

Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board

Teleconference notes

December 9, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Alaska Time

PRESENT:

- Glenn Miller, Municipalities with Transit Systems
- Heidi Frost, People with Disabilities
- Jennifer Beckmann, Low Income
- Joan O'Keefe, Non Profit Organization
- Julie Baltar, Tribal Representative
- Katherine Eldemar, Denail Commission
- Kelda Barstad, Department of Health and Social Services
- Lisa Aquino, Public At Large
- Lucas Lind, Alaska Mental Health Trust
- Pat Branson, Seniors

NOT PRESENT:

- Joe Thomas, Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Mike Vigue, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Robert Wright, Public At Large

STAFF:

- Eric Taylor, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Debbi Howard, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Marsha Bracke, Bracke & Associates, Inc., Facilitator

AGENDA

Membership

Boards and Commissions has filled the three positions open on the Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board. The following new members have been provided orientation information and were invited to participate on this call:

- Joan O'Keefe, Non Profit Organization
- Lisa Aquino, Public At Large
- Robert Wright, Public At Large

Joe Thomas has reported that the Department of Labor will soon be designating John Cannon, Division Director of Vocational Rehabilitation to the position Joe now fills.

Coordination Recommendation

Marsha reported at the IWG conference call conducted Friday, December 4, 2015, that all IWG members present expressed their support of the coordination recommendation as revised, encouraged C&PTAB to move forward, and that individually IWG members will be communicating the same with their respective Commissioners as the recommendation moves forward. Subsequent to its approval, outreach to state personnel who will be implementing the recommendations is recommended.

Medicaid Waiver Language

Kelda Barstad reviewed the following proposed language to include in the Medicaid Waiver proposal specific to Non-Emergency Medical Transportation underway by DHSS. The group will discuss the language in detail at its January meeting, with the objective to finalize and officially forward the recommendations to DHSS as the waiver process moves forward.

- Align non-medical transportation provider certification processes
- Use the same rate methodology for NEMT across all other Medicaid programs that utilize transportation services
- Use the same definitions and procedures for NEMT (For Example: same definition and distance limits for short-distance ground travel) across Medicaid programs
- Require provider agreements and transportation contracts for NEMT and other transportation needs to include coordinated transportation language
- Encourage participation and education to use mass public transportation, where available
- Continue the practice of issuing a bus pass for multiple NEMT appointments when the bus is the transportation method

Calculating Costs

The Calculating Costs work group has stalled due to the need for additional resources to further develop the excel spreadsheet developed to date for transit and human service provider use. Jennifer and Marsha have and will continue to try to schedule a meeting with Ethan Tyler-Commerce, Community and Economic Development to explore ideas Ethan proposed at the last joint meeting of the C&PTAB/IWG.

Taxi Survey

The Taxi Survey is complete and Marsha has provided a PowerPoint summary of the results and a draft statement of lessons learned and conclusions to the work group for review and consideration. The work group will be meeting via teleconference in the ensuing weeks, and the work group is planning its own work session for the afternoon of Monday, January 25, 2016 – the day prior to the next C&PTAB meeting to generate draft conclusions and recommendations.

Annual Report

A draft annual report is complete, pending the provision of information regarding the transportation bill and responses to specific questions about medical transportation and costs coming from the DHSS. With those inputs, the draft will be distributed for group review. Eric Taylor summarized and Marsha will forward to the group information Eric provided about the Transportation Bill.

Future Meetings

The Tuesday, January 26-Wednesday, January 27, 2016 meeting in Juneau is scheduled and facilities reserved. Marsha has already distributed logistical information for that meeting.

- Marsha will work with Joan to convene a public stakeholder meeting.

- Eric will work with the Commissioners to schedule a session with the Governor specific to the coordination recommendation.
- The IWG is interested in a joint meeting/teleconference with the C&PTAB. Marsha will coordinate those arrangements.
- Marsha will develop and distribute a draft agenda for the group's review.
- Proposed working agenda topics will include a session on Medicaid Waiver Language, review of conclusions and recommendations regarding accessible taxis, further development as possible regarding the calculating costs spreadsheet, a joint session with the IWG regarding coordination recommendations and next steps, a potential presentation of recommendations to the Governor, working sessions for each of the work groups, and an update of the C&PTAB Work Plan for 2016.
- The Advisory Board asked for a list of talking points to use during the legislative session as they each communicate with their respective legislators and audiences. Marsha will redistribute the white paper for that purpose.
- The Advisory Board asked to schedule the meeting for the entire day on January 27, recognizing some individuals may have to leave earlier in the afternoon.

The April 2016 meeting in Fairbanks is held the day prior to the Alaska Community Transit Conference.

- The conference has been moved from the third to the second week in April, correspondingly moving the C&PTAB meeting to Monday, April 11, 2016. Marsha has already sent an update to everyone's calendar.
- Logistical details for this meeting will be developed and distributed by the DOT&PF. Registration is free for C&PTAB members.
- C&PTAB will have a role on the conference agenda specifically on Tuesday, April 12 and potentially on Wednesday, April 13, 2016. Members are encouraged to maintain their availability to participate in the conference on those dates.

The Wednesday June 1-Thursday, June 2 2016 meeting will be held in Valdez.

- Marsha has secured a block of rooms at the Mountain Sky Motel, and is working on the meeting facility. More information will be provided as it is available.

The fall meeting in Ketchikan is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, October 25-26 2016. Logistical arrangements for that meeting will be forthcoming.