by the total recipients in the counties and came up with an equal cost per Medicaid recipient of \$32.08. Mr. Jones explained some of the reasons this proposal was flawed. He stressed this is an informational item only; no action is required.

- Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Program Monitoring – Mr. Jones brought attention to the draft evaluation workbook in the packet, which is the proposed monitoring component of the contract if the Commission signs on it. He reported that the planning agencies around the State have been given first-right-of-refusal to do the Medicaid monitoring, and the Commission is offering \$2,000 per county. The agencies are

going to try to incorporate the monitoring of this Medicaid program into the monitoring that already occurs in the TD program, and hopefully the annual CTC evaluations as well. Mr. Jones said the Regional Council is seriously considering accepting the Medicaid monitoring contract for its six counties.

- 2004 TD Conference - Mr. Jones said the 12th Annual Transportation Training and Technology Conference will be July 26-28 in Orlando. He asked members to let him know if they were interested in going because he might be able to help with the registration fees.

Federal/State Legislative Issues

- TEA-21 Authorization Update – Mr. Jones stated he has not heard anything on TEA-21 in the last month; it is still stalled in Congress. The extension is going to expire in June, but he heard that they might do another extension, which should last until after the Presidential election.

Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) System Update

Quarterly Non-Sponsored Trip Report – Mr. Willoughby said although they had three days of training, they are still having problems with their computer system. For his report, he estimated the following:

- March -- 7,611 trips with 53,383 revenue miles;
- April -- 6,963 trips with 51,500 revenue miles, and;
- May -- 6,239 trips with 50,306 revenue miles.

Mr. Jones asked how Medicaid billing was coming along. Mr. Willoughby replied they are still struggling. He explained that before he was hired, all the Medicaid papers to become a Medicaid provider for transportation had not been turned in, but he had a meeting with Ms. Ogden, worked on the application, and Ms. Ogden confirmed that their application has been submitted. Although billing was behind, Ms. Ogden said one has 12 months to bill from the date of service.

Medicaid Stretcher Transportation – Mr. Willoughby said Mr. Mike Hughes from Volusia County does non-emergency stretcher transportation and some wheelchair transportation. Mr. Hughes is investigating through Flagler County to see if he can get enough business with the nursing homes to justify having his own vehicle here every day. Mr. Willoughby said they are not getting a large volume of requests right now. Discussion ensued regarding the rising cost of fuel.

Old Business

Letter of Thanks to Congressman Mica – Chairman Darby stated that in the packet was a letter to Congressman Mica thanking him for his recent inclusion of \$125,000 for Flagler County Transport in the Senate Bill 427. **Mr. Rutigliano moved approval of the letter to Congressman Mica thanking him for his support; seconded by Ms. Poitras; motion passed unanimously.**

Flagler County LCB Vacancies – Mr. Jones pointed out a memorandum in the packet that went out to the Flagler County delegation on the Regional Council last month, and said he is just now starting to get some response back. He thanked Ms. Lopez, executive director for Arc Angels of Flagler, for responding, and said he also heard from Mr. Jim King, executive director of St. Johns River Community Action Partnership. Mr. Jones stated the Regional Council meets this Thursday and it will be approving those two appointments to the Board.

Mr. Jones asked everyone to give him names if they knew of anyone who meets the criteria and might be interested in being on this Board. Commissioner Darby said he would take the letter to Mr. David Haas regarding membership. Ms. Lopez said she knew of an individual who could fill the slot representing Persons with Disabilities.

New Business

TD Service Plan Update - Mr. Jones said there is a requirement to update the service plan, and part of the service plan is to have a list of priorities stating how the monies received from the TD Trust Fund will be spent. He gave samples of priority lists from Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns counties. The Board agreed that Putnam County's priority list was closest to their needs, if they switched the Education and Personal Business categories to read as follows:

1. Life Threatening Medical
 - a) Kidney Dialysis
 - b) Cancer Treatment
2. Route Medical
 - a) Doctor Appointments
 - b) Therapy

- c) Prescription & Medical Supplies
- 3. Life-Sustaining Activities
 - a) Nutrition/food Stamps
 - b) Medical Re-Certification
- 4. Work
(Transportation to and from work will be limited to 30 days during a one year period and will be accessible by the priority schedule.)
- 5. Personal Business (i.e.: banking, hair appointments, paying bills, etc.)
- 6. Education
- 7. Recreational (restaurants, movies, bowling, etc.)

Mr. Rutigliano moved to approve adapting the amended Putnam County Transportation Priority List temporarily (as above) subject to further review; seconded by Ms. Poitras; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jones made the Board aware that the last time Flagler Senior Services was monitored by the TD Commission, the Commission staff put together a Quality Assurance Program Evaluation (QAPE) Report, and that report identified a lot of deficiencies in their service plan. He said that report along with those deficiencies was handed out to this Board at the June meeting in 1999, and no action was taken. The draft today was the service plan; the items in bold were components that were not included in the plan that the TD Commission identified as needing to be completed. Mr. Jones distributed the local standards in both Clay and Putnam counties' plans. He asked the Board to review the two plans to help complete its plan, and bring suggestions to the next meeting. He added that this will be an action item at the next meeting.

Review of 2004-05 Rural Capital Assistance Grant Application – Mr. Jones stated the Board is required to review all grant applications. In the packet is a copy of the Rural Capital Assistance Grant Application that the County has recently submitted to the Commission. Mr. Jones said the TD Commission announced its award allocations last week, and Flagler County will be getting a bus. He noted Flagler County was allocated \$56,730 this year.

BCC Close-out Audit of Flagler County Transport – Mr. Willoughby said the closeout audit had not been forwarded to him yet. Mr. Jones stated that at the Transition meetings, BCC staff brought up that the County would be doing two separate audits for the final books of Flagler Senior Services -- one for Social Services, and one for Transportation. Chairman Darby said both audits were done, but in the end, it may end up being one audit because it wasn't separated. He said there is a shortfall of \$194,000 on the Transportation side, and the total shortfall as of September 30 will be about \$500,000.

Mr. Willoughby reported that they recently have had a couple of small accidents but there were no injuries. They also had a couple of minor vehicle breakdowns.

Regional Driver Salary Comparison – Mr. Jones included in the packet a grid showing driver salary rates for the six rural counties in the region. Mr. Willoughby said the drivers seem happy with the change to being employees of the County. Mr. Jones added that the drivers can now get full benefits and State retirement.

Member and Department Reports

Update on FDOT 5310/5311 Grant Application – Ms. Poitras said the Flagler County was approved for one vehicle with 5310 funds. She added that the 5311 funding notifications went out last week, and they can be mailed July 1. Also, vehicles can be ordered after July 1. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 31, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Flagler County Administration Building, Main Conference Room, 2729 E. Moody Blvd., Bunnell, Florida.

Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.