

Camden County Workforce Investment Board Camden City Initiatives Committee

Faith Based Task Force Meeting August 9, 2007

Attendees:

Deacon William H. Ames, Antioch Baptist Church
Chester A. Bembery Jr., Gatekeepers Fellowship
John Bivins, Woodland Community Development Corp
Kevin Connor, Catholic Charities
Rev. Tony Evans, City of Camden Health & Human Services
Rev. Barbara Farmer, Faith Tabernacle
Michael Feicht, First Baptist Church
Rev. Joe Fleming, CCOP
Jerri Flippen, CCOP
Jacob Gordon, Coopers Ferry Development Corp
Donna Johnston, CCWIB
Msg. Bob McDermott, St. Joe's Pro Cathedral
Fa. Joseph Messia, CCWIB
Carole Misinkavitch, CCWIB
Patrick Mulligan, Heart of Camden
Rev. Rodney Rowland, To & Fro Transportation
Sean Russell, Gatekeepers
Melinda Sanchez, Coopers Ferry Development Corp
Bill Spearman, Camden City Council
Leona Tanker, CCWIB
Sebastian Vasquez, Saint Andrews Church
Rev. Floyd White III, Woodland Community Development Corp.
Robin Widing, Widing Group

I. Welcome

Leona Tanker, Executive Director, was pleased to welcome the faith-based community and Camden City Initiatives Committee to the meeting. The WIB, under the leadership of Jack Gallagher, WIB Chair, has been working with the faith-based community to deliberate on key workforce and transportation issues over the past two years, and that dialogue is one of the main reasons that prompted the WIB to apply for the grant in the first place.

Father Joe Messina opened with a prayer.

II. Presentation on Transportation Planning Grant

The grant that the WIB was awarded is a \$413,000 planning grant to develop a model for a countywide Travel Management Coordination Center (TMCC), with the goals of increasing access to transportation for the transportation disadvantaged and creating cost efficiencies through ride sharing, technology and overall increased coordination. The Camden County Workforce Investment Board is the only recipient that was not a transportation provider, and further, our proposal was the only proposal that incorporated working with the faith-based community.

The TMCC is a streamlined management system that will serve as a single point of contact for individuals looking to access transportation services. The system is aiming to link public transportation, human services transit, private vendors and with the help of the faith-based community, faith-based transportation. Still in the development phase, the TMCC model could be accessible online, over the phone and incorporate strategically placed kiosks. The planning process will assist us in determining the best model to meet the needs of Camden City and County.

The Camden City Initiatives Committee will be taking a lead role in ensuring that the needs of Camden City residents are represented. It is convening this faith-based task force to develop a business plan that addresses the logistical and insurance issues as well as conducting outreach to community stakeholders through surveys and focus groups. A Transportation Leadership Council that includes key organizations at the State, County and City levels will be guiding the project design.

The proposal for funding to implement the project is due in June of 2008.

III. Discussion with the Faith-Based Community

Because of the groundwork laid by the Faith-Based Coalition over the past two years, attendees were familiar with the challenges and benefits to building a faith-based system of transportation. By coming together, the goal is to bring the faith-based organizations into Camden County's TMCC model. The primary mechanisms will be 1) determining vehicle usage for designated purposes, 2) forming a risk retention group, and 3) exploring additional ways that the faith-based community can participate. An important objective is an improved countywide transportation system that is designed to meet the needs for Camden City and County residents.

The model being developed with the faith-based community recognizes that each organization needs some level of flexibility to use its vehicles to meet its own needs. Therefore, the Task Group will examine a way for each vehicle to be used during off hours for a certain amount or number of times a week.

The following issues will be examined in greater depth as the Faith-Based Task Force develops its plan:

- ◆ Insurance and shared liability.
- ◆ Vehicle maintenance, gasoline and other costs.

- ◆ Flexibility in scheduling, in particular as it relates to organizations' ability to access their own vehicles.
- ◆ Security for the driver and passengers. Also, security is an issue relating to the location of stops, time of day and the distance that a passenger must walk to get to his/her destination.
- ◆ Staff costs and reimbursement, including licenses, drug testing, criminal background checks, experience, compensation, record keeping and training.
- ◆ DOT Certification.
- ◆ Cost per ride. For the faith-based agencies to participate, the project must be cost neutral. At the same time, rides must be low cost to constituents.

IV. Next Steps

The following next steps resulted from the meeting:

- ◆ Donna Hardy Johnston, Transportation Project Manager, will be following up in greater detail with everyone who attended the session.
- ◆ A survey on the needs of the constituents of community and faith-based on Camden City organizations is being prepared. The Task Force will receive the survey and is being asked to fill it out.
- ◆ The preliminary vehicle inventory, taken in October of 2005, will be updated.

The WIB is hoping that the faith-based community be become an integral part of our proposal. We will contact the Task Force to schedule the next meeting date.