



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft METRO PARATRANSIT MEDICAID WAIVER FUNDING & POLICY REVIEW AD HOC COMMITTEE

Monday, July 10, 2017

5:00 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, CCB, Room 103A

Staff: Nancy Senn, Ann Schroeder, Crystal Martin

Guest: Doug Hunt

Present: 6 - Rebecca Kemble; Tim Gruber; Margaret Bergamini; Carl D. DuRocher; Mary E. Jacobs and L. Jesse Kaysen

Excused: 2 - Ken Golden and James D. Cobb

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Co-chair Kaysen called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kemble moved approval; Jacobs seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote/other.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

4. Kemble said she is a worker/owner at Union Cab.

5. Family Care RFP for MCOs - Update

A press release for the Managed Care Organization (MCO) announcement came out Friday. Care Wisconsin and My Choice will be MCOs. Both are experienced MCOs in other parts of the state. There are four agencies that would work with individuals who select IRIS. Hunt said TMG is the largest of the IRIS consulting agencies and is based in Madison. Progressive Community Services also hopes to be a provider of services to IRIS participants, although they are not yet fully certified. Providers don't have to bid to provide IRIS services, but they do have to be certified at the time of service. Senn said on the MCO side of it, they also have to complete the certification process.

6. [47929](#)

Paratransit Recommendations for Service Levels & Fares - Action Item

Attachments: [Paratransit Recommendations - MAWC updated report 7-5-17.pdf](#)

Kaysen said this has been revised since the last meeting. Senn said she tried to incorporate things she heard from the last meeting. Also, there was no mention of IRIS before, so she put in a paragraph about that.

Kemble asked if the two MCOs started negotiating with Metro yet. No. Senn said they will hold a provider meeting and invite potential providers to attend. That would be one opportunity to interface. She doesn't know when that will be. That would be one method if Metro doesn't hear from them directly. Kemble asked if Metro has a relationship with those two agencies. Martin said Metro has a relationship with Care Wisconsin, but they haven't contacted staff yet. Senn knows the CEO of My Choice but hasn't talked to her. Bergamini asked how they would advertise the meeting. Senn said she doesn't know, so she is monitoring the website. She may enquire. Martin said she assumes it will be similar to what happened with Medicaid Broker. They advertised generally.

Kaysen asked for a motion on the item. Gruber moved to forward these recommendations to the TPC. DuRocher wanted to make sure it is clearly communicated that the recommendation isn't "do these now."

Margaret seconded. Gruber said he is not necessarily in favor of all the recommendations, but they may be necessary. Also understanding it is not this committee but the TPC making the ultimate decision. The document is called an options toolbox. He agrees with Carl that it should be made clear these are possibilities that can be considered rather than things to do immediately. DuRocher suggested saying the committee is not in favor of these, but they are possibilities

Bergamini said the TPC agenda item is something along the lines of approving the recommendations. It's more than simply accepting the report because staff has instructions from the Mayor about the operating budget and they are trying to react to that while also being realistic about what Metro might be facing and the need to have a framework to prioritize steps that could be taken in case cuts to the operating budget are necessary. Senn felt like that was accurate.

Kemble said the TPC agenda said review the impact of Family Care (FC) on paratransit – staff available for questions.

Gruber said Bergamini and Kemble are on TPC and can convey the intent of the committee well. He said the eliminating the convenience ticket just for paratransit stuck him as not fair if it is not eliminated for mainline. The agency fare is currently what it costs to provide a paratransit ride, and Metro charges a little less than 1/10 of the cost. Mainline is \$2 a ride and how much does it cost to provide that ride? Bergamini said it's not \$2 for all rides - so there is a range of fares. What percentage of the cost of a ride is captured in the farebox? Last she calculated it was in the high 20%/low 30%. Metro does well on farebox recovery. Martin said actual cost of fixed route ride is \$3.10 -\$3.40. Kaysen said it's very difficult to make an easy comparison between fixed route and paratransit.

Gruber said also Metro can charge no more than double the fixed route fare but has been charging the agency fare. That is possible because it's an agency. Metro will still be charging an agency, so there is a need to negotiate. Other members said there is no requirement that the MCOs participate in an agency fare structure. Gruber said what if Metro says either you pay the agency fare or you go elsewhere. Bergamini said she read the removal of convenience tickets as a kind of leverage to encourage agencies to enter into an agreement with Metro. Martin agreed. The other thing is cash fares are the only item in the toolbox that helps address IRIS customers and their ability to interact with the system. Often the individual participants aren't able to handle a lot of cash. That provides leverage with people on IRIS.

Bergamini said the TPC doesn't approve the budget. That is up to staff to provide budget information. They just needed a strategy from this committee.

Gruber said suppose the budget recommendation is to increase the fare to \$4, and the TPC says no. Bergamini said the same thing that always happens between the TPC policy and budget powers would come into play. The City Council in the past has passed budgets that were predicated on a fare increase. It was up to the TPC to figure out how to make that work.

DuRocher said he thought IRIS was people purchasing their own services, so how can we hold them to agency fare? Martin said she is not sure how it will play out either. Kaysen said she isn't sure if understanding the details of how everything might work will change the motion of forwarding the report. Kaysen said it would behoove committee members as the experts on this sticky wicket to show up at the TPC and make clear to the TPC members who are not here what is going on. Particularly paratransit users showing up to comment on what is happening to paratransit.

Gruber wondered if the existing motion is clear enough or needed additional language. Bergamini said she thought the TPC members here will be conveying that as part of the discussion. Most of the folks on the TPC who are looking at this are going to be somewhat confused. Martin said maybe if you convey what current options are and this is the toolbox that might be used to deal with budget shortfalls. Make clear Metro would vet them at public hearings.

Maybe TPC could substitute something at the meeting to make it clear they are accepting the report rather than adopting. Kemble said on the TPC agenda it only says "review" not adopt or anything. Senn said in the last paragraph of the narrative, she added some comments saying these are acceptable tools to use to get ready for FC and to put Metro in the best position to negotiate. They are viable items to be implemented but not viewed as must be implemented.

Vote: Carried unanimous.

7. Report of Members

Bergamini said as a member of the TPC a question that might come up when staff is presenting this is if there were options that were specifically discarded, at least for the moment. That should be made clear. Let TPC also know things that were considered and discarded. Martin said the things Metro decided not

to do is to do nothing. Senn said early in the process when we talked about the concept of premium fares, that was discarded. Martin said staff will look back at notes to see if there was anything else.

8. Other

There were no other items.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

DuRocher moved to adjourn sine die. Gruber seconded. The motion carried.