

**Lee and Russell Counties
Transportation Advisory Council
September 16, 2010**

Minutes

I. Registration

II. Call to Order

III. Introductions and Welcome

Danielle Warren

In attendance:

Furrel Bailey, Achievement Center/ Easter Seals
Mary Browning, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
Sharon Coats, Alabama Department of Senior Services
Emily Laray, Eugeria Transport, LLC
Wanda Martin, Russell County Department of Human Resources
Bernice Rowe, Lee County Department of Human Resources
Lisa Reeder, Domestic Violence Intervention Center
Lisa Sandt, Lee-Russell Council of Governments
Barbara Scott, Lee-Russell Council of Governments
Danielle Warren, Lee-Russell Council of Governments

IV. Approval of Minutes - Danielle Warren reported that Janice Johnson of Johnson's Express called to say that Liz Cooper DOES NOT cover the entire state of Alabama for Medicaid transportation reimbursement. There are other coordinators as well. Liz only handles about 8 or 9 counties. However, it is true that reimbursement is extremely slow.

Motion to accept minutes from August 5, 2010 CTAC meeting

❖ Vote - Unanimous

V. United We Ride Conference Call – Danielle Warren reported on the United We Ride Conference Call. Highlights from that call included the following:

- Livability Initiatives:
 - 1) Health/Wellness (Health and Human Services) – May involve transportation principles
 - 2) Back to Work - referring to the end of the recession
 - 3) Reintegration of Veterans (including those with injuries)
 - 4) Open Government (utilize social communication technologies) , which would allow us to have dialogue with people who cannot get to a public hearing)

- Major Headline: Veterans Back to Work – work to eliminate transportation barriers on the local level; still emphasizes One Call Centers
These Initiatives should be kept in mind when updating the coordinated plan. Adherence to National objectives will make the Council more competitive when applying for additional funding.

VI. Coordinated Transportation Plan – Barbara Scott gave a brief background of how the United We Ride initiative began and the process that we will go through in updating the Coordinated Transportation Plan for Lee and Russell Counties.

VII. Meetings – Danielle Warren informed the Council of the following dates for Stakeholder and Public Meetings(all dates and times are tentative)

- Stakeholder Meetings –
 - Lee County – **Tuesday, September 28** @ Lee-Russell Council of Governments @ 6:30 pm
 - Russell County – **Tuesday, October 5** @ Commissioners' Office @ 6:30 pm (5:30 pm CST)
- Public Meetings
 - Lee County – **Thursday, September 30** @ Lee-Russell Council of Governments @ 6:30 pm
 - Russell County – **Thursday, October 7** @ Commissioners' Office @ 6:30 pm (5:30 pm CST)

The Council decided it would rather have the Stakeholder meetings during regular work hours, so those meetings were changed to 10 am CST/ 11 am EST. (Please see e-mail updates to stay current on date and time changes)

VIII. Transportation Surveys – Danielle Warren explained that she is still working with Laura Brown from RLS, who prepared passenger and provider surveys in order to help us determine unmet needs. The deadline for completion of surveys is **October 9, 2010**.

- **Passenger Surveys** – (by paper and on Survey Monkey)
 - PEX Passengers
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BNBW732>
 - LRPT Passengers
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BNL2XZB>
 - Human Service Agencies
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B7XNXMW>

- **Provider and Agency Surveys** – <http://www.surveymoney.com/s/MZXFS28>

The preferred method of collection is through the online survey, but paper copies will also be accepted and hand-counted.

IX. Funding Opportunities – Danielle Warren informed the Council of upcoming funding opportunities:

- HUD Appropriations
 - Public Transportation Investments - \$11.3 billion
 - CDBG - \$4.38 billion
 - Livable Communities - \$150 million
 - ❖ Sustainability Challenge Grant Program - \$15 million cap
- Small grant funding opportunities (see handout and www.servealabama.gov)

X. Preservation, Elimination, Achievement, and Avoidance Brainstorming Period – Danielle Warren led the Council in a brainstorming session to help determine our goals for the updated Coordinated Transportation Plan.

Furrel Bailey informed the CTAC that the Achievement Center is able to provide rides for other agencies, but is unable to charge the agency a fee for doing so.

XI. Conceptual Coordination Strategies – Danielle Warren asked the Council to be considering little-to-no-cost Coordination Strategies with tangible outcomes.

For example:

- Faith-based initiative
- Fundraisers
- Volunteer program
- Start small by coordinating 2 agencies at a time
- CAT Committee (any more names to submit?)
- Reporting ridership

We will talk thinking about in order to go further in-depth at Stakeholder meetings.

XII. Next Meeting – Thursday, October 14, 2010 @ 9 am

XIII. Adjourn