



## **Transportation Coordination Meeting 5310, 5316 and 5317**

### **Minutes of February 16, 2011 Meeting**

#### **Attendees**

Antonio Benavidez, Tohono O'odham Nation  
Mary Carter, MHC Healthcare  
Tom Amparano, University of Arizona  
Shireen Greeney, Easter Seals Blake Found.  
Sue Henning-Mitchell, Catholic Comm. Svcs  
Scout Phillips, Southwest Conservation Corps  
Jackie Johnson, PPEP, Inc.  
Luis Lopez, El Rio Health Center  
Ruth Reiman, PAG Rideshare  
Shanti Sellz, Community Food Bank  
Sally Hueston, HOPE, Inc.  
Donna Sala, Arivaca Human Resources  
Karen Young, Intermountain Centers

#### **Attendees Cont.**

Retina Bauschatz, Jewish Community Center  
Marcia Konopka, United Community Health Ctr  
Cheryl Andersen, Interfaith Community Svcs  
Stephanie Marko, Community Food Bank  
Mary Jo Silcox, Compass  
Aimee Ramsey, Town of Oro Valley  
Karen Chatfield, La Frontera Center  
Tony Burrell, San Xavier District

#### **Staff**

Jennifer O'Connor, Sr. Transportation Planner  
Jeremy Papuga, Transit Services Manager

### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer O'Connor at 3:35 p.m. and introductions were made.

### **2. Announcements**

Ms. Jennifer O'Connor provided the following announcements:

- The ADOT vehicle maintenance facility has not yet opened its doors to 5310 grantees, but we'll let you know when that happens.
- Almost all of the 2009 vehicles have been delivered; ADOT's still waiting on the hail damaged minivans to be repaired. Please contact Jennifer if you have any questions about your vehicle delivery.
- 2010 5310, 5316 and 5317 grant award letters are going out this week and ADOT will be requesting the match amounts in April or May. You can talk to Jennifer after the meeting if you'd like to know your award status and match amounts.
- Applications for the 2011 5310, 5316 and 5317 grants are due to Jennifer on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The 5310, 5316 and 5317 Review Task Forces will meet on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> so please mark your calendars accordingly.
- ADOT will be sending a trainer to Tucson to conduct a Defensive Driving Instructor Training course on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the office of HOPE, Inc. Contact Dan Harrigan at ADOT to sign up your drivers.

- This year the ADOT rural transportation conference will be held in conjunction with the AzTransit Association conference in Mesa from April 10-12<sup>th</sup>. All 5310, 5316 and 5317 recipients are encouraged to attend; Jennifer will send out more details by email.

### **3. Coordination Success Story**

Ms. Jennifer O'Connor introduced Shanti Sellz from the Community Food Bank and Mary Carter from the Marana Health Center and turned the meeting over to them to talk about their successful coordination for the Marana Farms project.

Ms. Sellz described how the program works, stating that the Community Food Bank started a youth job development program at their farm in Marana over the last year but didn't have vehicles to provide transportation to their participants. In response, they decided to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Marana Health Center (MHC) so that MHC could transport the youth from the Tucson urban core to the rural farm for their Saturday training program. The benefits to the Food Bank go beyond getting the youth from point A to point B – the driver is both kind and strict and has developed a positive relationship with the youth; the driver is finger printed and trained in safety and defensive driving which helps ensure the safety of the riders; and the youth arrive on time to the project site.

Ms. Carter talked about how the Marana Health Center has benefited from the coordination. Because of the contract with the Food Bank, MHC has been able to move from having 1 1/3 drivers to have two full time drivers on staff. The increase in drivers has made a huge difference and allowed MHC to expand the transportation services they are able to provide to their own clients.

### **4. Information Sharing – Best and Worst Maintenance Facilities**

At previous meetings, some grantees had asked about the best maintenance facilities in the region, so time was spent discussing the best and worst facilities. While no facilities were listed as "worst", three facilities were recommended as "best". American Fleet Services is great for engine and vehicle maintenance and repairs (contact: 623-5811). Other grantees have developed good working relationships with their local Brakemax for maintenance and repairs. For lift equipment repairs, ADE Industries was highly recommended (contact Ernie: 571-7156).

### **5. Coordination Strategies Group Activity**

Jennifer talked to the group about the need to develop Coordination Strategies to guide the group's activities over the next year. She presented some potential strategies to get the group thinking and then asked them to brainstorm activities they'd be interested in pursuing. The following items were discussed:

- Purchasing rides from other providers – Some agencies need additional vans from time to time and would like to use other agencies' 5310 vehicles. For example, the Jewish Community Center needs an additional van for their summer program for children with disabilities and would like to coordinate the use of another 5310 vehicle (with wheelchair lift). The program runs from June through July, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. HOPE Inc., El Rio Health Center, Interfaith Community Services and Marana Health Center were also interested in participating in this type of program.
- Sharing Information on Transportation Options – Meeting participants talked about the need to share information about their transportation services with each other and the public. They would like to know each other's mission statements and be able to give the public the tools to find transportation resources to meet their needs. This could be in the form of a website or other online or electronic resource.
- Creating a Coordination List Serve – Meeting participants want to be able to talk to each on a more regular basis and be able to communicate about their transportation needs. A list serve was proposed where participants could post requests for assistance (i.e. they need help fulfilling a ride request) and share best practices and other helpful information about their programs.
- Coordination Software – Participants also talked about how valuable regional coordination software could be in the region because it would allow multiple agencies coordinate and share rides.

## **6. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.