

**Presentation by Linda Wright
North Dakota Dept. of Human Services**

STATE TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

MAY 1, 2008

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

1. Medical Services Division – Medicaid

- Medicaid helps pay for non-emergent medical transportation to medical/health appointments
- Reimbursement is provided only for miles while the recipient is in the vehicle (loaded miles)
- Medicaid pays for transportation to the closest medical facility that will provide the medical service
- Agencies and individuals enrolled as medical assistance providers can be reimbursed for providing medical transportation for eligible clients
- As of March 1, 2008, independent drivers had a mileage increase from 28 cents per mile to 45 cents
- Eligible recipients for the Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver are eligible to receive non-medical transportation as a service.

For questions contact Tammy Renner 328-1705 or e-mail trenner@nd.gov

2. Developmental Disabilities Division

- a. Self Directed Supports Waiver for Families (children age 3 to 21)
 - Medicaid eligible and
 - Screened to the ICF/MR level of care

Disability Related Supports/Transportation – Parents of minor children ages 3 to 18 can be reimbursed mileage, or commercial travel if medically necessary and more cost effective than reimbursement for mileage, for in an out of state travel related to their child’s disability that is in excess of travel that would be expected of all families. Family members other than parents of minor children cannot be reimbursed for mileage.

Any service or support available through the North Dakota Medicaid State Plan may not be reimbursed through the Self Directed Supports Waiver for Families.

b. Family Subsidy (state general funds)

- Family Subsidy may be available If a child is receiving Family Support Services under the traditional MR/DD waiver or does not meet the ICF/MR level of care

Parents of minor children birth to 18 can be reimbursed mileage or commercial travel if medically necessary and more cost effective than reimbursement for mileage, for in an out of state travel related to their child’s disability that is in excess of travel that would be expected of all families. Family members other than parents of minor children cannot be reimbursed for mileage.

Any service or support available through the North Dakota Medicaid State Plan may not be reimbursed through the Family Subsidy Program.

c. Traditional MR/DD Waiver

Waiver recipients are responsible for the costs of transportation

Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR)

All necessary transportation is included in the ICF/MR rate for residents of ICF/MR

For questions contact Robbin Hendrickson at 328-8932 or e-mail rhendrickson@nd.gov

3. Economic Assistance – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

- TANF recipients involved in the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) Program and Diversion Assistance recipients involved in the Pathways to Work (PtW) Program are eligible for a monthly transportation allowance of up to \$125. These funds are provided to the recipients via the TANF Reliacard and are to be used to meet the transportation needs of the recipients while they are actively engaged in the JOBS/PtW programs. In addition, financial assistance may be provided to JOBS/PtW participants (usually through vendor payments) for necessary vehicle repairs and auto insurance for basic liability coverage. (Normal maintenance such as oil changes, tune-ups or nonessential vehicle repairs are not allowed.)
- Transitional Transportation Assistance, which consists of a monthly transportation allowance of up to \$125, may be provided to “former” TANF recipients for a period of up to six months following closure of their TANF case.

For questions call or e-mail: Susan Van Asperen at 328-4005 or svanasperen@nd.gov

4. Vocational Rehabilitation

- Transportation expenses can be provided to individual clients based on the need to reach their employment goal.
- Allowable expenses can include gas, tokens for public transportation, or motor vehicle repairs based on each client’s individual needs.

For questions contact Cheryl Wescott Wetsch at 328-8959 or e-mail cwescott@nd.gov

5. Aging Services Division

- Previous to January 1, 2007, Aging Services provided Older Americans Act (OAA) funds to contract providers for operating costs to transport

persons age 60 and above. These same providers also received DOT funds for vehicle and equipment purchases and operating costs for public transportation.

- Through a memorandum of understanding between Aging Services and DOT, Aging Services no longer provides OAA federal funds for transportation services. Funding now comes from DOT to the local transit providers. The providers continue to offer transportation to persons 60 and above, persons with disabilities and the general public.
- Aging Services must continue to assure the Administration on Aging that access to services such as congregate meals and health maintenance services continues to be provided. Transportation is an access service.

For questions contact Linda Wright at 328-4607 or e-mail lwright@nd.gov or call the Aging and Disability Resource-LINK at 1-800-451-8693 or e-mail carechoice@nd.gov

Future Opportunities and Challenges:

- The transportation needs of older persons, especially those living in rural areas, will continue as many small towns lack basic services and the population over age 60, and especially those over age 85, continues to grow.
- The opportunity for continued collaboration between DHS and DOT to serve all populations in our state.
- Effectively using resources to provide additional transit services.

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