

# Far West Texas / El Paso Regional Transportation Coordination

## Successful Projects

Regionally Coordinated  
Transportation Planning Workshop

Austin – November 3, 2016

# Far West Texas / El Paso Regional Transportation Coordination

## Two Projects Derived from 2011 Regional Plan

- Highly Rural Transportation Grant
- Dialysis Transportation Study

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## Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG)

- Veterans Transit Highlighted in Plan
  - Ft. Bliss – Holloman AFB – White Sands Missile Range
  - Wounded Warriors Returning from Iraq & Afghanistan
  - Large Rural Region Distant from VA
  - High Cost of Transit for Rural Vets

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## HRTG Purpose

- No Cost Transportation for Vets to and from VA facilities & VA Paid Care

Also

- New Revenue for §5311 Provider
- Reduced VA Appointment No-shows

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## **HRTG Application Process**

- Lead Agency Consulted Stakeholders
- Identified Eligible Applicant Agency
- Suggested Program Model Based on Principle of Coordination
- Affirmed Role of Transit Agency
- Prepared Funding Proposal

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## **HRTG Implementation Process**

- Prepared Agreement between VFW Post 7207 and BBCAC/WTO
- Developed Operating Procedures and Record Keeping/Reporting System
- Facilitated Two Renewal Applications

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## **HRTG Project Cost & Outcomes**

- Lead Agency Project Grant \$13,583
- VA funding to VFW Post \$325,000
- Free Medical Transportation for VETS
- Non-FTA Revenue for Providers
- Used as Model for Program w/BBRHD



**Free Medical Transportation for Veterans  
in  
Rural West Texas**

**A Project of**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Elpidio H. Ramos Post 7207  
Alpine, Texas  
and**

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**



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## Dialysis Transportation

- Number of Trips to Clinics Growing
- Approaching 30-40% of DRT Trips on Urban Paratransit, MTP and Area Agency on Aging Systems
- Long Rural Trips Caused 2:00 AM Pick-up Times

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## **Dialysis Transportation**

- Standing Subcommittee Formed
- Identified Issues and Challenges
- Discovered We Didn't Know Enough  
about ESRD and Dialysis
- Lead Agency Applied for Supplemental  
Coordination Funds to Conduct Study

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## **Dialysis Transportation**

- TxDOT Awarded Supplemental \$68K Grant
- Lead Agency Developed List of Research Questions
- Secured Services of UTEP Center for Interdisciplinary Health Research and Evaluation

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## **Dialysis Transportation Research ?s**

- Factors Influencing Clinic Selection & Referral
- Location Relationship of Assigned Clinics to Patient Homes
- Number & Availability of Transit Providers
- Distance & Time Spent on Dialysis Trips
- Nephrologist, Clinic , Patient and Transit Provider Perspective

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## Dialysis Transit Study Approach

- Literature Review
- Interviews with: 6 Nephrologists, 6 Clinic Administrators, 6 Clinic Social Workers, 23 Transit Personnel (12 Drivers) and 27 Adult Dialysis Patients
- GIS Analysis

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## Key Dialysis Study Findings

- MDs Play Significant Role in Clinic Selection
  - Nephrologists Required to Visit Patients During Treatment
  - Nephrologists May have Financial Interest in Clinics
  - Patients Reluctant to Change Doctors

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## Key Dialysis Study Findings

- Patients Develop Relationship with Clinic Staff
- Patients Don't Initially Realize How Grueling Dialysis Treatment can be
- In Sample of 287 Patient Routes, 55.9% Bypass Two or More Clinics

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## **Key Dialysis Study Findings**

- **Transportation Plays a Role in Missed Appointments**
- **End Point of Treatment Time can be Extended, Creating Delays for Return Trips**
- **Protracted Wait Time was Most Commonly Expressed Concern**



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## **Dialysis Study Recommendations**

- **Physician and Patient Education on Transit Issues and Clinic Selection**
- **Real Time Communication Between Clinics and Dispatchers**
- **Exclusive Zoning for Transportation**
- **Increased Transportation Capacity**

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## **Dialysis Study Recommendations**

- **Creation of Highly Level Dialysis Transportation Committee to Explore Legislative Relief & Other Solutions**
  - **Relax Clinic Visit Requirements by MDs**
  - **Allow MDs Universal Clinic Privileges**
  - **Allow Exclusive Dialysis Transit**
  - **Increase Dialysis Transportation Funding**

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## **Dialysis Study Outcomes**

- Improved Clinic-Transit Communication
- Improving Transit Provider Coordination
- Improving Patient Education
- Limited Physician Education
- No Legislative Action and Failed Attempt to Form Dialysis Transportation Advocacy Committee

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