

Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board

Teleconference notes

February 20, 2015

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Alaska Time

PRESENT:

- Doug Bridges, Nonprofit Organization
- Glenn Miller, Municipality
- Heidi Frost, Disabilities
- James Starzec, Public At Large
- Jeff Ottesen, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Jennifer Beckmann, Low Income
- Julianne Baltar, Tribal
- Lawrence Blood, Denali Commission
- Lucas Lind, Alaska Mental Health Trust
- Pat Branson, Seniors
- Sharon Scott, Public at Large

NOT PRESENT:

- Cheryl Walsh, Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Duane Mayes, Department of Health and Social Services, Senior and Disability Services

ALTERNATES:

- Ezekiel Kaufmann, Department of Health and Social Services, Senior Disability Services, for Duane Mayes

STAFF:

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

AGENDA

ANNUAL REPORT FEEDBACK

Jeff Ottesen reported no feedback from the administration regarding the C&PTAB annual report, acknowledging the new administration is prioritizing its work and budget situations in Alaska are dire (trimming cots, revenue down due to price of oil, etc.).

STATUS REPORTS

CALCULATING COSTS INITIATIVE:

The subcommittee has been refining the Easter Seals tool in hopes of generating a report that the state can with most confidence report the cost of a ride across human service transportation and public transit sectors. The subcommittee has convened a focus group to assist in the development and testing of the tool on March 4, 2015, after

the regular meeting of the C&PTAB on March 3. The C&PTAB will be able to take a look at the draft tool on March 3.

TAXICAB ORDINANCE

Subcommittee members themselves have not added any substance to the work over the past couple months, but Pat Branson has been working a survey to mayors across the state to inform the white paper. To date all her responses have been from small communities only where there is no taxi resource at all. Glenn will help secure input from the Mayor of Fairbanks, and the subcommittee may want to focus on outreach to regional conferences. Other support efforts the group proposed, such as identifying local boards and commissions with potential interest, are still to be completed. The group will articulate its future effort at the March 3 meeting.

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Doug Bridges reported on the subcommittee meeting with Jon Sherwood, coordinated by Duane Bridges, held earlier this month. The C&PTAB report was well received by Mr. Sherwood and specifics discussed. Doug reported Mr. Sherwood was open to the all recommendations noting the billing recommendation will require a federal waiver. He indicated Alaska may be pursuing a waiver in other areas as well, and this recommendation could potentially be included. David Levy had forwarded some information from Indiana where they successfully secured a waiver in response to Medicaid expansion.

Regarding the brokerage recommendation, Mr. Sherwood supported the idea of potentially brokering through the state DOT, and asked of Eric Taylor, also present at the meeting, of DOT's capacity for supporting this process. Eric said it is possible but does require additional staff support. Specifically appealing to the group was the idea of funneling revenues and service through existing systems and structure and not building anything separate.

Heidi shared with Mr. Sherwood some of the group's efforts around taxi accessibility.

Regarding next steps, Mr. Sherwood encouraged continued discussions together and amongst legislators and with stakeholders. Jeff pointed out the state is specifically asking 'what can be done to make state government more cost effective' and there are places on the web to submit ideas. Glenn asked about the state's receptivity to existing commissions and boards already working to make recommendations on specific opportunities. C&PTAB may consider how to leverage this solicitation for information to make their recommendations be known.

Mr. Sherwood intends to share the C&PTAB recommendations with Margaret Brodie; the subcommittee proposes submitting additional resource material to Mr. Sherwood to further inform the discussion.

Time to specifically discuss capitalizing on the opportunity to communicate C&PTAB recommendations to the administration in response to its request for ideas will be inherent in the March 3 meeting agenda.

INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP

Ezekiel Kaufmann reported the IWG has not met since last September, but that an IWG meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23 2015 to regroup. IWG remains in its

beginning stages, and staff have been consumed by Medicaid expansion and consequences it has to the waiver program.

MARCH 3 ANCHORAGE MEETING: LOGISTICS AND AGENDA

Participants on the call indicated their personal arrangements and accommodations are complete for March 3.

Marsha summarized a draft agenda (not yet made available to the group) supporting a process to build out the initiatives underway by the group through 2015 demonstrating how performance measures will be met, and a follow-on strategic planning session to include an assessment of the group's performance to date, analysis of the current state and environment in which C&PTAB finds itself, and identification of additional strategic initiative, measurements and action plans through 2015. Members on the call expressed their support for that agenda (Marsha will send a hard copy version for review following the call).

Marsha also pointed out the need to elect, either at the March or June meeting, the chair and vice chair of the group. Jeff encouraged the group to have that election at the March meeting. Marsha will include that activity on the draft agenda.