

Disabilities Forum
Comments
10/16/2012

Hope Hezel's Presentation

2008 United We Ride Plan - Updating the plan in 2013 Many of the goals in original plan have been achieved.

39 municipalities, not all have dial-a-rides.

NJ Transit bus and rail overview

Access Link - American Disabilities Act requirement for handicap services

3/4 mile off any bus route

MAPS - 20 drivers, 70,00 trips for medical, education and employment trips.

Fleet is diverse.

Dial-a-rides can offer shopping and local trips. MAPS can't control dial-a-ride services.

Questions:

Can you use dial-a-ride for employment? Depends on DAR. 5 Towns does.

Do any have a door to door service? Some DAR's do that. All and MAPS allow a rider to accompany a person on the bus/car. MAPS is a curb to curb service.

MAPS is strictly limited to Morris County?

We do go up to 5 miles outside the county borders.

My son is visually and hearing impaired. Can the driver call him when they arrive? The driver can call.

Q I use Montville DAR - wonderful service. Regular service/rides. When these services stop, (9 to 5) what do you do? Is there any emergency service that someone can call? Emergency service is not there and should be needed.

Q Daughter is in wheelchair, no cognitive ability to tell someone where she is going. Do the police have a plan to know who they can call if there was an emergency ride needed.

Q - 1 way, Tuesday and THursdays, one way trips.

A - Call 800 # to work out times and availability.

Q - Thank you to MAPS, they did a good job on recent event trip.

Q - Western Morris County - No public transportation. Called MAPS. Told not running anymore routes to your sons day program. MAPS car nearby her house, why can't they pick up her son?

A - Call Hope and she will work it out.

Carmela Slivinski - DAWN Center for Independent Living and also on UWNNJ Caregivers Coalition.

We won't solve all the problems but let's get everyone's concerns aired.

Brian Fitzgibbons - Asst Director for Field Services for Vocational Services A True advocate for people with disabilities.

Almost didn't make it.

3 Questions, Good Bad Ugly or the Good, the Better and Betterer

Emergency Van

Could AAA come up with a service? A pilot Project? A minivan to accommodate a small chair.

What do LIKE about the Transportation SYstem????

1. I love MAPS. Couldn't survive w/o it after eye surgery.
2. Son took Access Link - appreciated ride, but process was very difficult. Daily on the phone to arrange rides. An hour on the phone.
3. No one takes regular public bus.

Most drove themselves.

What do you WANT in Transportation????

1. Access Link go a little farther than 3/4 mile off a fixed bus route. (1.5 miles) 2. A phone # where all services are connected to an emergency pickup service.

(McGyver's wife) 3. Possible solution - any town with a lift could be on call for emergencies.

4. Create a database of people with accessible vans.
5. Could county have a private ambulance service for emergency pick ups?
6. When family is working, no way to get anywhere. Access Link picks up neighbor but not her.
7. Easier ability to BOOK rides with Access Link.
8. Can't get set hours / days for his job to arrange a set schedule.
9. Are there any options with TransOptions?
10. THEME - Neighbors Helping Neighbors
11. Government's responsibility to provide rides for the disabled. DAR provide rides for seniors, they need to do the same for the disabled.
12. It would cost a whole lot more money to have people working. With rise in autism, why not create the services to get them employed vs DDD benefits?
13. What if you combined DAR to cover more hours, to increase coverage on a regional basis?
14. Can Access link be expanded to do pick ups along Rts 46 for example.
15. Is it time to re-assess the 3/4 mile average for Access Link pickups?
16. Encourage private transportation companies to provide FREE RIDES on occasion. Pool those efforts to create expanded rides/times.
17. Can Gov't incentivize private companies to give free rides for the disabled?

What would be the BEST THING EVER to solve this problem?

1. Start with DAR to provide rides to Access Link sites.
2. Extend the DAR hours.
3. Some major changes aren't necessarily needed, but accommodation /customer service could go a long way to improving the system.

Questions:

Should we hold this session every year?

MAPS - Veterans Grant Award - Improve DAR integration, and

Physical Disability in Morris County - 40,000 (based on a sampling).