



## Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board

Webinar - Meeting Notes  
Thursday, January 24, 2013  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### **C&PTAB PARTICIPANTS:**

- Bill Herman, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Cheryl Walsh, Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Doug Bridges, Nonprofit Organization
- Glenn Miller, Municipality
- Heidi Frost, Transportation Expert/Disabilities
- Jeff Ottesen, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, C&PTAB Chair
- Jennifer Beckmann, Transportation Expert/Low Income
- Pat Branson, Transportation Expert/Senior Citizens, C&PTAB Vice Chair
- Susan Bell, Denali Commission State Co-Chair

### **Not present**

- Carol Wren, Tribal
- Hugh Dymont, Public
- Duane Mayes, Department of Health and Social Services

### **Meeting Purpose**

1. Provide status reports on work group activities
2. Secure presentation of Alaska Veteran's Transportation Project
3. Generate outline for April 1 public stakeholder meeting
4. Decide where to hold the June meeting
5. Secure public comment

### **References:**

- C&PTAB Status Report January 24, 2013
- Alaska Veterans Transportation Project PowerPoint Presentation
- C&PTAB Meeting Logistics - April 1-2, 2013

### **Announcements**

Eric welcomed Commissioner Susan Bell and her alternate Robbie Graham as the Denali Commission representatives on the C&PTAB. Eric also pointed out that Camille Ferguson took a new job in Arizona

### **GUESTS**

- Judy Tymick, City of Anchorage - People Mover
- David Levy , Alaska Mobility Coalition
- Andi Nations, Andi Nations Consulting
- Julie Baltar, Bristol Bay Native Association
- Robbie Graham, Denali Commission

### **STAFF**

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

and has effectively resigned her seat, although she will be continuing her participation on the Barriers Subcommittee. DOT will be seeking to fill that vacated position - a 'public' position for which DOT contemplates filling with an employer from the private sector. If members have other specific recommendations, they are invited to e-mail those suggestions to Marsha.

## Status Reports

### GOAL 1: LEVERAGE COLLECTIVE RESOURCES (annually review and report resources)

- *Jeffrey Ottesen, Pat Branson, Cheryl Walsh, Hugh Dymont*

Jeff summarized challenges associated with the current funding environment from a federal and state perspective, and expressed concern that near and long-term cuts are forthcoming; DOT will help write a narrative to summarize these trends. Marsha will be asking all the agencies to update funding, program and client information in order to complete that deliverable.

### GOAL 2: PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- *Heidi Frost, Duane Mayes, Carol Wren*

Heidi reported the work group is prepared to deliver its presentation at the April meeting.

### GOAL 3: BARRIERS TO COORDINATION

- *Bill Herman, Camille Ferguson, Doug Bridges*

- Camille continues to seek information about IHS funds, and has been directed to go to each compact individually.
- Connie Sipe is working as an active member of the group, and has worked to document and describe specific examples of challenges she's experienced respective to the coordination of medical care.
- Bill is working with Medicaid, trying to attend the bi-weekly meetings of Medicaid's transportation work group. The work group has been working in various areas and has contacted People Mover, which is looking at cabs as options, and are actively working on ways for win/win situations. Bill will be bringing the DOT/coordinated system perspective to those meetings and explore opportunities for how our services can assist them in transporting to non emergency appointments.
- Doug is drilling down on an issue respective to not using public transit systems for non medical/non emergency medical transportation, even though taxi cabs are being reimbursed for that service at a much higher rate. Doug anticipates possible cost savings and seeks a coordinated outcome.
- Another issue Doug is pursuing is related to the huge expense of transporting people from rural Alaska and smaller communities in Southeast Alaska, where it is thought that people are being sent out of town with expensive air transportation and logistics when there are people accepting Medicaid reimbursements locally. He also seeks to look at the impacts of the Affordable Care Act on medical transportation.

Marsha is maintaining the status of each of the projects is provided in the C&PTAB Status Report.

## **\Alaska Veterans Transportation Project Presentation**

At the October 22, 2012 meeting of the C&PTAB, the group requested more information about the Alaska Mobility Coalition's Veterans Transportation Project, recognizing Veteran's key stake in human service transportation. AMC's Executive Director David Levy and Contract Consultant Andi Nations prepared and provided a PowerPoint presentation to the group. David pointed out Alaska has the highest percentage of veterans in the country.

The group found particularly noteworthy the project's success in securing an MOU with Alaska Native Healthcare allowing Native health facilities to bill VA for Pre-authorized services for eligible native and non-native veterans, providing vets significant local resources not previously available to them. Eric noted veterans in Alaska now have an identifier on their drivers' license indicating so. This proves to be a critical, effective and simple tool for transit providers to verify they are in fact veterans or military.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Levy - AMC leg priorities - vet trans project - \$250K; state match for PT - \$2M last year - this year Gov support and put \$1M in - we feel strongly that demand is greater so going to ask them to increase to \$3M total - could leverage millions across state for transit systems to expand service, add routes, add time, purchase vehicles, provide service communities are demanding

### **April Meeting**

The group discussed and provided suggestions for a stakeholder panel presentation to be conducted at on April 1, 2013 prior to the C&PTAB April 2, 2013 meeting in Juneau. The following suggestions were proposed. Marsha will work with Eric and Doug to generate a complete outline for the forum and distribute it to the group for review, after which time Marsha will work to secure the stakeholders' involvement.

- John Kern, Capitol Transit
- MaryAnn Mills, Southeast Senior Services
- How does Juneau's coordinated system work?
- How is it funded
- How does the funding work together
- How do they work to identify and fill gaps
- Users of medical/Medicaid transportation
- Ben Liman, Juneau Department of Community Development - transits role in transit development plan update and economic development
- Brian Holst, Juneau Economic Development Corporation - how is that working Brian Holst
- Tribal [Tlingit and Haida Central Council] - native preparation
- Medical Medicaid [State of Alaska - Medicaid]
- SEARCH - people flying in and needing to get to clinic [Doug will get names]

Marsha shared and the group discussed logistics for the April meeting, the details of which are available for members' reference on a meeting-specific flyer .

### **June Meeting**

In order to make a decision about where to meet in June, Marsha asked Eric to give a brief description of the current conditions respective to human service and public transportation in both Prince of Wales and Nome, after which she would take a vote of the group to make the determination. At the end of the meeting, Prince of Wales was favored by 1 vote and four members had not yet the opportunity to weigh in. Marsha will poll those members electronically and communicate the results to the group. (Ultimately, the group voted in favor of Prince of Wales).

**Next Meeting**

The next teleconference meeting of the C&PTAB is scheduled for Monday, February 25, 2013 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Alaska Time.

**ACTION:**

Marsha will send data/funding spreadsheet to all members as appropriate to review and update with the intent to finalize the report at the April meeting.