



## Lafayette City-Parish President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities

Monday, February 14, 2011

Meeting Minutes

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<b>Board Members Present:</b>	Donna Andrus, Lynette Fontenot, Zelig Guidry, Mark Guillory, Rose Shuff, Donielle Watkins
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	Dawn Abbott, Harold Arceneaux, Deborah Aymond, Rita Dishongh, Sheryl Doga, Nell Hahn, Pamela Kuhl,
<b>LCG Staff Present:</b>	Lou Anna Angelle, Carlee Alm-LaBar, Tony Tramel

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1. Donielle Watkins called the meeting to order.
2. Donielle welcomed Irma Bourgeois from SMILE Action Administration. Ms. Bourgeois discussed SMILE Transportation Service. She indicated that SMILE does go outside the city limits, but they are **strictly medical transportation only**. The passengers that have Medicaid are not charged for the doctor visits, SMILE is reimbursed by Medicaid for this service. Those passengers that do not have Medicaid are charged \$15.00 round trip for the service. Their vans are equipped for **regular wheelchairs only**.

Harold Arceneaux mentioned that he feels SMILE should do more than medical transporting. Ms. Bourgeois informed Harold that when SMILE applies for the grant, it is stipulated that they will transport the elderly and disabled for medical purposes only.

Dawn Abbott and Rita Dishongh provided the committee with examples of how the paratransit service will provide service on one side of a street and not on the other side because it is outside the city limits.

Nell Hahn, Director of Systems Advocacy & Litigation, informed the committee that the Advocacy Center can be contacted for assistance with any problems they have regarding this issue.

3. Tony Tramel, Director of Traffic & Transportation for Lafayette Consolidated Government, provided the committee with information about Lafayette Consolidated Government Fixed Bus Routes and the Paratransit Service. He indicated that if the funding was available, the routes could be changed to include the Parish. Nell Hahn informed the committee that the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile outside the city limit that the service provides is ADA compliant.

Deborah Aymond stressed that a solution should be found to assist the handicapped residents living outside the city limits with paratransit service, especially those needing the services for their jobs.

Tony will provide the committee with bullet points and maps regarding the fixed bus route and paratransit service. Nell Hahn volunteered to prepare a short memo on cabs for the next meeting.

4. The committee approved the January minutes.

5. Correspondence:

- Email from Harold Arceneaux regarding the Taxicab Operators Guide
- Letter from Gulf Coast Social Services

6. Deborah Aymond informed the committee about the Agency Resource Fair that was held on February 2, 2011 at the Robicheaux Center, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lynette Fontenot, Carlee Alm-LaBar and Lou Anna Angelle manned the booth. There were over 100 children that participated in the event. Deborah stated that they have already starting planning next year's event.

7. Carlee Alm-LaBar called the national Easter Seals office and left a message. She will inform the committee at the next meeting if she hears back from them. She also contacted the New Orleans office, but their services are centered around New Orleans, and they do not provide transportation. There is no Lafayette office for Easter Seals. Deborah Aymond asked Carlee to call the Governor's Office of Disabilities for additional information on Easter Seals.

8. Donielle Watkins informed the committee the Resource Directory will be worked on in the future.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

10. The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for **Monday, March 14, 11:30-12:30** in the **Council Briefing Room** on the first floor of Lafayette City Hall.