

## **Transportation Research FFY2014 Plan**

The Council requested staff to research transportation options for consideration for inclusion in the FFY14 plan. Following some general lessons learned from previous work on enhancing transportation outcomes information is shared about successful transportation projects by the Council on Aging, and the Missouri and Louisiana Councils.

### **Transportation Initiative Lessons Learned**

- It is better to start small and build on what works.
- A transportation project will require a minimum of two years to become sustainable.
- A successful transportation project will require buy-in from community organizations and working closely with the state's transportation department.
- Initial planning takes time (e.g., deciding best transportation routes and times of stops) but planning cost is minimal compared to implementation.
- A project should include combining available resources (e.g., Missouri DD Council's Transportation Manual, Dept. of Transportation and Development grants, etc.).

### **Council on Aging - Vernon Parish**

Most Council on Aging (COA) regional offices have some type of transportation. However, the type and amount varies across COAs. Vernon COA began transportation programs for Vernon and Beauregard Parishes with vans purchased through grants from the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD). Vernon COA transports anyone of any age, recently started new programs through Medicaid, contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services to transport unwed young mothers to and from school, and has a cash fare system (like a taxi service) within Vernon Parish limits (cost ranges from \$4 - \$16).

### **Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council**

The Missouri DD Council funded successful transportation projects in two communities between 2008 and 2010 that continued after Council seed funding. Similar to Transportation Louisiana (below) these projects focused on helping communities develop their own transportation solutions. The most successful project is the Jefferson County (JeffCo Express) project that links rural communities to the St. Louis transportation system. The Missouri Council investment of \$100,000 over three years produced a million more dollars of leveraged funds in Jefferson County. The other successful project is the City of Boonville that used the Council funds to purchase vans and start a demand-response transportation system. Transportation is available five days per week with 24-hour advance notice made to the police department.

### **Transportation Louisiana and Transportation Committee**

The Louisiana DD Council supported Transportation Louisiana to improve transportation options for people with developmental disabilities through coordination of transportation services and promotion of transportation funding available to DD service providers. One lasting outcome of the Transportation Louisiana initiative was a website that provides access to current information regarding transportation and regional plans.

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A workgroup was formed in response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 131 of 2011 led by the DOTD with active support and leadership commitment from both public and private stakeholders to improve transportation, optimize efficiencies and manage costs of transit for individuals with disabilities. This mirrors efforts with transportation coordination in other states. Unfortunately, the committee has not met since February 2012.

Recommendation: Since the Council FFY2012-2016 plan does not contain a goal for Transportation it is not recommended for the Council to pursue a transportation initiative at this time.

Council members interested in creating transportation options in their local communities are encouraged to participate on their regional transportation planning committees.