



Proposed Changes for Transit



For those who use Bis-Man Transit's paratransit service this will be of particular interest to you.



Due to losing approximately \$150,000 in state money and approximately \$350,000 in federal money (according to the Executive Director they could get the federal money back) Bis-Man Transit is looking at making some pretty drastic changes to the paratransit (door to door service) service.

Bis-Man Transit presented proposed changes to the paratransit and the fixed route system (CAT) to the Bismarck city commission on June 14, 2016, and requested public comment in front of the city commission on July 12, 2016, which was granted. The changes I am concerned about are the proposed changes to the paratransit services because these changes will have the greatest impact on people with disabilities.

Currently, the paratransit service operates 24 hours a day 7 days a week, including holidays. With the pro-

Mission Statement:

The Dakota Center for Independent Living believes in self-determination for people with disabilities and helps to create the environment in which it is achieved.

“The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the Department of Human Services. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Human Services, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.”

This newsletter is available in alternative format—upon request.

posed changes from Bis-Man Transit, the hours of service would be cut to 5:30 AM to 7:00 PM Monday through Friday and 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Saturdays. The proposed changes also include an extended hour service. These door to door services would run from 7:00 PM to midnight Monday through Saturday on a first-come 1st serve basis and would be available to the general public. This service would also include Sundays from 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM. All extended hour service rides would increase from \$2.50 a ride to \$5.00 a ride. There would be no service to Lincoln and no service on holidays that the fixed route does not operate which include New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas day.

Other proposed changes include eliminating the term "elderly" from the list of people they would offer paratransit rides to. This means a person needs to have a functional limitation preventing them from using the fixed route system to qualify for paratransit. Another change would be to eliminate the 2 mile outside of city limit service and instead serve ¾ of a mile from a fixed route.

If these changes affect your way of life by going to work, social outings or any other activities you need to have your voice heard during public comment on July 12TH. If you have any questions please call us and asked for Royce or Jeannie. If these changes affect your way of life by going to work, social outings or any other activities you need to have your voice heard during public comment on July 12TH. If you have any questions please call us and asked for Royce or Jeannie.

Loan Equipment Available at DCIL

Wheelchair	Walker	Quad Cane
Shower Bench	Grab Bars	Door Knob Opener
Hoyer Lift-one without sling		

No Charge for Rentals

**Call Jeannie at 701-222-3636 if you are in need of any
equipment**

Upcoming Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration



The DCIL Empowerment Committee is taking the lead in planning the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Celebration, which will be on July 26, the anniversary of the day the Americans with Disability Act was signed into law. The ADA is the nation's first comprehensive civil rights law that addresses the needs of people with disabilities. It prohibits discrimination in employment, public services, public accommodations, and telecommunications.

To celebrate, the DCIL Empowerment Committee has decided to have a picnic at the Eagles Park Universal Playground located at 100 14th St. NE, Mandan. It will be from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Plans are underway for a meal of sloppy joes and hot dogs with all the fixings, as well as fun for all. Everyone is welcome!



MVCHP Project Homeless Connect

Project Homeless Connect is a one-day one-stop event that brings together service providers and community volunteers to provide vital services to people experiencing homelessness in a consumer-centered, nonjudgmental and welcoming environment.

Emphasis is placed on offering people a path towards ending their homelessness.

This event is scheduled for August 18th, 2016 at:

The Bismarck Veterans Library

515 N. 5th Street

3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Homemaker Services Facing Drastic Cuts

As many of you know, there have been budget changes in the state of North Dakota. The Governor imposed a minimum of a 4% budget cut to the state general funds. As a result of these budget cuts, many state entities faced a reduction in funding. One of these entities includes Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). Homemaker services provided by HCBS are mainly impacted.

Qualified Service Providers that work as Homemakers are facing a drastic pay cut. July 1st of 2015, Individual Homemakers were receiving \$20.36 per hour. As of July 1st of 2016, Individual Homemakers will receive \$12.00 per hour in pay. Individual Homemakers are self-employed and have to take out approximately 30% for their payroll taxes plus what they owe in income taxes. So after July 1st of 2016, Homemakers will be receiving \$12/hour before taxes which don't leave much left to live on.

With this significant pay cut, many Homemakers are already choosing to look for other job opportunities. Some individuals have already been forced to find another Homemaker to help with laundry, shopping, and housekeeping. As July 1st comes closer, it may be more challenging to find a Homemaker to provide these services. Many people only require the services of a Homemaker to remain independent in their home. Some folks rely on the Homemaker service to stay out of an institution. As Homemaker services become limited, some people may be forced into a nursing facility, simply because services may not be available.

Are You Looking For A Peer Mentor?

Peer Mentor is one person with a disability offering to share his/her life experience and knowledge with another person with a similar disability.

Peer Mentoring is a goal-oriented process with the outcome or results remaining in the hands of the consumer. The mentor's responsibility is to assist the consumer with increasing their self-confidence or their ability to access community resources.

If you are looking for a Peer Mentor, or would like to train in becoming a Peer Mentor, contact Jeannie at 701-222-3636.

Success Story: Cyrus

Cyrus is a 59-year-old that endured a stroke, which resulted in him going to a nursing facility for rehabilitation . He was referred to the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program by the nursing facility.

The MFP Transition Coordinator and the MFP Housing Specialist assisted Cyrus in obtaining an affordable, accessible apartment. He also received furniture and assistive technology such as a hand-held shower, a hemi-walk, toilet riser, shower bench, and grab bars. The MFP Transition Coordinator also connected Cyrus to services through HCBS and Public Health.

Because MFP assisted in locating housing, obtaining assistive technology, and connecting Cyrus to services, he is able to live independently in his own apartment. He continues to go to outpatient therapies and continues to gains and becoming more independent.

The Voice of Royce



When I flew to Baltimore in May for a workshop, I took my attendant with me because I needed assistance to change planes in Minneapolis. Also, knowing I have someone to help me if I need it reduces the stress factor when I take a long trip. Boy, this time did I need it! I asked my attendant if she would write

about our trip from her point of view and this is what she had to say:

Tuesday, May 24, started out like a normal day. Get up, get kids off to school and the normal morning routine. However, it wasn't normal at all. Today I was traveling to Baltimore with a friend who was attending a conference. My friend, who uses an electric wheelchair, picked me up and we headed to the Bismarck Airport. We got there and checked in. The lady at the desk was very friendly and helpful. After discussing our short 50 min lay over in Minneapolis, my friend decided he would check his wheelchair all the way to Baltimore, where it was supposed to be brought up to us as we offloaded the plane. She reassured us that she flagged every gate along the way and put in multiple notes explaining that we would need complete assistance, an aisle chair, and help to the next gate.

We loaded the plane on time, but somehow ended up leaving Bismarck later than expected. We also had to wait in Minneapolis before landing so our 50 minute layover was reduced to 35 minutes. As everyone exited the plane, we waited and waited...and waited. Had they forgotten us? I left the plane to find the gate agent who had no clue my friend needed complete assistance in exiting the aircraft. The pilot even left the plane to tell the gate agent to call her supervisor to hold our plane. He told me he was walking down to the gate himself to let them know they needed to wait for us. Thank you, Mr. Pilot!

We finally got off the plane in Minneapolis. My friend was lifted into an aisle chair and then into a wheelchair and off we went to our next gate! The 3 men assisting us didn't speak English very well and said they had been waiting at the wrong gate. They wanted to put my friend, who is not able to transfer himself, onto the golf cart thing and transport us to the next gate. After talking amongst themselves they said in broken English, "We put you on there." We both said, "There's no way you can safely get him on there." So again, after talking amongst themselves, one said, "You get on here, we will take him on the tram." So, off we go. I was very hesitant to split up, not knowing if we would make it to our gate. I arrived first, and the gate agent knew we were coming. There was a man with an aisle chair waiting. When my friend arrived, we got onto the plane, late, frazzled, but the plane didn't leave us. I confirmed that his chair was also on the plane. We were upgraded to nice wider seats, free snacks and beverages.

When we landed in Baltimore, we waited to get off the plane. When we got off, my friend's power chair wasn't there. We were told it had been taken to baggage claim. So he was transferred from the aisle chair to a wheelchair and we were escorted to baggage claim. As I claimed our luggage, my friend found his chair.

When we arrived at the hotel, everyone was friendly. We went to check in and went up to our room. As we were unpacking, there was a knock on the door and it was the bellhop who told us they had given us the wrong room, which by the way, was an accessible room with lower beds. He took us to our new accessible room that only had 1 king-size bed. Although my friend had a "discussion" with the bellhop about this not working because there is only one bed, we had to compromise. I got to sleep on a kid's rollaway bed because the hotel was full. As I laid on the rollaway, I saw why they are meant for kids. I felt every metal coil! It sounded like I was rolling around on a plastic sheet every time I moved! I was so uncomfortable I could

hardly sleep.

The next day, I spent a majority of the day at the desk and in various different rooms. There were no double accessible rooms available and so we decided we would just take a double regular room. At least my friend could get into the bathroom, even though the door didn't shut. After spending most of my day dealing with the room situation, I set out for the aquarium. While I was there, I received a phone call from the concierge telling me we were changing rooms yet again. This room had a king-size bed, was accessible, and we also had an adjoining room. The hotel covered the cost of the extra room and took \$100 off our bill. I was thrilled!

The rest of the trip was fun and entertaining. We had scheduled the accessible cab to take us to the airport; however, the driver called stating she would be a little late as she needed to pick up school kids. We panicked a little. Supposedly, the airport sent out a cab, but it never arrived. Finally, the cab we had scheduled came and we made it to the airport.

After we loaded the plane, we were told that my friend needed to be in the window seat. The plane had 3 seats on each side. I nearly blew a gasket! How did they expect him to move to that seat? Yes, he can transfer himself in certain situations, but for this one, he would need help. I helped him to the middle seat and I sat on the other side by the window. I was told due to FAA regulations I could not sit there because no one was allowed to sit "blocked in". So I moved. Now I have flown about half a dozen times with my friend and never have we encountered this.

We made it to the next flight and home, but the story doesn't end there. Once we got back to Bismarck, we were told his power chair had been taken to baggage claim. They were nice enough to bring it up to the jet way, but rather than taking it up the elevator, they carried it up the stairs, all 275 pounds of it!

It was a trip that will never be forgotten. I hope that the hotel and airline look back on all that went wrong and turn it into a learning process.

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DCIL has a satellite office in
Dickinson, ND. They can be
Reached at: 1-701-483-4363

Summer 2016



RECREATION: Events are a great way to meet new people and make new friends. Come out and join us for a wonderful time. **For more information contact Jeannie at 222-3636.**



Check out our blog:

dakotachallenger.wordpress.com

**If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail,
please contact**

Royce at DCIL by calling (701) 222-3636