

Notes from the Long-Term Care Taskforce Access to Care Committee Meeting Tuesday, June 24, 2014 • 10:00 a.m.-noon

Meeting Attendees

Present: Stephanie Blunt (co-chair), Anna Maria Darwin, Joyce Davis, Lavern Glover, Brenda Hyleman, Heather Joy (guest), Pete Liggett, Norma Jean Mobley, Eleanor Stein, Kimberly Tissot, Sam Wiley

Absent: Cristy DeGregory, Leigh Dixon, Kaye Gooch, Stephanie Kemp, Anna Scheyett (co-chair)

Meeting Minutes/Discussion Points

Status Update from Sub-Committee on Info/Referral

The Info/Referral Sub-Committee is comprised of Stephanie Blunt, Kimberly Tissot and Sam Wiley. They will be meeting with staff members from the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging (LGOA) on June 26 to share the taskforce's interest in information and referral issues and to learn more about the current status/capacity of SC Access and any future plans for it. It was noted that several taskforce committees have discussed the importance of information and referral services and some members have also discussed possible ideas for enhancing current systems. The sub-committee members will report back about their findings at the next full committee meeting.

Members briefly discussed other information and referral issues, including:

- Members noted the importance of having information and referral systems that are not solely web-based, since so many in our state might not have access to computers. Examples of effective print resources were described: one called the Golden Pages in the Florence area and another put out by partners in the Lowcountry.
- Brenda Hyleman suggested that the sub-committee might also want to incorporate considerations of the 211 system. Brenda noted that the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) used to have an information and referral component which is now at 211; she can find out who the contact person is at SCDHHS who coordinates with 211.

Presentation on SC Department of Transportation Programs/Services

Committee member Lavern Glover, Program Manager from SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT), gave a presentation on that agency's programs/services. A handout of the presentation slides were provided in the meeting materials.

The presentation included the following information:

- Lavern provided an overview of different Federal Transit Authority funds that are available, including:
 - Section 5305 funds which can be used for planning purposes
 - Section 5307 funds for small urban areas

- Section 5310 funds for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program
 - These funds can be used for both capital projects and operations costs.
 - This program does not receive any state match.
- Section 5311 funds for the Rural Public Transit Program
- Section 5311b funds which can be used to provide “travel training”
- She noted that there is often not adequate local support to draw down federal funds. But, she explained that requirements now allow agencies to match federal funds for federal funds. For example, Older Americans Act Title IIIB funds can be used to match transportation funds.
- She described SCDOT’s partnerships with the Councils on Government (COGs). Each COG has a transit partner.
- She explained the term “mobility management” and noted that SCDOT is in the process of developing a grant to expand the existing mobility management system statewide.

Lavern also provided an overview of various partnerships that SCDOT is building to improve transportation, explained current improvement efforts (such as the SC Statewide Multimodal Plan which will be coming out with recommendations later this year) and offered her thoughts on transportation hurdles/needs. She noted that SCDOT is working to improve its IT infrastructure in order to support the improvements that are needed. She emphasized the importance of coordination and sharing best practices, citing how certain aging agencies have been very successful in leveraging funds and/or changing activities schedules to make best use of available vehicles/resources.

Following Lavern’s presentation, discussion focused on access issues and the need to improve coordination. Specific points included the following:

- Lavern explained that there are only 27 public transit providers for all 46 counties—and offered to create a map showing where these providers are located. Members agreed that visual aid would be helpful.
- Pete shared that SCDHHS is looking at adding transportation services to the waiver programs. He noted that transportation is a very expensive service so what will or will not be covered is very much in flux.
- It was noted that agencies/providers within the aging network often lease through State Fleet, but those vehicles are not always accessible. Lavern explained that the State Fleet Management system (which operates according to the state of South Carolina procurement system) is wholly separate from SCDOT (which follows federal laws); SCDOT vehicles must be accessible. Joyce Davis suggested that members might want to consider a recommendation related to making all State Fleet vehicles fully accessible.
- Kimberly said that the lack of accessible infrastructure around bus stops (e.g., sidewalks, curb cuts) is often a barrier to people with disabilities riding public transportation. She noted that if the infrastructure was in place, more people with disabilities could ride the bus, rather than using paratransit services—that would be preferable for those individuals and less expensive for the state. Kimberly also noted other items that need to be put into place in order to make sure transportation systems are fully accessible, such as reading out stops for people who are blind. She said that she could provide a full list of these

issues. Members noted that this might be an area around which to formulate a recommendation.

- Members discussed the impact of the new CMS Final Rule on HCBS on transportation services.

Lavern and Stephanie plan to meet again before the next committee meeting in order to begin crafting recommendations and/or target areas for recommendations.

Additional Items

- Special thanks to Able SC for hosting today's meeting.
- The next Access to Care Committee meeting will take place on July 22 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The meeting location will be announced closer to the meeting date.

Action Items

- Each small group should meet at least one time before the next full committee meeting to begin crafting recommendations. Each group will be asked to give a status update at that meeting. IMPH can provide a conference call line for the small group meetings, if needed. A final report template has been distributed and should be used when drafting recommendations. ***Small groups listed below.***
 - Care Coordination : Brenda Hyleman and Anna Scheyett
 - Info/Referral: Stephanie Blunt, Kimberly Tissot, Sam Wiley
 - Transportation: Stephanie Blunt and Lavern Glover
 - Healthcare professionals training: Joyce Davis, Anna Scheyett, Kimberly Tissot, Sam Wiley
 - Training for independence: Cristy DeGregory, Anna Maria Darwin, Kimberly Tissot
 - Financial barriers: Stephanie Kemp, Norma Jean Mobley, Sam Wiley
- Prepare map that shows which counties do and do not have public transit providers (July 15). ***Lavern Glover***
- Share a list items that need updating in order to make transit fully accessible with the Transportation Sub-Committee (July 15). ***Kimberly Tissot***