

West Virginia Transportation Coordination Council Meeting

CONFERENCE CALL

January 21, 2015

Minutes

Members Present: William (Bill) Robinson, David Bruffy, Jason Cook, Jeb Corey, Tammy Pritt-Jones, Rich Stonestreet for Gaylene Miller

Others in Attendance: Christina Risk, Cindy Fish

Not present: Cynthia Beane, John Davidson, Jr., David Haden, Lee Horton, Jan Lilly-Stewart, Larry Paxton, Mike Pickens, Robert Roswell

- I. **Call to Order:** Bill Robinson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.
- II. **Reading and Approval of the July, 2014 minutes:** The Meeting Minutes from the July 2014 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.
- III. **Old Business:**
 - A. Community Engagement Services
Jason Cook updated the council about the Bureau of Behavioral Health and Health Facilities grants for Community Engagement Services. He said the grants were in place. The services will help persons at risk of mental health issues or those who have recently returned from the hospital keep in their homes. This includes transportation services.
 - B. NEMT Brokerage Service - MTM
 1. David Bruffy shared with the council his thoughts on the NEMT brokerage provider. He said that in Monongalia County, problems were occurring because out of town transportation vendors were unfamiliar with rural areas and confusion was being created with different drivers and vehicles picking up clients. He predicts that clients may go off the rolls if problems aren't solved.
 2. Also, Jeb Corey told the council that the broker used C&H Taxi to fulfill several trips in December.
 3. Tammy Pritt-Jones gave the council data on Medicaid trips through the NEMT brokerage: 9/17/14 through 12/31/14—153,000 calls, 79,000 trips, and 5,400 denied trips.
- IV. **New Business:**
 - A. July, 2015 Meeting
The next council meeting will tentatively take place on **Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at 10:00am** at the conference room at AARP (300 Summers Street, Suite 400, Charleston).
 - B. New Division of Public Transit Executive Director
Bill Robinson introduced himself to the council as the new Executive Director of the Division of Public Transit. He has worked for the State of West Virginia for 31 years, most in the Division of Highways.
 - C. 2015 Legislation
 1. Bill Robinson spoke about the legislation the Division of Public Transit was sponsoring concerning State Safety Oversight of the Morgantown Personal Rapid Transit. The Division has been charged by the Federal Transit Administration to oversee and regulate the state's only rail fixed guideway public transit system, however legislation must be passed for that authorization.
 2. Also, David Bruffy mentioned legislation on legislation that would require all uniforms of employees of public institutions to be made in America. He sees how this will affect the transit systems in the state.
 3. Jeb Corey talked about how the car service, Uber, was trying to introduce legislation making it easier for it to do business in West Virginia. Uber is a transportation service that lets individuals use their own vehicles to act as a taxi, but doesn't have very good training, background checks or adequate insurance. Jeb said that nationally, response to Uber has been mixed, with several crimes being reported. His concerns are unfair competition and public safety.
 - D. Coordination Plan Update
Cindy Fish updated the council on the progress of the revised Coordination Plans. All coordination meetings around the state have been conducted, and now the vendor, RLS & Associates, will devise draft copies of the plans for comment.

The Chairperson asked if there was any further business. There being none, he declared the meeting adjourned.