

Camden County United We Ride Transition Meeting
Camden County TMCC Pilot Project
June 28, 2007
1:30 pm, Camden County WIB Conference Room

Attendees:

Denise Velazquez-Marrao, Union Organization for Social Service
Ronda R. Urkowitz, Cross County Connection TMA
Anna Magri, NJ Transit
Donna Kovalevich, SCUCS
Joy Merulla, CC Senior & Disability Services
Michael Randolph, NJ Transit-Access Link
Kathleen Mayfield, CC One Stop
Carole Miller, SJTA
Tom McAdams, SJTA
Terri Hirschhorn, NJ Dept of Human Services
Andrew Levecchia, CCIA

Rutgers Team:

Pippa Woods
Andrea Lubin
Peter Bilton
Brian Staples
Steve Fittante

CCWIB:

Leona Tanker
Robin Widing, Widing Group
Donna Johnston

Leona Tanker, CCWIB Executive Director, opened the meeting with a welcome. She introduced Pippa Woods as the lead of the technology team and the presentation Ms Woods would make this afternoon detailing the technology side of the planning project.

Ms Tanker noted that “we are one of the eight” to receive this grant; and we do not want to disappoint the US DOT. Of the eight agencies awarded the demonstration grant only two will be given the money to implement their plan. She stressed that we can not do this by our selves; the help of everyone across Camden County is needed.

Pippa Woods presented: *Coordination in Action: Building a Camden County Travel Management Coordination Center.*

Discussion and comments during and following the presentation:

- ✓ Donna of Sen-Han asked whether it has been decided that the project will propose a coordinated scheduling, routing, dispatching, etc. transportation system, as the PowerPoint presentation implies. Pippa Woods responded that the study process is examining all the components of ITS and will determine the level of coordination that makes sense from a technology and service delivery standpoint as the project develops.
- ✓ Carole Miller asked if the project is examining Camden County exclusively. P. Woods responded that the plan is focused on Camden County but recognizes that many system users need to travel outside the county and that there are regional elements to many trips.
- ✓ The representative from SJTA noted that faith-based organizations have to adhere to fewer regulations than do the other providers in the county who receive public funding. *We previously tried to help them meet the regulations but it didn't go anywhere.*
- ✓ Donna of Sen-Han noted that Medicaid is giving out monthly NJ Transit passes to lower-mode customers if they need three or more rides a month.
- ✓ The State was looking into creating a statewide Medicaid transportation broker, but this project is on hold. The plan would break the state into regions and reduce the number of local providers. Sen-Han and SJTA expressed concerns that this plan would lower the quality of service.
- ✓ Sen-Han is a lower-mode Medicaid provider primarily in the early morning and in the evening.
- ✓ Winifred Miller is the contact for the Camden City Board of Social Services.
- ✓ Pippa Woods said she and her team would like to meet with Sen-Han and SJTA individually to learn more about their service and common trip origins and destinations, for all trips and Medicaid trips specifically.
- ✓ NJ Transit representative stated that they would be able to assist the project with technology investigation.
- ✓ Donna of Sen-Han stated that they use PTMS on Microsoft Windows with batch scheduling. They use a different software for their modified fixed routes. She expressed reservations about a centralized routing and dispatching system because they have 14 different funding sources with different requirements. In addition, their drivers know the riders personally so they can provide higher quality service. Their drivers have saved the lives of riders.
- ✓ Anthony Levecchio of Camden County Improvement Authority noted that with a technology-dependent system, a contingency plan is needed for power failures.

- ✓ Donna of Sen-Han noted that many of their riders have special needs and cognitive disabilities. These riders may prefer to have the same driver all the time. Anna of NJ Transit seconded this observation.

Many participants expressed general agreement that a balance must be achieved in this project that allows for consumers to have a one-stop transportation resource that does not necessitate providers sacrificing their local control, expertise and familiarity with the system.

CCWIB is creating a website to distribute project information and a newsletter.

CCWIB will contact the attendees with a meeting schedule.