

Community Leaders Identify Health and Transportation Needs in the Coastal Bend

The Transportation Coordination Network and the Coastal Bend Rural Health Partnership held two health policy summits Monday, December 7, 2009, at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall, Alice, Texas and Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at the Beeville Community Center, Beeville, Texas.

The Summits' theme "Connecting Rural Counties of the Coastal Bend ...in Response to Emerging Needs" was co-sponsored by Community Action Corporation of South Texas, CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital - Alice and the

Texas Department of State Health Services. There were 63 persons participating in this Alice Summit and 68 at the Beeville Summit. Participants represented community action agencies, local and state transportation agencies,



Steve Wright, TX DoT, Public Transportation Division



Rural Transportation Providers, David Garcia, KCHS & Gloria Ramos, R.E.A.L.

local and regional public health and primary care agencies, hospitals, school districts, regional education centers, mental health/mental retardation centers, consumers of mental and physical health services, faith-based organizations, state and local policymakers and civic organizations.

The Summit's goals were to create community

forums that address emerging health and transportation needs of the residents of the Rural Counties of the Coastal Bend. The participants developed strategies necessary to address three key health issues – access to care, teen pregnancy, and obesity – with specific focus on identifying the transportation needs.



Transportation Coordination at Work

The draft report that identifies health and transportation policy recommendation is in the final stages and will be widely disseminated for further public comment in the near future. For additional information, please contact Marcos Gonzalez at marcos.gonzalez@cacost.org



Rural Transportation Provider: Bee Community Action Agency
Alex Rodriguez & Tomas Abrigo



Technical Assistance Opportunities

Coordinated Mobility, The National Transit Institute sponsoring Training Course

Date: April 20-21, in Corpus Christi, TX

Description: The customer base of transportation services has expanded greatly. Due to demographic shifts, changing job markets, increased pressure to find alternatives to the single occupancy vehicle and suburban and exurban land use patterns, the transportation needs of the population have changed and increased. Characteristics of travelers today include people with disabilities as well as low-income individuals. These groups are interested in using more independent modes of transportation services as well as improving the current system. Transportation services are sometimes fragmented and/or duplicative creating inefficiencies for customers and extra costs for programs needing transportation. Additionally, transit services may stop at jurisdictional lines and not connect with other modes or jurisdictions. Professionals in transportation services as well as human services have not been able to create transportation options to meet the needs of these consumer groups. It is time to put the pieces of this puzzle together to make a picture of rides for those who need them. Mobility management addresses this need in a relatively non-threatening manner for both traditional public transit and the automobile industry. This course will provide a look at creative approaches to resolving these fragmented systems to a more seamless network with a customer-focused mindset.

You can register for this class on-line at the National Transit Institute's website at <http://www.ntionline.com/> or by faxing in the attached registration form to (732) 932-1707. The contact person at NTI is Myrna Sirleaf. She can be reached at (732) 932-1700 ext 228 or via email at msirleaf@nti.rutgers.edu. Tuition shall be waived for federal, state and local government employees who work in transportation or related areas. TCN Members are encouraged to participate. To waive the fee, please mark the Other box and list as "TCN/Transportation Coordination Stakeholder". Otherwise, there is a \$300 fee for contractors and consultants.

Starting and Growing Rural Vanpool Programs: From Financing to Vehicle Procurement

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 1:00-2:15, CENTRAL

Link: Registration will open shortly

Note: To attend a session, you will need an Internet connection, a computer browser with "Flash" enabled and a phone. A full recording of each Webinar will be available online in streaming media later that afternoon on CTAA's Web site.

Description: Vanpool program operators are using creative funding and partnership-building strategies to build their vanpool programs. This webinar will assist you in thinking broadly about how to develop and sustain vanpooling in your community. Speakers will present examples of how federal, state and local funds and tax benefits can be packaged to support rural vanpools. Speakers will also share ways to obtain vehicles.

Presenters: Dale Marsico, Executive Director, Community Transportation Association of America, Washington, D.C., will provide an overview of federal funding resources; Shamus Miskel, Rideshare Program Manager, Washington State Department of Transportation will discuss the Washington State Vanpool Investment Program

Moderator: Carolyn Jeskey, Director, Joblinks Transportation Ctr, Community Transportation Assoc. of America, Washington, D.C.

Accessible Transportation Coalitions Initiative (ATCI)

Description: A one-year process designed to support systems change at the local level. This process begins with your community's selection to participate in a two-day Accessible Transportation Coalition (ATC) event to be facilitated by Easter Seals Project ACTION (ESPA) staff, and continues through team development and event preparation, the team's development of an action plan, and one year of follow-up technical assistance to support implementation.

Instructions: In order for your community to be selected to participate in the ATCI, you will first need to establish a three-member planning committee to complete the online application. Note: To apply, you are required to assemble a three-member planning committee that has:

- One member who is a high-level decision-maker representing a transportation provider;
- One person with a disability who is a transit user and has demonstrated leadership in the area of accessible transportation;
- A third member who plays a key role in your community in making accessible transportation decisions.

If your application does not reflect these minimum requirements, your community will not be selected to participate. The first activity of the planning committee is to complete and submit an ATCI application **on or before January 29, 2010**. ESPA expects to have more community applicants than we will be able to accommodate, so the selection process will be competitive. Therefore, planning committee members are strongly encouraged to work together on the application to ensure that all questions are answered in a thorough, thoughtful, and accurate manner.

If you have questions, please contact Penny Everline at 1-800-659-6428 or at peverline@easterseals.com.