

**Roundtable Discussion on Rural Poverty in PA
Central PA Community Action, Inc.
Medical Assistance Transportation Program
Clearfield County
8/6/2013**

- **Transportation Summary**
 - **The Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) provides transportation services for Medical Assistance eligible residents of Clearfield County, temporary or permanent, to obtain adequate healthcare by Medical Assistance approved providers.**
 - **Modes of transport provided include:**
 - **Gas mileage reimbursement**
 - **Fixed route bus transit reimbursement**
 - **Para transit service**

- **Transportation Concerns**
 - **Mileage Reimbursement**
 - **First mode of transport**
 - **Many consumers with vehicles cannot afford gas initially, insurance, registration, inspection or needed repairs to be self-sufficient for their own transportation needs**
 - **Scrapping of vehicles common**
 - **Requests for Para transit because of high gas prices – low reimbursement rate**
 - **Consumers are refusing MATP services when mileage reimbursement is enforced**

 - **Other transport modes authorized based on a Needs Assessment**
 - **DuFAST bus transit (if available)**
 - **in Dubois area only – fixed route consumer reimbursement**
 - **individual ride passes not available for pre-purchase**
 - **bus transit schedule and transfers are confusing to consumers**
 - **no Para transit services available**

 - **Area Transportation Authority (ATA) Bus transit reimbursement (if available)**
 - **in Clearfield area only – fixed route consumer reimbursement**
 - **pre-purchase of individual ride passes being considered**
 - **bus transit schedule and transfers confusing for consumers**
 - **Services for Call-A-Bus had limited availability for MATP consumers - ATA priority contracts with other services (AAA, nursing homes, etc.)**
 - **Consumers were not meeting healthcare needs - ATA overbooked rides then cancelled transport same day**

- **ATA Special Purpose service was more costly than most Para transit providers**
 - **ATA has limited services for rural areas or none at all**
 - **Service times don't always meet consumer needs**
 - **Early/late kidney dialysis treatments**
 - **Clearfield to Dubois, etc.**
 - **All day trip before return – problematic with specific health issues or daycare issues (diabetics, single mom's)**
 - **Subcontract with ATA for Para transit services - they refuse to sign our contract**
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- **Para transit services (Health Ride Plus)**
 - **Para transit service is provided daily in-county and by a preset schedule for out-of-county requests**
 - **Many consumers travel a distance for appropriate medical care – Health Choices**
 - **Consumers are strongly encouraged to coordinate appointments into fewer days of the week to reduce trips/costs**
 - **Consumer rides are grouped together**
 - **Results in decreased trips/costs**
 - **Longer ride time and wait – problematic with specific health issues or daycare issues**