

Developmental Disabilities Committee/SCAT Work Group

Meeting Summary

January 6, 2009

Present: Sarah Blanchard, Sarasota County Area Transit
Beverly Kent, Sarasota County Area Transit
Bill Little, Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor, Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy, Health and Human Services
Susan Magers, Sarasota School Board Parent Liaison
Ryan Stoyles, Community Haven
Mary Ann Zyla-Smith, Easter Seals of Southwest Florida

Facilitator: Paula Dumas

Paula Dumas reviewed the November 17 meeting summary and the five points that the group agreed on to move forward:

1. SCAT should remain as the community coordinator of transportation.
2. Community Haven should be used as a transportation model for non-profit agencies.
3. Eligibility of the current riders at all agencies using SCAT and needs to be re-examined.
4. SCAT and the non-profit agencies should all look for efficiencies.
5. Transportation grant opportunities should be pursued by the agencies.

Beverly Kent reported that SCAT staff have been working with Jody Smith, social worker at Oak Park School, to conduct a reassessment of their students who may be able to use the fixed route transportation system. Bus rider training is being provided to those students. The group agreed that this should be considered as a model approach for adoption by other agencies.

Beverly stated that the following agencies have found a way to provide at least 75% of the transportation for their clients without using SCAT subscription services:

- Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
- First Step of Sarasota
- J. H. Floyd
- The Pines of Sarasota
- Community Haven

The agencies either provide transportation themselves or their clients use the fixed route system. The group agreed that it would be beneficial to meet with

these agencies and look at best practices which can be shared with agencies that are still relying on SCAT to provide most of their transportation. Beverly suggested that some of these agencies may want to consider forming a mini-coordinated transportation group which could work together to coordinate transportation for their clients. The question was asked if the Tapestry software system could provide the technology which would allow this group to schedule trips. Pauline Tracy stated she would contact Jon McKenzie, IDEAS Project Manager, to find out.

Beverly stated that there are some agencies which do not provide any of their own transportation so SCAT provides those services. Several of these agencies did have vehicles at one time but gave them up mostly due to the expense of keeping the vehicles maintained and hiring drivers.

Paula summarized the next steps:

1. Ryan Stoyles and Chip Taylor will convene a group to develop a transportation model using best practices of agencies which have managed to find a way to transport their clients (the majority of the time) without using SCAT Plus services. The discussion will include challenges and opportunities around transportation including grant opportunities. Once this model is developed, it will be shared with those agencies which are not providing the majority of their own transportation.
2. Susan Magers and Beverly Kent will convene a group to look at the eligibility component—how are we determining which clients can use fixed routes vs. subscription services. They will look at best practices such as Oak Park's recent review of their student's eligibility and talk to non-profit agencies about their processes.

Beverly Kent stated she could provide the group with a summary of revenue streams for transportation services. Any agency needing bus rider training should contact Beverly.

Sarah Blanchard will check on the status of the memo which was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners regarding delaying the decision on the Premium Fare increase until October 1, 2009 to allow this group to work out some of the issues.

The group agreed to meet the beginning of February. Pauline will schedule the meeting after confirming that both work groups have had a chance to meet.