

RECOVERY IN MOTION



The **RIDE Program** is a transportation service for persons receiving services at DMHAS' River Valley Services (RVS) in Middletown. The program has been in operation for over 3 years and is staffed by a coordinator and 6 part time drivers who are also persons in recovery. They provide transportation to a wide variety of community destinations including RVS clinical appointments, medical and dental appointments, supermarkets, banks, libraries, social centers, employment interviews and to work.

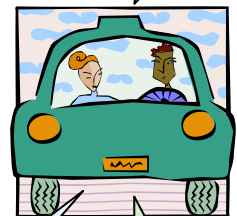
RIDE Serves Three Distinct Purposes:

1. RIDE provides transportation services for individuals who are unable to access existing transportation resources. In a 2006 survey, approximately 70% of people receiving RVS services reported that they had no way to consistently provide for their own transportation.
2. The RIDE program gives case managers more time to provide clinical and case management services to persons served. Prior to the implementation of the RIDE program, case managers who were surveyed in 2001 reported that 63% of the trips they provided for people could have been provided by some other means. In a 2006 survey, 15% of the trips provided by case managers could have been provided by some other means.
3. RIDE provides employment opportunities for persons in recovery and the drivers serve as role models for the people they transport.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- All six RIDE drivers have Public Passenger Endorsements from DMV. Drivers are state employees and are eligible for state benefits. Three drivers have elected to come off public entitlements on their road to recovery.
- Four drivers have been employed at RIDE for over two years.
- RIDE drivers logged in over 42,000 miles during FY 06.
- To date, 256 RVS clients have received transportation from the RIDE program with 63% of the 500 people served by RVS reporting in a 2006 survey that they use the RIDE program.
- RIDE has enabled access to medical and psychiatric services. In a 2001 survey, prior to the RIDE program, 41% of clients had difficulty accessing these services due to lack of transportation compared to 24% reporting the same difficulty accessing services in 2006.
- 100% of those surveyed who use the RIDE program found it useful.

"I think it is inspirational to people that other clients provide the service"
 - Case Manager



"The RIDE Program is a good way to do things and they help me out very much."
 - RIDE Patron

"Working for RIDE gave me self-confidence. I feel better about myself. I am confident in my decision-making. This job makes me feel good."
 - RIDE Driver

Number of Individuals Transported by Destination
 July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

