

**MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD
MEETING FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED**

Held on September 4, 2015 @ 10:00 am

City of Cape Coral Annex Building, Conference Room A200, 815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral, FL

A Representative of:	Voting Members	Agency	Alternates to Voting Members	Agency
An elected official from the MPO Board to serve as the official Chairpersons.	Rick Williams (Present)	City of Cape Coral	No alternate	
A. A local representative of the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT)	Debi Stephens (Present)	FDOT	Richard Shine (Absent)	FDOT
B. A local representative of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)	Donna Torres (Absent)	DCF	Nathan Santos (Absent)	DCF
C. A local representative of the Public Education Community which could include, but not be limited to, a representative of the District School Board, School Board Transportation Office, or Headstart Program in areas where the School District is responsible	Roger Lloyd (Absent)	Lee County School Board	Vacant	
D. In areas where they exist, a local representative of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services or the Division of Blind Services, representing the Department of Education	Mary Watford (Absent)	DOE	Flora Gonzalez (Present)	DOE
E. A person recommended by the local Veterans Service Office, representing Veterans of the county	Jerry Conway (Absent)		Frank Greulich (Absent)	
F. A person recognized by the Florida Association for Community Action representing the economically disadvantaged	Kim Hustad (Absent)	Lee County Human Services	Robin Jewett (Absent)	
G. A person representing the Elderly in the county	Linda Carter (Present)		(Vacant)	
H. A person with a disability representing the disabled in the county	(Vacant)		(Vacant)	
I-1. [One of Two] Citizen Advocates in the County	Michael Pierce (Present)		(Vacant)	
I-2. [One of two] Citizen Advocates this one must be a person who uses the transportation service(s) of the system as their primary means of transportation.	David Lane (Absent)		(Vacant)	
J. A local representative for children at risk	Lorena Rodriguez (Present)	Lee Memorial-Children's Hospital	Mark Tesoro (Absent)	Lee Memorial-Children's Hospital

K. In areas where they exist, the Chairperson or designee of the local Mass Transit or Public Transit Systems Board, except in cases where they are also the Community Transportation Coordinator.	Steve Myers (Absent)	LeeTran	Peter Gajdjis/ Jill Brown (Present)	LeeTran
L. A local representative of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs	Vacant		Vacant	
M. An experienced representative of the local private for profit transportation industry. In areas where such representative is not available, a local private non-profit representative will be appointed, except where said representative is also the CTC.	Michael Griffin (Absent)	SWFL Transportation	Priscilla Hardaway (Absent)	Creative Resources
N. A local representative of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration	Joe Martinez (Present)	AHCA	Patricia Brooks (Absent)	AHCA
O. A representative of the Regional Workforce Development Board established in Chapter 445, <i>Florida Statutes</i> .	Jim Wall (Absent)	Career Source SWFL	Deb Reardon (Absent)	Career Source SWFL
P. A representative of the local medical community, which may include, but not be limited to, kidney dialysis centers, long term care facilities, hospitals, local health department or other home and community based services, etc.	Heidi Shoriak (Present)	Lee Memorial Health Systems	Vacant	Lee Memorial Health Systems

Also in attendance: Alan Mandel- Good Wheels, Rosalie Berlin – Citizen, Renee Sluzalis- CILGC and Don Scott and Brian Raimondo – Lee MPO.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Williams at 10:02am. There was a quorum. The Pledge was recited and introductions were made.

Agenda Item #1 – Approval of the Minutes from the September 4, 2015

Motion by Ms. Carter and seconded by Mr. Pierce to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2015 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #2 – Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

None

Agenda Item #3 – Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

None

Agenda Item #4 – Amend TD Program Eligibility Criteria

Mr. Raimondo mentioned that he talked to John Irvine about the Good Wheels eligibility criteria that is no longer sufficient or correct. This is due to the change in Medicaid.

Mr. Mandel said in the past most trips were chemo/dialysis, but many TD clients are now HMO/Medicaid. Good Wheels is no longer at full capacity on the buses. In the past they turned down trips, but over the last 3-4 months they have space and need riders. He talked to John Irvine and John questioned the eligibility for Good Wheels. Mr. Mandel said it's up to the LCB to make the decision.

Ms. Stephens asked if Good Wheels isn't using the TD trust funds completely. Mr. Mandel replied that they didn't use it all for 3-4 months last year. Alan said this year is different, they are just about even and should be using it all. Ms. Stephens said in the past there were way more TD trips than funds, but many tried to utilize the Medicaid funds. Mr. Scott talked to other communities and found out Miami and Collier didn't spend all their money either. There was discussion if Good Wheels needed a certain amount of trips, to which Mr. Mandel replied, they fund a certain amount of trips per month. If they use it, they get all the money. However, in subsequent months they can recapture money not spent in previous months.

Ms. Carter said in the evaluations there has always been enough money for chemo/dialysis. Mr. Mandel said that wasn't true, because they spent money out of pocket in the past to cover the unfunded chemo/dialysis trips. Ms. Carter said they should be doing other trip types. Mr. Mandel said they are doing marketing for the first time, since they have unused funding. He asked to keep the hierarchy of trips in the event they get back to full trips. Mr. Scott asked if they are doing all types of trips, and Mr. Mandel said they are.

Mr. Mandel asked if they can cross a county line if a TD person needs to. Ms. Stephens said in the past they did cross county lines, but Mr. Mandel said that was typically for Medicaid. Ms. Gonzalez said the trips from Lehigh to the school in Immokalee have been working great. She said she can collaborate with Good Wheels to get more of these trips, because it's a great service. Mr. Gajdjis said it was a good idea as long as it's monitored, but the out of county trips could really eat up the money. He said try not to do the out of county trips for a year, or try it and then cut it off if it costs too much. Mr. Gajdjis said there is a difference between individual trips and agency trips. He asked if the agency trips can be paid for with different money. Ms. Gonzales said it was possible. Ms. Carter said Flora would need a contract with Good Wheels in order to meet the guide lines that come from Tallahassee.

Mr. Mandel said they have been working with Glades and Hendry to run a route from Belle Glade to Palm Beach County. He wants to run a route from LaBelle to Immokalee. He thought a route from Lehigh to Labelle would then hook them up with the other existing routes. Ms. Carter wanted to know what the standard fare would be to use this, but that would need to be determined.

Mr. Mandel said there is an \$88,000 New Freedom Grant from LeeTran, but they need a match for this from either the agency or the individual.

Mr. Williams said we can approve an eligibility change, amend it or push this back to the next meeting since this is new and has a lot of potential change. Ms. Carter said it would be nice to let it sit until December, but she wants to see the trip hierarchy and didn't want to wait that long.

Ms. Carter made a motion to do the trip hierarchy, but the motion was rescinded since there is already a trip hierarchy that Good Wheels follows from the TDSP.

Mr. Mandel asked if we had poverty level for Lee County and Mr. Scott said we can look it up for next meeting. Ms. Stephens asked if Good Wheels would still service TD trips under low income and Mr. Mandel said yes. Mr. Mandel said his issue was they may be turning down trips if the house hold income was \$2600. Mr. Gajdjis replied that there is a chart for this. Ms. Stephens said they never do a verification for the actual house hold income.

The Chair said he would like to table this and get more information.

Agenda Item #5 – Review and Approve the 2014-15 AOR

Mr. Mandel said for the AOR you will notice it will say ‘Saved with issues’, but it has been saved correctly and submitted without that error.

Ms. Carter said, regarding item #4 one way passenger trips by purpose, it looks like employment purpose is zero and life sustaining is 414. She said every person could be transported in this category to not lose funds and Mr. Mandel agreed. Mr. Mandel said people on the LCB need to go back to their agencies and mention there is funding for trips.

Mr. Gajdjis said it doesn’t make sense why some agencies have zero for trips, where as in the past they had trips.

Motion by Ms. Carter to approve the AOR and seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 – Review and Approve By-Laws

Mr. Raimondo mentioned annually they need to approve the by-laws.

Motion by Ms. Carter and seconded by Mr. Pierce. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Carter wanted to know if Mr. Williams would continue as chair and he believes he would. However, that is decided by the MPO Board.

Agenda Item #7 – Program Updates and Distribution Items

Mr. Raimondo distributed the calendar of events and quarterly reports.

Agenda Item #8 Good Wheels’ Updates and Reports

No report on operator payments.

Mr. Mandel discussed the complaints, saying there was only one. It involved a driver hitting a mailbox, which Good Wheels replaced. The ridership numbers should be around 2,000. He expects the ridership numbers to go up.

Mr. Mandel said there is a shift in Medicaid, stating The Wall Street Journal said the Medicaid numbers are 60 million and will be 80 million in the future. Medicaid brokers are asking GW to provide other trips not only in Lee County. Ms. Stephens said on the ridership page it says Hendry/Glades under Medicaid. She questioned if this was Lee County or Hendry/Glades numbers. Mr. Raimondo looked up the Hendry/Glades LCB agenda package online and their numbers were different than what was provided to the Lee LCB. Therefore, what was provided to the Lee LCB should be correct.

Ms. Carter asked how does Lee Memorial provide patient trips? Ms. Shoriak said transportation is very important to them. They prefer to get patients home, because the hospital doesn’t have enough beds. They need 72 hours to let the Brokers know they need an upcoming ride and they don’t always know 72 hours

in advance. Good Wheels has been leasing or buying used vehicles to meet demand. Ms. Carter asked if Lee Memorial can get a van? Ms. Shoriak said Lee Memorial isn't in the transportation business; they are in the health care business. Mr. Martinez said hospital discharge trips are considered emergency and don't need the 72 hour notice. He said to fill out complaint forms each and every time Lee Memorial has a complaint with AHCA. She said they don't have time to fill out every complaint and then to follow up on them. Mr. Martinez said the state legislature will meet in January for the budget, and that would be a good time to contact them to voice concerns. He also said he gets most of the complaints and responds to them.

Agenda Item #9 Member's Comments

Ms. Stephens said a grant workshop is coming up on November 4th in Fort Myers at the SWIFT center.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12