

DPW Planning to Impose MATP Co-Pays on April 1st

The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) plans to impose a \$2 co-pay on MATP riders for each one-way paratransit trip (\$4 for a round trip) beginning April 1, 2012. DPW recently issued a Draft Ops Memo and Consumer Notice regarding the MATP co-pays and sought comment from the Consumer Subcommittee of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee, county MATP programs, and other interested parties.

According to DPW, the following individuals will be **excluded** from the co-pay requirement:

- Consumers under the age of 18
- Pregnant women (this exclusion will last through their 60 day post-partum period)
- Women on Medical Assistance through the Breast & Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Program (BCCPTP)
- Consumers who live in personal care homes that do not provide transportation to their residents
- Consumers in hospice care

All other MATP consumers who use paratransit or taxi services will be subject to the \$2 co-pay per one-way trip. Those escorting a consumer to their medical appointments are not subject to the co-pay. The county MATP programs will send out a written notice to all current MATP paratransit riders at least 33 days in advance of the co-pay policy going into effect. The draft policy specifies that the county may not deny transportation to a consumer who is unable to pay the co-pay. However, the policy goes on to say that the consumer is still responsible for the co-pay and that the county can attempt to collect outstanding co-pays from the consumer.