



Putnam County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Quarterly Meeting

Monday, May 24, 2004

Northeast Florida
Regional Council
Brian D. Teeple, Executive Director

Putnam County Commission
Hon. Brad Purcell, Chair

State of Florida Transportation
Disadvantaged Commission
Peter Gianino, Chairman

MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Putnam County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board was held Monday, May 24, 2004, at 10 a.m. at the Putnam County Commission Meeting Room, 107 North 6th Street, Palatka, Florida. Mr. Jones called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. with the following members present:

Commissioner Brad Purcell (chair) (arrived late)
Wanda Brown
Blanche Peacock
Diane Sabo

Others Present: Boyd Thompson and Myra Strange from Ride Solution Inc., and Others

Staff Present: Stephen Jones and Jeanie Palmer from NEFRC

Since there was no chair or vice chair present, Mr. Jones asked for a volunteer to chair the meeting and Ms. Sabo volunteered. Due to lack of a quorum, the meeting was conducted as a workshop.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Additions, Deletions, Changes to the Agenda

There were no additions, deletions, or changes to the agenda.

*Approval of Minutes

Due to lack of a quorum, approval of the minutes of November 24, 2003, and February 23, 2004, were 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. The contract between Medicaid and the Commission has not been signed yet; it was originally supposed to be signed with service to begin July 1, then got pushed back to August 1, and possibly to September 1. Mr. Thompson attended the Commission's Medicaid Sub-committee that met last Friday, and he said it looked like Medicaid would implement by August 1.

Mr. Jones said there has been a lot of discussion on 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.

Mr. Thompson reported that what came out of the meeting last Friday was that by the time the contract with Medicaid is one year old (the end of next year) Medicaid intends to come up with an allocation formula. It feels that at the year mark, it will have better data to work with. He said the cost effectiveness argument is being pushed throughout the state, a lot of which is from the taxi industry out of south Florida that wants access to

Medicaid ambulatory trips. He added that the Commission had a study that was going on through last month which was basically a survey of taxi rates throughout the state and a comparison of those rates with the existing CTC ambulatory rates. That study fizzled because the Commission staff couldn't get accurate data to do the analysis. As a result, they went to the across-the-board cut. The taxi response was that it is going to put together a sub-committee to come up with a standardized rate structure for the urban areas in the state. Discussion ensued regarding what defines an urban area.

Comm. Purcell arrived at this point and assumed the gavel. He apologized for his tardiness.

Mr. Thompson pointed out that under the Commission's allocation, Putnam County loses \$65,000 in Medicaid funding. All of this goes away if Medicaid will add the funds it received in its increase from the legislature this year to its contract with the Commission. There was a \$10 million increase to the Medicaid transportation line item that is not being passed through on this contract to the Commission. If the \$10 million is included, everyone would get a slight increase. He shared an e-mail from Lisa Bacot, executive director of the TD Commission, stating where that \$10 million is in the budget.

Mr. Thompson stated that one of the things that came out of the meeting on Friday was the need for the CTCs to get with the representatives and legislators to get assistance in getting the \$10 million into the Medicaid contract. Medicaid is stating that it is holding that money as a reserve. Chairman Purcell said if this Board needed to contact legislators, it would take action. A lengthy discussion ensued.

- 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 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. Chairman Purcell said there are some significant projects for Putnam County within that bill, with some examples being the four-laning of Highway 17, finishing the business park, completing CR 309C, and doing the extension of St. Johns Avenue.

Miscellaneous Local News Story of Interest – Mr. Jones included a news article from the Palatka Daily News entitled *Bus company hopes shelters draw riders*. Chairman Purcell asked for an update on the shelters. Mr. Thompson said he has been trying to get a quote for three weeks from the company in Detroit that builds JTA's shelters. Discussion ensued regarding the type of shelters to be built.

Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) System Update

Quarterly Non-Sponsored Trip Report - Mr. Thompson said he did not have any non-sponsored figures for this quarter because they have been working with Trapeze up until two weeks ago to get a non-sponsored billing program completed. The installation of the Trapeze routing scheduling software is complete; there are still items to tweak on the billing software.

Mr. Thompson made the Board aware that they finally got a settlement from Yellow Cab for \$2,400 from an accident that occurred on July 13, 2003. Also an FTA Drug Audit found that Company Care was disqualified as a collection site for First Lab, but they attended some training this last month, and have since been reinstated.

St. Johns Water Management District Van Pool Program ("WaterSpout") – Mr. Thompson brought attention to the fact that the van pool that they do for the St. Johns Water Management District clients is in its 10th year. Mr. Bill VanSickle, of the Water Management District, has been the driving force, and he came up with some interesting figures as a result of the van pool service. Joining the van pool versus driving oneself saves gas, oil and water. Mr. Thompson said the big issue is going to be replacement of the vans. Mr. Thompson said they have gone through huge increases in insurance rates, and now the gas prices are hitting them. Discussion ensued.

JTA Choice Ride Program Update - Mr. Thompson said they are a subcontractor to JTA under the Choice Ride program, and the service is going very well. Mr. Jones noted that Choice Ride equates to about \$200,000 in funding. JTA was told that they have about \$1 million that they still need to spend this fiscal year. And they have been awarded approximately \$1.6 million for the program for next fiscal year, which is a 50-50 match.

Old Business

*Approval of 2004 Annual CTC Evaluation – Mr. Jones said no action could be taken with the annual CTC evaluation for lack of a quorum today. He said he will send the evaluation to the Commission and note that it is a draft pending approval by the LCB.

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.

Review of 2004-05 Rural Capital Assistance Grant Application – Mr. Jones noted in the packet is the application for the Rural Capital Assistance Grant, which the Board in required to review. No action is required. Mr. Thompson said they were awarded \$99,000 on the Rural Capital Assistance Grant, for a total grant of \$110,000. He said they applied for a bus.

Review of 2004-05 CTD Trip/Equipment Grant Extension – This is included in the packet for the Board's review.

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 Applications Reviews – Mr. Jones said there has not been representation from FDOT at this Board meeting for a long time, and he wasn't sure how to address this. Also, there were several vacancies on the Board and a problem getting quorums. Chairman Purcell asked for a list of vacancies and qualifications for Board members because he had a running list of interested people. He pointed out that the Board wrote a letter about a year ago regarding meeting absenteeism. He said he'd be happy to make a courtesy call to FDOT if needed. Chairman Purcell asked Mr. Jones to write a letter for his signature addressing this absenteeism issue. He said he would also call the members that the Board felt needed to be called.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, August 23, 2004**, at **10 a.m.**, at the Putnam County Commission meeting room, 107 North 6th Street, Palatka, Florida.

Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.