

NEMT Stakeholder Meeting
August 18, 2011 10am -12pm
DOT, Room 150

Attendees:

Don Adams, Phyllis Bridgemen, Rob Brink, Albert Eby, Charlotte Gibbons, Jerry Rhodes, Jack Rogers, Tammy Schrenker, Sharon Scott, Don Willis, George Wood, Linda Wallace.

Facilitators/State Staff:

Tara Larson, Sheila B. Platts, Carolyn Mcclanahan, Sharon McDougal, Bill Appel, Miriam Perry.

Miriam Perry began with a slideshow presentation on the history of coordinated transportation, and she distributed copies of Executive Order No. 21 signed by Governor Easley in 2002.

Tara Larson discussed the parameters and responsibilities of the Stakeholder Group as outlined in her talking points, which were distributed to the group. She stated that the list of responsibilities was not an exhaustive list, but highlights the priorities. Tara pointed out that the Stakeholders represent their respective organizations, not their individual counties. She urged the group to share information with their constituents so that when any of us speak, we are speaking as a group. Tara reiterated that at the July public meeting, the group said give us a chance to be a part of the solution, hold us accountable. To that end, the Stakeholder Group is responsible for developing a comprehensive statewide Transportation Plan to be provided to DMA no later than October 15, 2011. The plan is expected to include measurable parameters for achieving consistency in the application of Medicaid transportation policy, reduce costs and error rates, without compromising the safety of the Medicaid recipients utilizing transportation.

Much discussion followed Tara's presentation, many ideas were shared. Jerry Rhodes stated that we want to avoid cost shifting from the state to the county. Albert Eby added that fuel costs are very high, and that consolidating would be a big help but that it may need legislation to push it. Jerry Rhodes stressed that we must communicate to all counties the impact of transportation on the Medicaid budget before we implement legislation. George Wood added we need to explore the least costly way to do this without duplicating the cost elsewhere. Don Adams spoke on how DSS operates internally and the relationship with DOT. At the end of the discussion, Tara stated that we will do lessons learned and take advantage of audits that have been done, including the DOT audits. She urged the group to figure out a way to fix the problems and present it in the statewide Transportation Plan. Tara stated that transportation policy will be revised and implemented for all counties to follow, and staff will be trained. Everyone

will be held accountable. If we do not hit the benchmarks, we will issue an RFP next fiscal year.

Carolyn McClanahan reviewed MA-2910, the Medicaid Transportation policy. A copy of the current policy and all related attachments was distributed to the group. Carolyn shared that the policy was currently being revised. Discussion resulted regarding which policy the Stakeholder's should review, the current policy or what is being revised. Carolyn decided that the group would review the revised draft policy. Bill Appel distributed the draft policy to the group by email after the meeting.

Sheila B. Platts reviewed the findings of the 2002/2007 audit. A copy was distributed to the group. She shared that a review of transportation was currently taking place, and she shared information from that audit. She noted that in some areas it did appear to be improvements in error rates; however it was noted that some of the same errors noted in the 2002/2007 audit are still an issue today. Sheila reviewed the goals and objectives for the Stakeholder Group.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2011 10am-12pm at DOT.