

Southwest Washington Local Coordinating Coalition

The Southwest Washington Local Coordinating Coalition (LCC) representation is comprised of the Human Services Council the Region 7 Medicaid Brokerage (serves Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Klickitat and Skamania counties), WSDOT, Health Recovery Services Administration, SW Regional Transportation Planning Organization, SW Regional Transportation Council, public transit and private transportation organizations, veterans agency representatives including Vets Corp. , and MCEDD Gorge Translink.

While this LCC and its' impending project appear much less formalized than the other project area identified in HB 2072 and was not provided funding through this initiative , the group has held 4 meetings since June 2009 to discuss coordinated transportation needs and identify a pilot project for this area. Our ability to fully implement this pilot project is heavily dependent on in-kind work and support from the agencies involved. The Human Services Council will take a lead in identifying potential grant funding opportunities to support implementation of the project.

Below is an outline of the pilot project being recommended by the SW Washington LCC.

Pilot Project:

Identify primary transportation routes and coordinated and accessible transportation options from each county in Region 7 to Vancouver and Portland VA sites; develop outreach materials to inform veterans, veteran groups and representatives of their transportation options.

Issue Areas Identified:

Lack of a cost effective and accessible transportation options to move veterans from their counties of residence to VA Campus' in Vancouver and Portland

Lack of information regarding where veterans are residing within the counties served and what their transportation needs consist of

Lack of knowledge by veterans agencies regarding existing transportation options that are available for veterans

Lack of coordinated data on all available transportation options serving these counties (transit, private, VA)

Lack of communication among veterans groups about services available for veterans

Project Action Steps:

Complete Veteran's Transportation Survey in All Counties

Meet with VA representatives to identify existing system(s) used for transporting veterans and benefits available to veterans for transportation purposes

Compile all data regarding VA, public and private transportation systems in counties served

Identify primary transportation routes from each county to Vancouver and Portland

Identify opportunities for coordinated and accessible transportation options that serve the routes identified; including options for grouping trips with other community and/or client populations

Develop outreach materials and information to provide to veterans and veterans organizations