

HillsboroughHATS Coalition Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2016

In attendance: Joanne Angel, Katrina Bales, Ashley Corral, Chelsea Evans, Allison Hebert, Janet Hess, Patricia Sandoval, Catherine Sanchez, Jenita Taylor, Amanda Vasquez, Joane White

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. HART Travel Training: Presentation by Catherine Sanchez

- Free program for those 13 years of age and older; encourages independence and access to the community by teaching the individual how to use public transportation
- Travel training is available to individuals with disabilities so long the disability does not preclude them from being able to ride the bus; individuals with special requirements, such as limited vision or service dogs, may be partnered with Lighthouse for specialized training; individuals with disabilities that prevents them from being able to ride a fixed route may eligible for HART Plus transportation
- Travel training provided for local routes (also includes metro rapid, limited express, express routes, in-towner, streetcar, and flex routes)
- Travel trainer provides step-by-step instructions on using the transit guide and passenger schedules, show how to get on/off the bus, teach how/when to pull the cord, identify landmarks near the stop, provide maps & route book, etc...
- Training available to individuals &/or groups; training available as a field trip opportunity
- 80% of trainees are ESE students (17-22 years of age) involved with job training
- OneBusAway App: application for smart phones that shows available stops in the area, route numbers available, and shows real-time bus arrival times; texting feature is available for non-smart-phones
- More information available on <http://www.gohart.org/Pages/Travel-HowtoRideHart.aspx#travel-training> (*Travel Trainer Contact flyer attached*)
- Current HART promotion: Middle & High School students can ride HART fixed routes for free with student ID until June 10, 2016 (*Promotion flyer attached*)

III. Review of current Coalition Action Plan & Group Discussion of Goals

- Goal Proposed: explore outreach opportunities to group practices in order to educate providers about importance of transition, transition tools and resources available, and possibly educate how to bill for transition
- Goal Proposed: reach out to AHEC to foster involvement in the coalition
- Goal Proposed: review exiting information on public funding sources and insurance coverage plans and policies available in Hillsborough County
- Goal Proposed: form a group of advocates and providers to meet with local MMA plan administrators to discuss the needs of medically complex patients, and address the plans' responsibility in making sure these patients receive an appropriate level of care
Action Step: Ms. Taylor will send list of local MMA plans and contacts to Ms. Bales.
- Discussion: utilization of self-advocates within the coalition; should we wish to revisit utilizing self-advocates in future efforts it is suggested to draw upon the self-advocates being developed/mentored/trained by partner organizations of the Hillsborough HATS Coalition (Family Care Council, Special Olympics athlete leaders, American Diabetes Association advocacy group, etc...). It was suggested that meetings with MMA plans would not necessarily benefit from self-advocate participation.

VI. Open Discussion/Announcements

- Special Olympics Florida offering free health screening and wellness classes to anyone with an intellectual or developmental disability 8 years of age and older, regardless of insurance or income; (*see attached flyer for upcoming screenings available on 4/13/16 & 4/27/16*)

VII. Meeting Adjourned