

SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION PILOT TASK FORCE

Task Force Meeting notes October 15, 2008

Chairperson Steve Theall convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. It was attended by:

Steve Theall, MOEC	Dennis Laabs, Consultant	Rich Labrie, Consultant
Anne McKenzie, LPV	Gerry Mazor, LABBB	Joanne Haley Sullivan, NR
Bob Kurtz, Consultant	Linda Durette, LABBB	Mike Laliberte, NR
Carla Jentz, ASE	Jeff Dias, Gifford School	Susan Rees, ACCEPT
Chris Lynch, DESE	Nicholas Oliver, maaps	Perry Davis, MASS
Colleen Cavanaugh, MAPT	Mike Gilbert, MASC	John Hennessey, Worc PS

Each network coordinator provided a brief update. The networks are at various levels of development. Challenges and concerns noted, increased rider-ship has caused increased behavior problems, dealing with one vendor may have cost implications after the contract expires, districts slow in reporting data, what billing model should be utilized. Ms. Cavanaugh will develop a template to collect data on billing models from the networks.

Mr. Theall reported that the MOEC website should be operational by Tuesday, October 21, 2008. It will include a special needs transportation link.

Ms. Cavanaugh reported that she had received several prototypes documents from the networks. These will be posted on the website with instructions on how they can be accessed.

Ms. Cavanaugh reported several private schools had responded to the task force request for interest in providing training for drivers and monitors. Additional schools were identified by the network coordinators. These schools will be contacted and plans to offer training will be made available to vendors and to the networks

Ms. Cavanaugh informed members she and Mr. Hennessey are currently serving on a sub-committee with the Registry of Motor Vehicles to review 7D regulations as they pertain to driver training, which includes pre-license requirements, and vehicle standards. Mr. Theall proposed a recommendation that the task force endorse the initiative and appoint Ms. Cavanaugh to represent them at future meetings. All were in favor. Mr. Mazor recommended on-going professional development for licensed drivers should also be required.

Mr. Labrie provided copies of a revised draft of recommendations for the distribution of state reimbursements. The task force suggested several changes. Mr. Labrie will make the suggested changes to the draft and re-distribute for comment.

Questions arose as to the intent of the language in the legislation; what is the definition of a "network participant", and is the utilization of routing software a strict criterion. Members noted this language was not proposed by the task force therefore a strict interpretation must be followed. There was discussion of creating a draft of what reimbursement guidelines should be and possible regulatory and/or legislative changes that would help clarify these issues moving forward.

Mr. Mazor asked members for input relative to an issue he has this year, a parent has filed a complaint that their child is on the bus over one hour due to the wait time at the school he/she attends. The regulations under Chapter 766 state that a child may not remain in the vehicle for more than one hour each way unless agreed to by the team. This has been interpreted as pertaining to the "ride" time, not the "wait" time. Suggestion was made to look to the Office of Civil Rights for an opinion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM. The next scheduled meeting will be held, January 7, 2009.

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