



Baker County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Northeast Florida
Regional Council
Brian D. Teeple, Executive Director

Baker County Commission
Hon. Julie Combs, Chair

State of Florida Transportation
Disadvantaged Commission
Peter Gianino, Chairman

MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Baker County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board was held on Thursday, May 20, 2004, at 10 a.m. at the Baker County Family Services Center, 418 - 8th Street South, Macclenny, Florida. Commissioner Combs called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. with the following present:

Commissioner Julie Combs, Chairman
Dan Gibbs
DeWeece Ogden

Others Present: Lena Griffin, Dan Masterson, Nancy Szanto, Pansy Ruise and Others

Staff Present: Stephen Jones and Jeanie Palmer, NEFRC

Since there was no quorum present, the meeting was conducted as a workshop. Chairman Combs recognized Ms. Szanto with the Baker County Press and welcomed her.

Announcements

LCB Member Resignations – Mr. Jones announced the resignation of Mr. Marc Wichman of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Being on the Board since 1990, Mr. Wichman is the longest continuing Board member in the entire region. In recognition of his departure, Mr. Jones prepared a Certificate of Appreciation and asked for the Chair's signature.

Additions, Deletions, Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Jones had an additional handout, but would put it under an existing item.

*Approval of Minutes

Because there was no quorum present, approval of the meeting minutes of February 26, 2004, was deferred to the next meeting.

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. Masterson attended the Commission's Medicaid Sub-committee that met yesterday. He updated the Board on the meeting.

Mr. Jones said there has been much discussion regarding how to divide the \$66 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 \$66 million and the number of Medicaid recipients in each county in Florida as reported by Medicaid. They took the total Medicaid dollars (\$66 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 stressed this proposal is for information only to this Board; 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 election.

Miscellaneous Local News Stories of Interest – Mr. Jones included a news article from The Standard entitled *County could be eligible for COA building grant*.

Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) System Update

Quarterly Non-Sponsored Trip Report - Mr. Masterson noted there were a couple of changes on the report. He said the ambulatory trip total is 11,652 and wheelchair trip total is 369. He said they are having problems with their software, and thinks the figures they have been receiving are inflated. Hopefully, after resolving the computer problems, they will receive better results.

There were two reported accidents this quarter:

- (1) One of the drivers drove under an awning, and ripped the emergency hatch off the top of the vehicle. The hatch cost \$376. Mr. Masterson sent pictures of the awning to the insurance company, and the issue is being resolved at this time.
- (2) A driver was delivering clients when a vehicle swerved into him breaking his vehicle's mirror; the other driver did not stop. The mirror cost \$12 to replace. No police report was filed.

Discussion ensued regarding what constituted a "reportable" accident. Mr. Jones suggested breaking down accidents into "reportable" and "non-reportable" in the future.

Mr. Masterson reported there were two road calls that required towing, one flat tire, and one call to pull a vehicle out of the mud. He said he is careful when calling the County Road Department to help because once he used them to help with towing and they ripped the bumper off the bus. It cost \$125 to replace the bumper.

B-Line Express Update – Ms. Griffin pointed out the revenue coming from JTA will help supplement the B-Line route. Mr. Masterson said they are averaging between \$3,500 - \$4,000 per month. They are starting to see more riders, and with that, their income should also pick up. JTA wants them to pick up two more routes delivering to the DOT and Shands area and also do a route to the shopping malls. The JTA is hoping to get two vehicles from a grant to do these routes; JTA will lease the vehicles to the BCCOA for a \$1 per year rate.

Mr. Masterson made the Board aware said they have probably seen a decrease in ridership in the Macclenny B-Line service because of changes that took place as a result of the commuter route. Once he has the JTA vehicle, he plans to take the Macclenny B-Line Express back to its standard route. He is doing a survey, hopefully to be put in the newspaper, asking the people what kind of service they would like to see.

Mr. Masterson brought attention to a problem regarding the copying of the B-Line passes. Although ridership is going up, they have seen the revenue going down. He said one individual reported that he had seen a man passing out a handful of B-Line passes. To prevent this, a new pass is being set up which will be monthly, and cannot be copied.

Mr. Masterson said they accept JTA passes on the commuter route. The commuter route is \$2, but if one has a JTA pass, the ride is free; and JTA reimburses them that \$2.

Discussion ensued regarding a route during the summer to take students to the beach.

BCCOA Building Update - Mr. Masterson reported the old Health Department Building sale has probably fallen through, and the building will probably go back on the market. He said he is meeting with County Administrator Jason Griffis today to discuss an office in the courthouse. Discussion ensued.

Old Business

Update on Nursing Home Transportation Issues – Mr. Masterson spoke with the Frank Wells Nursing Home directors

regarding transportation issues. They felt this was a great opportunity, and at their suggestion, he set a minimum trip charge for the nursing home of \$8-\$40. Included in the packet was the agreement with the nursing home.

New Business

*2004 Annual TDSP Update - Mr. Jones made the Board aware the TD Commission has a rule to update the TD Service Plan every year. The plan is included in the packet for the Board's review. Mr. Jones asked that changes be given to him.

Because no quorum was present, approval of this plan was deferred to the next meeting.

Mr. Masterson said their QAPE review by the TD Commission was next Tuesday. Mr. Jones said he was disturbed because he had not been notified by the TD Commission of this review.

Mr. Masterson alerted the Board to a situation that may turn into a grievance. A lady, who is moving from Orange Park to Baker County with her mother, contacted him. The mother has Alzheimer's disease, and is currently transported to Clay County to the Alzheimer's Daycare Center. The lady asked what kind of facilities and transportation services were in Baker County. Mr. Masterson said if there are no facilities in the county, the mother would need to be transported outside the county. He added there is no funding for this because the transportation is built into the daycare costs. How is money recovered that is spent for this individual's transportation to another county? Discussion ensued regarding Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI), and various options to recover costs. Ms. Ogden agreed to help Mr. Masterson find a solution for this problem.

Review of 2004-05 Rural Capital Assistance Grant Application – Mr. Jones said in the packet is the application for the annual Rural Capital Assistance Grant and the Board is required to review it. No action is required.

Regional Driver Salary Comparison – Mr. Jones included in the packet a grid showing driver rates for the six counties.

Member and Department Reports

Update on FDOT 5310/5311 Grant Application Review – FDOT was not present at the meeting.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 19, 2004, at 10 a.m.** at the Baker County Family Service Center, 418 - 8th Street South, in Macclenny, Florida.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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