

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD

The Indian River County (IRC) Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 24, 2011 in the Building A Conference Room "A1-102" of the County Administration Building, 1801 26th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman **Bob Solari**, IRC Commissioner; **Joel Herman**, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Representative, IRC; **Melissa McInturff**, Florida Department of Children and Families (FDC&F) Representative; **Dr. Harry Hurst**, Citizen Advocate Representative; **Cindy Barnes**, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (FAHCA) Representative; **Kathleen "Cookie" Geyer**, Citizen Advocate Representative; **George Millar**, Public Education Representative; **Jayne Pietrowski**, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Representative; **Sue Rux**, Florida Association for Community Action (FACA)/Economic Opportunities Council (EOC) Representative; **Dalia Dillon**, Florida Department of Elderly Affairs (FDEA) Representative (arrived at 10:08 a.m.); and **William Lundy Parden**, Handicapped Representative.

Absent were **Cathy Viggiano**, Florida Department of Education (FDE) Representative (excused) and **Toni Teresi**, Seniors Representative; and **Laurie Sang**, State Coordinating Council of Early Childhood Services (CCECS) (unexcused).

Present was: Karen Wood, Senior Resource Association (SRA).

Also present were IRC staff: Phil Matson, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Staff Director; Brian Freeman, MPO Senior Planner; Sharon Schalm, MPO Staff Assistant III; and Misty L. Pursel, Commissioner Assistant, District 1.

Call to Order

Chairman Solari called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He introduced Melissa McInturff representing FDC&F as the newest member of TDLCB.

Approval of Minutes of the November 18, 2010 Meeting

Dr. Hurst wished the minutes be corrected to include Ms. Wood's response on page 7, under "Other Matters", first paragraph, ending the paragraph with, "Ms. Wood responded she had personally made site visits on a regular basis and had been working with law enforcement regarding the hub."

ON MOTION BY Ms. Barnes, SECONDED BY Mr. Herman, the Board voted unanimously (10-0) to approve the minutes of November 18, 2010 as amended.

Election of Vice-Chair

On nomination by Dr. Hurst, the Board voted unanimously (10-0) to elect Mr. William Lundy Parden as Vice Chairman for 2011.

Unfinished Business

Dr. Hurst requested the matter of the Hub be brought back to the agenda. Mr. Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director, agreed to mention the Hub under "Planning Status Report".

New Business

TDLCB Chairman's Report:

There was not a report for this meeting; however, Chairman Solari mentioned the grand opening for the bus station shelter in Fellsmere was a great affair and was enjoyed by many.

Planning Status Report: *No action required.*

Mr. Matson referred to the agenda packet information entitled "2011 Legislative Platform" from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD Commission) regarding Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation (NET), which is on file in the Commission Office.

Ms. Karen Wood, Senior Resource Association (SRA) opined it would be more advantageous to the TD Commission to keep the contract. She advised of receiving an email from the TD Commission informing the matter had gone through the Senate and the Senate had struck it out, however, it had not gone through the House of Representatives (House). She further advised should the House concur, it would be a done deal; we would basically lose the money and the transport.

Ms. Dillon arrived at 10:08 a.m.

Ms. Wood offered to provide the email from the TD Commission explaining the platform, with a copy of the actual Bill, showing strike out changes.

Commissioner Solari questioned whether to attempt to get this in the legislation a small county exclusion was a possibility. He informed the Board he was going to Tallahassee on March 23rd and requested a one-page fact sheet with recommendations/talking points to share with Senators and Representatives.

ON MOTION BY Chairman Solari, SECONDED BY Dr. Hurst, to approve Chairman Solari to initiate dialog with Legislative Delegates regarding the advantages for the TD Commission to keep the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation contract.

UNDER DISCUSSION, Ms. Kathleen "Cookie" Geyer, Citizen Advocate Representative inquired about any care facilities in Indian River County who may provide transportation. Ms. Wood answered she was sure; however, she knew of a few of the managed care facilities in Indian River County had given up transporting due to the cost. She commented with fuel costs continuing on the rise, there would be more and more facilities giving up transportation.

Ms. Wood agreed with Dr. Hurst that this would be one of those times to look past the cost and look at the need: ensuring those patients (children included) get to their medical appointments/treatment safely and promptly.

Ms. Jayne Pietrowski, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Representative offered her opinion that the Governor was talking about Medicaid reform, which means there would be Medicaid HMOs or provider service networks in all the different counties and with those Medicaid HMOs they would be contracting out to providers to provide the transportation. She opined it was more cost effective being within the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) because a TD rider, an American Disabilities Act (ADA) rider and Medicaid rider on the same bus per se, combining trips saves money.

Mr. Herman questioned how it would affect Senior Resource Association (SRA) if the \$300,000 were lost. Ms. Wood responded in essence, if SRA was not doing the transport, there would be no cost; there is no money being made on Medicaid. She further explained other funded dollars would be pulled from other programs to do Medicaid transports.

THE CHAIRMAN CALLED FOR THE QUESTION, and the Board voted unanimously (11-0) for Chairman Solari, while in Tallahassee, to bring a request for a small county exclusion to the legislative delegates.

Mr. Matson reported the Transportation Disadvantaged Services Plan was a 200 page document which comes before the Board one a year, in May. He stated there were four (4) items which required yearly updates: Coordination and Planning, Operations, Costs and Financial Management, and Utilization. He advised a request had been made to the State of Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD), as an administrative efficiency, whether the plan could be completed on a two-year basis and their response was pending; with the CTD questioning what, if anything, would the proposed changes impact.

CTC Evaluation Process

Mr. Matson advised another pending request included the CTC evaluation process which included designating members to a subcommittee to evaluate the CTC, currently performed annually; changing the evaluation to a two-year basis.

The Hub

Mr. Matson reported the City Council of the City of Vero Beach was much more amendable to relocating the hub to a place of the County's liking. He reminded the Board the hub was temporarily in the County's parking lot; however, a review for a permanent hub was bordered by the eastbound Twin Pairs to the south to westbound Twin Pairs to the north, and the Florida East Coast railroad to the east. He told the Board discussions had been pursued with the Department of Transportation (DOT) about the DOT constructing the hub for the County, given it would be very close to DOT right-of-ways on three sides and intermodal projects having DOT construction and backing were done on 100% basis with no cost locally.

Mr. Brian Freeman, MPO Senior Transportation Planner, added the Public Works Department was close to having the plan completed showing how the hub would work at that site.

Community Transportation Coordinator Status Report

Ms. Wood recapped her report, which is on file in the Commission Office. Highlights were as follows:

- Community Coach door-to-door services provided approximately 9,643 one way trips in this reporting quarter; a 15% decrease from the same reporting quarter as last year.
- GoLine public transportation provided approximately 216,345 one way trips in the 4th quarter of this year; a 25% increase from the same reporting quarter as last year.
- 8 new bus shelters installed, located at Parc 24 on Indian River Blvd.; two at each side of the 777 Kurtell Bldg., one at Indian River Medical Center, two at Kyles Run Apartments, two at SR 512 & New Hope/Treasure Coast Medical Center.
- 9 holidays Community Coach did not run; however, GoLine did; excluding Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.
- Expanding 14 GoLine routes for the retail workers.

Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement of Invoice #2 for the 2010/11 Planning Grant

Mr. Brian Freeman, MPO Senior Planner, summarized his memorandum dated February 16, 2011, regarding the last quarter of 2010's invoice for staff activities associated with the local coordinating board, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

ON MOTION BY Dr. Hurst, SECONDED BY Mr. Herman, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the submitted progress report and Invoice #2 for the 2010/11 Planning Grant.

Designation of Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Evaluation Sub-Committee

Mr. Freeman summarized the evaluation procedures and standards explained in the Memorandum dated February 15, 2011, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He stated the template used in the evaluation was created by the State Commission and consisted of four areas of review: coordination/planning, operation, costs/financial management and utilization.

Discussion ensued regarding designation of volunteers for the subcommittee.

Mr. Matson explained in the past the subcommittee would meet on the same day, either before or after the TDLCB meeting.

Ms. Cookie Geyer volunteered to go on a vehicle to observe and evaluate the service delivery. A copy of the evaluation form is on file in the Commission Office.

ON MOTION BY, Mr. Millar, SECONDED BY Ms. Rux the members voted unanimously (11-0) to designate Dr. Hurst, Ms. Geyer, Ms. Dillon, Ms. Barnes and Ms. Viggiano as members of the subcommittee.

Other New Business

Dr. Hurst inquired whether it was possible to request the City of Vero Beach to bill the Board for the donated free parking, write it off as a gift, so the gift could be utilized as in-kind federal grant money. Mr. Matson said he would examine how, if possible, the gift could be considered as an active ongoing match to be used to build the hub.

A short discussion ensued regarding promoting the availability of transit by bus and the bus routes.

Mr. Matson announced Fellsmere's 100th Anniversary was April 2, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.