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2017 Transportation Task Force Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2017
10:00am
Conference Call

Attendance of Task Force Members:

Barbara Palmer, Director, Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)
Steve Holmes, Executive Director, Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged
Valerie Breen, Executive Director, Florida Developmental Disabilities Council
Mary Smith, Chair, Family Care Council
Edward Griffin, MV Transportation, Inc. (Alachua County Community Transportation Coordinator) - CTC contact
Sharon Peeler, JTrans (Jackson County) - CTC contact
Robert Villar (Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners) - CTC contact
Danielle McGill – user appointed by APD

Task Force Members not present:

Ross Silvers – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (Pinellas County) - CTC Contact
David Darm – user appointed by Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged

Other Conference Call Participants:

Karen Hagan, Chief of Staff, APD
David Dobbs, Deputy Director for Budget and Planning, APD
Karen Somerset, Assistant Executive Director, Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged
Grendy Henry, Strategic Planning Manager, APD
Kent Carroll, Transportation Coordinator, APD
Rebecca Grissom, Deputy Legislative Affairs Director, APD
Janette Nazzal, Legislative Analyst, APD
Sharlene Hayward, Contract Manager, APD
Aares Williams, Contract Administrator, APD
Isaac Williams, Contract Manager, APD
Lisa Robertson, Director Performance & Accountability, APD
Barbara Crosier, Chief Attorney Senate Committee on Children, Families & Elder Affairs
David Loe, Legislative Analyst Senate Appropriations on HHS
Robert Brown, Associate Director of Public Policy FAC
Susan Harbin, Legislative Affairs Director Senior Associate
Hilary Brazzell, Policy Chief, Children Families and Seniors Subcommittee HHS
Jada Williams, Attorney for APD
Margaret Hooper, Public Policy Coordinator Florida Developmental Disabilities Council
Sheila Swift, Deputy Director of Programs Florida Developmental Disabilities Council
Jason Babel, Mobility Management Facilitation Project Manager, Ann Storck Center

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Corine Farguson, Mobility Management Facilitator, Ann Storck Center

Purpose & Overview

Barbara Palmer provided a brief introduction as to the purpose of the task force. Barbara Palmer emphasized the task force role in advocating for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to persuade responsible organizational change to the current transportation structure. Steve Holmes provided an overview of the role of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Nominations of Task Force Chair

- Valerie Breen made a motion to elect a Chair to the Task Force and nominated Barbara Palmer. Nomination was seconded by Steve Holmes. None opposed
- Barbara Palmer made a motion to elect a Vice Chair to the Task Force and nominated Steve Holmes. Motion seconded by Mary Smith. None opposed

Public Records and Florida Sunshine Law

Jada Williams, Attorney, APD provided the requirements under the Public Records and Florida Sunshine Law. A copy of the Public Records and Florida Sunshine Law will be provided to task force members.

Point of Contact for Task Force Members

Greedy Henry indicated she is the point of contact for the task force and will facilitate what is needed for the task force members.

Contract

David Dobbs stated during the 2017-2018 Legislative session APD was tasked with contracting with a vendor to conduct a transportation study. The results of that study are due by December 15, 2017. APD has selected the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) as the independent contractor. APD spoke with CUTR and provided copies of the scope of work that will be discussed during today's call.

Scope of Work

Chair Palmer asked task force members for comments on the contract scope of work.

Valerie Breen indicated that the scope of work states individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in several places. This language should read individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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Vice Chair Holmes stated we need bullets in the scope that are broad in nature to put in an objective and to narrow the scope of work for CUTR.

Valerie Breen stated on #2 of the scope we would want to specify specific projects we don't want CUTR to consider.

Robert Villar stated the scope was missing a section of the bill beginning on line 562. Villar also asked where in the bill does it point to intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Chair Palmer stated that the intent of the bill was defined by House and Senate staff.

David Loe stated that the FDDC testified at the Senate Appropriations Commission on Health & Human Services. During the appropriations meeting challenges accessing services given the limited time and resources were discussed. He further stated that the legislative intent was to focus on intellectual and developmental disabilities. Therefore, it was housed at APD and we can be reimbursed by Medicaid for a portion of the study.

Barbara Crosier stated that Senator Garcia and Senator Negrón's perspective of the language was for constituents with intellectual and developmental disabilities that use the transportation system.

Chair Palmer indicated that the findings can then be applied to other entities.

David Loe stated the cascading effects on other populations and that the task force member structure does not support other populations.

Vice Chair Holmes indicated that the general public transportation issue was brought to Senator Garcia and Senator Negrón.

The task force then agreed to add section 4C to the scope of work.

Valerie Breen indicated that a crosswalk of the scope of work with the legislative language was needed.

Chair Palmer stated a crosswalk would be a good idea and requested Grendy Henry meet with Valerie Breen to work on the details of the crosswalk.

Corine Ferguson inquired if Project Action Easter Seals (trainers for persons with disabilities) is working in conjunction with the Task Force? Are they going to be included or provide input for the analysis?

An inquiry was also made about the National Aging and Transportation Disability Center. Chair Palmer indicated that this information can enhance the study and that the task force should ask

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CUTR to research the Project Action Easter Seals and the National Aging and Transportation Disability Center. Chair Palmer also stated that the task force should emphasize the need to have one contact person for our clientele. She further instructed Grendy Henry to make sure each task force person can speak with CUTR and to answer any questions they may have.

Discussion of Presentation Topics for the Next Meeting

Vice Chair Holmes will present on the current transportation disadvantaged system.

Each of the appointed Community Transportation Coordinators (CTC) will provide an overview on their specific regions. Robert Villas will also provide an overview of the Regional Fare System.

Kent Carroll stated when the CTC's conduct their presentation, they should provide information as to the barriers for intellectually or developmentally disabled riders.

Danielle McGill indicated she wanted to provide a rider perspective on the barriers of the transportation issues.

Chair Palmer stated the first presenters will be Danielle McGill and David Darm.

Review of the Timeline for the Study

Grendy Henry went over the steps and dates for the study.

Chair Palmer emphasized the sense of urgency for conducting the study and the possible need for legislation. She also stated that there may be a need for additional studies on this topic for our clients. Chair Palmer stated that a step for the Task Force review of the final study by December 10th should be added to the timeline and that a catch all sentence within the contract to ensure that CUTR will provide everything needed should also be added.

Robert Villas made a motion to adopt the scope of work with the inclusion of section 4C. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Holmes. None opposed.

Vice Chair Holmes indicated he would like a pre-brief during Legislative Committee Weeks to be added to the project steps.

David Loe and Barbara Crosier were in consensus on not having the available dates to present in front of the Legislature. Both will confer with their perspective members and determine what is needed. They would like hours available in the contract for CUTR after the study is completed and during the January 2018 Legislative Session for the Task Force and CUTR to speak to members.

Comments

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Chair Palmer opened the discussion for additional comments. Chair Palmer stated the first meeting is about education. We need to assist Danielle with transportation to the next and subsequent meetings. David Dobbs and Valerie Breen will determine how transportation assistance can be provided for Danielle.

Next meeting date was scheduled for August 2nd as a face-to-face meeting in Tallahassee.

Barbara Crosier will try to reserve conference room 401 in the Senate Office Building.

Public Comments

Barbara Palmer opened the discussion for public comments. No public comments were provided.

Adjournment time: 11:36 a.m.