

**ALASKA COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD  
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING: Barriers to Coordination/Medical Resources  
Thursday, December 27, 2012  
Participants: Bill Herman, Doug Bridges, Connie Sipe (with Eric Taylor attending)**

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**CTTF Action Plan Goal 3:**

The State of Alaska and federally recognized tribes are able to identify and account for resources spent on human service and public transportation, identify and address barriers to the coordination of those resources, and leverage those funds as appropriate.

**Dec 27 Meeting Agenda:**

- Review Marsha's previous meeting notes and action items from Dec 13
- Camille: any info on IHS funded transportation?
- Doug: medical MCD and waiver transportation tutorial
- Connie discuss MCD transportation policy flaws
- Bill report on meeting with Margaret Brodie/Duane Mayes & next steps
- **Next meeting date Jan 10, 1:30pm- 2:30pm**

**Note: Action items from last meeting in italics. New action items are highlighted in yellow.**

**Status of Action Item**

*Camille: Approach the TRB and specifically ask: How much IHS money is used in Alaska for medical transportation? Where in Alaska does that money go and for what kinds of services is it allocated? Is there a FY2012 report that shows how and where that money was spent?*

Eric reported that Camille accepted an Executive Director position in New Mexico and may or may not be involved in the CPTAB and this committee in the future. We received no report from Camille about progress on her action items.

**ACTION:**

- Connie stated she would email Myra Munson, about tribal transportation that is IHS funded and ask her about whether there is any required accountability reporting specifically for transportation.
- Bill said he would email Camille regarding her being able to participate in this committee's work in future and regarding attending Jan 10 committee meeting.
- Bill will contact ANTHC regarding sources of expertise on IHS transportation funding.
- Eric will explore Camille's ability to continue to be on the C&PTAB.

## Status of Action Item

*Doug: report on medical MCD and MCD waiver transportation documentation he had collected.*

Doug stated he will report about attached documents at Jan 10 meeting. He however did give a report about discussing MCD medical transp with Mr. Harris of Juneau Taxi, and about his experience with providing this type of transportation:

- Mr. Harris reported that they received the metered rate (not a flat rate) for transp. They have a wheel chair equipped cab. (Local para-transit services were not eligible to provide this type of transp.)
- Juneau Taxi no longer provides MCD medical transp as they reported a problem in receiving reimbursement from the State for thousands of dollars of service.
- Doug will continue the conversation with Mr. Harris.
- Doug reported hearing similar problems in Kenai.
- Cab companies seem to be frustrated.

Doug reiterated that para-transit can only do MCD waiver transportation which includes all kinds of travel to maintain a recipient's ability to stay at home. Para-transit cannot do MCD medical transportation, only cab companies qualify.

MCD waiver transportation billing is done electronically via ACS/Xerox. Connie doubted that cab companies do electronic billing for medical transports. Doug concurred.

Connie stated she is negotiating with the State regarding MCD waiver transportation for EPTSD youth at SEARHC clinic in Sitka. Although her agency is interested in providing the trips, Connie stated she did not want to do electronic billing and was hoping that the clinic would have bus vouchers for rides. She would keep us posted on negotiations.

Doug reiterated concern that when a waiver recipient is traveling to another community, they are not able to use the visiting community's transportation system to do the same MCD waiver-reimbursed trips they would be able to do in their own community.

### **ACTION:**

- Doug will continue conversations with cab companies.
- Doug will review documents and discuss their implications for medical transportation on Jan. 10

## Status of Action Item

*Connie: Medical scenarios needing transportation solutions*

Connie provided a short document of several scenarios that exemplified inefficiencies from her perspective in MCD funded transportation (medical and waiver).

- Travel can become debilitating for a recipient due to MCD requirements of travel. These often precipitate other medical expenses because of recipient's frailty. A personal care attendant

(PCA) must travel long hours to complete this trip as required by MCD, and no additional overtime etc. is covered by MCD. PCA Agency must absorb these costs somehow.

- Requiring travel to cheaper services in another community sometimes costs more than State GF MCD match. Why can't the state contract with non-MCD local providers for specific services for one client at a time, thus avoiding costly travel?
- Travel to urban cities sometimes does not have wheel chair accessible contracted transportation available. This often causes physical harm and embarrassment to recipients as they are lifted by hand by the cab driver and the recipient's personal care attendant, threatening worker's health too. All urban communities have para-transit services that could provide this accessible transportation for a similar cost. Why is this not used?
- MCD waiver transportation is not available to recipients in another community while traveling MCD waiver recipients (over 6,000 statewide) would often be willing to travel the local transit system similar to utilizing MCD waiver transportation they are qualified for in their own home community. This often makes it very expensive for recipients. Why is this not allowed?

#### **Status of Action Item**

*Bill: meet with Medicaid and get clarification to the series of discussion questions from the committee and also seek a Medicaid participant on Work Group.*

Bill met briefly with Margaret Brodie, Director Health Care Services (HCS) and Duane Mayes, Director of Senior and Disabilities Services. Duane gave an overview of the C&PTAB. Margaret explained that HCS already has an active transportation work group working on many issues. That group includes a representative from the Commissioner's office. She welcomed Bill's questions and attendance.

#### **ACTION:**

- **Bill will attend HCS transportation work group beginning in January.**

#### **Next Regular Meeting Date:**

- January 10, 2012 1:30-2:30
- Report out: Doug, Connie, Bill, Eric