

MATP Advisory Committee Meeting
Health and Welfare Building
Room 327
12:30 PM -2:00 PM
September 23, 2010

MATP Advisory Committee Members: Yvette Long, Dorothy Young, Minta Levingood, Marjorie Jackson, Jessica Mockabee, Coreeta Corioso, Sheila Gombita, Dave Trout, Sharon Love, Jim Farewell, Gene Suski, Richard Farr, Odessa Trinkle, Sandy Long

New Policy Regarding Paratransit Services to Methadone – Comments from consumers and other interested parties were requested after July meeting. These comments were reviewed and an outline of the policy with current updates was presented. Proposal is to make this policy effective January 2011 with proper notices given. There was discussion about the possibility of sending notices earlier because of the year end holidays. Policy would limit methadone consumers to one of the two closest clinics to their home but an update has been added that would “Grandfather” existing paratransit methadone consumers, that is, any current, existing methadone consumers would not be affected by the policy.

The implementation of this policy would make paratransit transportation to methadone clinics consistent with existing methadone policy and would make effective use of limited Department financial and transportation resources. The policy has been vetted by DPW and DPW legal counsel. A definition of exclusive trips as listed in the Ops-memo was discussed as was the joint nature of exception determination with MATP and County Behavioral Health Providers participating together in each evaluation. The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is also committed to working with the County Behavioral Health Providers to assure new methadone consumers are placed in the clinics that meet the requirements of this policy.

Methadone Mileage Update – All of the notification letters have gone out to consumers. Exception process is functioning with 24 requests having sent. 8 exceptions have been approved, 10 have been denied, and 6 are still pending. There will be more comprehensive data, which will include the September information, about this policy made available at the next meeting.

The most common reason for a denial of an exception is that the request did not meet the exception standard listed in the policy, but the reasons for the requests are extremely varied. These decisions are joint decisions by both MATP and OMHSAS working in conjunction. The Committee was concerned that the consumers understand their rights to request an exception.

MATP Consumer Survey – There will be a comprehensive report issued based upon the data in this survey. The data has been reviewed by the Department and the Department is interested in the Committee’s feedback on the data and possible uses for the data. Overall, consumers who now use MATP had few issues with MATP and rated their overall experience as good to excellent with most requested trips approved and taken.

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MATP Budget – Current plan is to present a comprehensive overview at the next meeting that will review the budget and the budgeting process.

A broad overview shows a FY 2010-2011 budget of \$155 million. There is a difference between this budget number and what actually get allocated to the County Programs based upon the actual operational requirements of the Counties. When the year ends it is possible that some Counties would be allocated less than budgeted and some perhaps more.

Human Services Transportation Study Update – The Department of Transportation is continuing to work on studies that evaluate fares that are charged for human services transportation. They are also evaluating the ways that their agencies have to report to both the Department of Transportation and the Department of Public Welfare. Additionally, they are looking at how grants and programs are administered on the state level, coordination of services between Counties, technology, ways to eliminate barriers to operating beyond County borders without negative impact to the provider, and ideas that would provide a positive impact to the consumer. Any pilots that they are reviewing must explore a benefit to the consumer experience with no negative impact.

The Department of Transportation is currently working on 5 pilots that were a result of the listening tour. The initial plan was to have all of these done by the end of the year, but 2 of them may move a bit beyond that.

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: December 9, 2010, 12:30-2:00
Room 327, Health and Welfare Building, Harrisburg