

**Lee and Russell County Coordinated
Transportation Advisory Council
August 5, 2010**

I. Registration

II. Call to Order

III. Introductions and Welcome

In attendance:

- Furrel Bailey, The Achievement Center/ Easter Seals
- Sharon Coats, Alabama Department of Senior Services
- Emily Laray, Eugeria Transport
- Jackie Pinkard, Area Agency on Aging
- Lisa Reeder, Domestic Violence Intervention Center
- Johnnie Robinson, House of Restoration
- Lisa Sandt, Lee-Russell Public Transit
- Hazel Shedrick, Russell County Department of Human Resources
- Danielle Warren, Lee-Russell Council of Governments

IV. Approval of Minutes

- **Motion to accept minutes from June 3, 2010 CTAC meeting**
 - ❖ 1st – Johnnie Robinson
 - ❖ 2nd – Furrel Bailey
 - ❖ Vote – Unanimous
- **Motion to accept minutes from July 8, 2010 CTAC meeting**
 - ❖ 1st – Jackie Pinkard
 - ❖ 2nd – Johnnie Robinson
 - ❖ Vote –Unanimous

V. Travel Training Report – Danielle Warren attended a three-day Travel Training course in Minneapolis, MN, and received certification to provide services to clients. She noted that the training would be most appropriately utilized in transportation systems that have numerous fixed routes, in order to show seniors and/or disabled individuals the best route to get to their destinations. She will, however, use the program to develop client training more appropriate for our counties (i.e. bus familiarization, do's and don'ts, how to access public transportation, etc.).

She also mentioned the idea, gained from the Travel Training, to not just have community citizens sit on the CTAC committee, but to form a CAT Committee (Citizens for Accessible Transportation). So far, four names have been submitted. We will begin to contact potential participants once we have five

or more. (Names submitted: Mary Buchannon, Peggy Todd, Daphne Lee, Ms. Virella)

- VI. JARC** – Lisa Sandt reiterated that JARC is meant to primarily provide access to rural areas. All urban transportation would violate the grant agreement. Rural is defined as anything outside of the city limits. As long as a trip originates in the rural area, it is considered rural, even if it transports into an urban area. The profits from this program are used for match to draw down transportation funds. It is necessary to begin to implement vendor meetings in both counties in order to meet the demands for this program.
- VII. Planning** – We referred to a submission by Lou Ella Foxx, Area Agency on Aging. The council really needs to go back and redo a Needs Assessment for our area.

The council agreed that we need to emphasize public education about all resources and benefits available, not just transportation. DHR currently holds a Resource Fair. AAA also has amped up outreach in Russell County. Johnnie Robinson asked if having a place on the buses for clients to place their bags would invite more ridership. People without access to transportation area often scammed when trying to find a ride.

Our Coordinated Transportation Plan was last updated in 2008. All in attendance agree that in order for us to move forward, we must update the plan. We would ultimately like to be able to write grants together and put funds into one pot to serve ALL of Lee and Russell County clientele. This would be modeled after the Social Security/ Medicaid for non-emergency transportation idea, but they typically have issues with timely reimbursement. Liz Cooper handles the entire state of Alabama.

In keeping with the “open government,” we will continue to keep minutes updated and on the Lee-Russell Council of Governments web site. We must figure out how to include faith-based organizations in the planning process, possibly by beginning a transportation initiative. We will start by inviting them to vendor meetings (6:30 pm is probably the best time for all participants) and get them to see the need for more providers.

- VIII. Adjourn 10:23 am**