RESOLUTION 1 OF 2019

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF THE CHANGES TO THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (MATP).

WHEREAS the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 mandates that in any area where fixed-bus route service is offered, door-to-door service to the elderly, the disabled, and other people who cannot use or access the regular bus service must also be offered; and

WHEREAS, most counties in Pennsylvania are responsible for the coordination of these paratransit services, Centre County provides MATP services through the Centre County Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2018, the State Legislature, in the 11th hour of the passage of the state budget, adopted language into the Human Services fiscal code (HB 1677) directing the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide Medical Assistance Transportation (MATP) through a statewide or regional full-risk brokerage system and the measure was approved by the Governor the same day; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 390 has been introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature to delay moving the MATP to a brokerage model until a more detailed review can be undertaken; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Centre County Commissioners supports Senate Bill 390, as the Board believes that the proposed changes to MATP will seriously and detrimentally affect the most vulnerable citizens of rural communities of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a full-risk broker system was the promise of additional federal funding for DHS in the amount of $15 million statewide. However, additional analyses now demonstrate that the estimated cost to the Commonwealth will be significantly higher, resulting in a zero savings and a significant additional financial burden placed on Pennsylvania taxpayers through other funding mechanisms that are already oversubscribed, and adding additional layers to the delivery of MATP services; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has been recognized by the Transportation Research Board as the third-lowest costing state implementing MATP. Pennsylvania currently operates under a coordinated system, using Ecolane software, which demonstrates a nation model of efficiency; and

WHEREAS, MATP provides needed transportation to the most vulnerable members of our society, free of charge, to increase self-sufficiency, mobility, and access to direly needed healthcare; and
WHEREAS, Centre County Department of Transportation conducts an average of 72,272 trips a year, assisting an average of 3,592 unduplicated clients who are low-income, disabled, seniors, and children in dire need of medical care; and

WHEREAS, Centre County Department of Transportation manages the provision of MATP services through paratransit trips (door-to-door services) and mileage reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, Centre County Department of Transportation ensures that the local needs of the most vulnerable members of our community are met in a friendly, professional, and compassionate manner; and

WHEREAS, the move to a brokered MATP service would take away local management over MATP and transfer jobs and funding to agencies outside of the County where the services are being provided thereby potentially turning the funding over to large statewide or even international corporations which have little or no interest in local concerns and assisting those in need; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Centre County Board of Commissioners do hereby oppose the changes being made to the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) involving a transition to a statewide or regional full-risk brokerage system by the State Legislature and the Department of Human Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Centre County Board of Commissioners will submit this resolution to the regional legislative Representatives, State Senators, The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and the Governor’s Office, to respectfully request the administration and General Assembly to take steps to suspend the award of the RFA and consider taking action to study this issue further before initiating any changes.

APPROVED at a public meeting of the Centre County Board of Commissioners held the 28th day of May 2019.

CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael Pipe, Chair

Mark Higgins, Commissioner

Steven G. Dershem, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray, Administrator