



St. Johns County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 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, May 19, 2004, at 2 p.m., at the St. Johns County Council on Aging, 180 Marine Street, St. Augustine, Florida. Chairman Bryant called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. with the following members present:

Commissioner Jim Bryant (chair)
Wanda Brinson (for Rick Tallman)
George DeAntonis
Cathy Guiry
DeWeece Ogden
Betsy Preuss
Joe Purvis

Others Present: Brian Nourse, Greta Larkin, and Cathy Brown from St. Johns County Council on Aging; A. Shawn Collins from the St. Johns County BCC

Staff Present: Stephen Jones and Jeanie Palmer of NEFRC

Announcements

LCB Member Resignations – Mr. Jones announced the Board recently had two resignations: Ms. Lilli Copp, representing the Early Childhood Council, and Mr. Marc Wichman, representing the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The DCF had another representative present, Ms. Cathy Guiry, from the Developmental Disabilities Program Unit; however, because of further changes, she was unsure if she would be the permanent representative for the St. Johns TD Board.

In recognition of both of the long-running Board members' departures, Mr. Jones prepared Certificates of Appreciation. **Mr. Purvis moved to accept the Certificates of Appreciation for Lilli Copp and Marc Wichman; seconded by Ms. Ogden; motion passed unanimously.**

SJCCOA Staff Member Recognition - Mr. Jones announced that one of the drivers, Ms. Donna Driver, won a second place award at the Florida Paratransit Roadeo in April. Mr. Jones prepared a resolution honoring Ms. Driver for her accomplishment. **Mr. DeAntonis moved to approve the resolution for Donna Driver as written; seconded by Ms. Preuss; motion passed unanimously.**

*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 February 18, 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 RFP – Mr. Jones said the Medicaid sub-committee from the TD Commission is meeting in Tampa this morning. One item for discussion at that meeting is the proposed allocation the Commission put together for the Medicaid contract for the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Brown said they are going to ask the Board to send a letter on the COA's behalf because they believe the service reduction of \$511,934 is based on some erroneous assumptions that do not take into account some

very real issues in this County. Rather than be disadvantaged by 11.8%, it's about a 35% reduction in this County. She said this is a very serious issue as it will greatly reduce the level of service. Ms. Brown said the elderly population (23%) here is disproportionate to the rest of State (14%). Chairman Bryant agreed to sign a letter to the State regarding this issue. He asked Ms. Brown to articulate the letter. Mr. Jones said he would put it on the Board's letterhead.

Mr. Nourse explained when the CTD did its analysis, it used the 2002-03 AOR Medicaid funding paid to them. The amount of \$580,958 in 02-03 is much lower than it will be this year. He estimates this year's billing to Medicaid to be \$712,798.

Mr. Jones questioned a discrepancy in the figures of the 2003/03 Medicaid's funding. Mr. Nourse explained that the CTD hadn't included payment for the escorts in the lower figure, and that accounted for the difference.

Mr. Jones said there has been a lot of discussion on how to divide the \$66 million in the Medicaid contract. He distributed 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. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding why this proposal was flawed.

- 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, and it appears 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. 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. Mr. Jones had submitted one joint application with Duval County for Mr. Marc Wichman for the William G. Bell Lifetime Achievement award.

Federal/State Legislative Issues

- TEA-21 Authorization Update – Mr. Jones said 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 Mr. Jones heard a rumor that they might do another extension, which should last until after the election.

Chairman Bryant said he had heard that Congressman Mica is in the running to take over as the House Transportation Committee Chairman.

Miscellaneous Local News Stories of Interest – Mr. Jones included a news article from the St. Augustine Record entitled *New Bus Depot to Open*. Mr. Nourse gave details regarding the new depot. He passed around their new bus brochures, and explained their new fees.

Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) System Update

Quarterly Non-Sponsored Trip Report - Mr. Nourse reviewed the quarterly report of January 2004 to March 2004, stating that total trips were up from 53,400 last quarter to 55,128 this quarter. He said they will have a \$10,000 decrease this coming year, but he still feels they will do fine, and will not have to deny trips. The deviated fixed route declined from 21,511 trips last quarter to 21,479 this quarter. In the coming quarter, he said they will see quite a reduction because of the change in the terminal, but it will be temporary hopefully. Average cost per trip went down from \$8.26 per trip last quarter to \$8.20 this quarter.

There was one accident this quarter. When the TD vehicle was traveling on S.R. 16, a car came out on a side street and hit it on the side. One person had a laceration. The driver in the car was cited for the accident.

Chairman Bryant asked how St. Johns County fared compared to other counties. Mr. Jones said that St. Johns County does very well on safety related issues, but is a little higher than other counties on cost per vehicle mile. However, St. Johns is not as high on cost per trip as some of the other counties, particularly Baker County which has a lot of out of county trips. St. Johns County was fortunate to have most medical specialties available in county. Discussion ensued.

Sunshine Bus Route Changes / Operations Center Relocation – Mr. Nourse explained the route changes and expounded on the bus center relocation.

JTA Choice Ride Program Update – Mr. Jones said Choice Ride (JTA) has decided to partner with St. Johns, Putnam, Clay, Baker and soon Nassau Counties. Mr. Nourse said they are getting about \$70,00 a year from Choice Ride; with that, they provide a service from St. Augustine to Jacksonville Beach four times a day (round trips). He said ridership on that route is low. Discussion ensued.

Old Business

Update on Section 5307 Funding for SJCCOA – Mr. Collins said they are trying to get logged into the computerized system so they can fill out the grant application. Once that's done, he is looking to have a public hearing on the program and projects before the end of the month. This will be an opportunity for the citizens to see what is going on with the new money. He pointed out that marketing is very important because many people don't even know the system exists. He hopes to get the grant to Atlanta by mid-June, and draw on the funds by October 1.

Mr. Jones said at the last meeting, Ms. Brown asked for a map of the MPO boundaries because once the funds are received, they have to be used within the urbanized areas of the MPO boundaries. He said the easiest way to do that is to incorporate a new layer into the County's GIS system. However, the map that was provided from the MPO is different than the County thought it was and the process has begun to resolve which map is the correct map.

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.

Mr. Jones said next year it's time to do the RFP for the CTC in St. Johns County, however, Ms. Larkin had a letter stating that the memorandum of agreement ran out in 2006, not 2005.

Mr. DeAntonis moved to submit the TDSP as written; seconded by Ms. Preuss; motion passed unanimously.

Review of 2004-05 Rural Capital Assistance Grant Application – Mr. Nourse said this application is not due until June 1. It is not a guaranteed grant; one has to prove need, innovation, and service improvement. Development funds are needed to expand the Sunshine Bus Company, which is necessary because of the cutbacks in Medicaid and the traffic changes from reconstruction on the Bridge of Lions. The CTC is asking for a full-time assistant manager from the transportation department assigned to the Sunshine Bus Company, two part-time dispatchers, and dispatch radios.

Mr. Jones asked about the possibility of having inmates build bus shelters as they once had. Comm. Bryant said this is something he'd have to work on.

Review of FDOT Service Development Grant – Mr. Nourse said they are asking for operational money from the Service Development Grant to: 1) support a loop in US 1, to help facilitate Medicaid clients to their appointments, and; 2) support a downtown loop which the city of St. Augustine is interested in sponsoring, and; 3) support something local for the Sunshine Bus.

Regional Driver Salary Comparison – Mr. Jones included a grid showing drivers' rates for the six counties.

Member and Department Reports

Update on FDOT 5310/5311 Grant application Reviews / Awards – FDOT was not present at the meeting.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 18, 2004, at 2 p.m.** at the St. Johns County Council on Aging, 180 Marine Street, St. Augustine, Florida. Mr. Jones said he may not be able to be at the next meeting because his wife was expecting a baby about that time.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

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