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[Remarks delivered to the 9 January 2014 meeting of the Governor's Commission on Medicaid Care Management]

My name is Rebecca Harris. I'm the director of Transport NH, a network of organizations working to create a more balanced transportation system that better serves everyone in the state. I'm also the chair of the communications committee of the State Coordinating Council for Community Transportation.

Transportation is essential for individuals to successfully use Medicaid benefits to improve and maintain their health.

I am aware that two transportation brokers are in place to serve the three managed care organizations.

Can you tell me how many transportation providers in total these brokers have been able to assemble?

How successful have recipients been in obtaining transportation using the two brokers?

Would it be possible to see data comparing number of trips given prior to the rollout to that after the rollout over a comparable time period?

What would be helpful is a presentation by DHHS and the managed care organizations, at one of the Commission's future meetings, about their vision regarding the transportation component of Medicaid Care Management, including best practices in other states, as well as current strategies to achieve that vision. Of course, we would also appreciate the opportunity for public feedback after this presentation.

More generally, what is the DHHS strategy around transportation?

How does the department address all of the transportation needs of those who don't drive, including access to medical care, food, social services, and being able to participate in community life? Are there plans to integrate and coordinate the various transportation programs and funding within DHHS?

Maintaining rigid silos of transportation funding will hamper our ability address the silver tsunami heading our way. By 2030, almost a third of the NH population will be over 65, many of whom will be Medicaid recipients. Focusing only on medical transportation does not allow for the coordination of resources and the ongoing development of community transportation needed to prepare for this unprecedented demographic shift.