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Hearing Date: 2/13/2020

Today's Date: 02/18/2020

Agency: Ohio Department of Public Safety, [Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services ]

Agency Contact: Joe Kirk ( 614-466-5605, jakirk@dps.ohio.gov)

Rule Number(s): 4765-12-04, 4765-16-04, 4765-17-03, 4766-2-08, 4766-3-13, 4766-4-09

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If no comments at the hearing, please check the box. ☐

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List organizations or individuals giving or submitting testimony before, during or after the public hearing and indicate the rule number(s) in question.

1. Paula Taliaferro, on behalf of the Central Ohio Agency on Aging, submitted written testimony in support of the proposed amendments in rule 4766-3-13 of the Administrative Code.

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## Hearing Summary Report

### **Consolidated Summary of Comments Received**

Please review all comments received and complete a consolidated summary paragraph of the comments and indicate the rule number(s).

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The written testimony supports the amendments as originally filed. The testimony is attached for reference.

## Hearing Summary Report

### **Incorporated Comments into Rule(s)**

Indicate how comments received during the hearing process were incorporated into the rule(s).  
If no comments were incorporated, explain why not.

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The written testimony received from DRIVE was in support of the rule change in 4766-3-13, there fore no changes were necessary.

February 13, 2020

To: Joseph A. Kirk, [jakirk@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:jakirk@dps.ohio.gov)

From: Paula M. Taliaferro, MGS, LSW

Ohio State Coordinator for the DRIVE : Transporting Older and Disabled Passengers Training Program

Re: Testimony in Support of Proposed Rule change 4766-3-13 for the Ohio Dept. of Public Safety,  
Division of EMS, Rules for Medicaid Ambulette Driver Training and Qualifications

I represent the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging which is the entity that coordinates the DRIVE Passenger Assistance Training for the State of Ohio. We wish to support the wording change in 4766-3-13 which clarifies the fact that this training (and others which satisfy the training requirement) have always considered themselves "valid and current" for a 3 year period. In other words, a driver would have to retake the course to update his/her skills and knowledge every 3 years should he/she continue to transport passengers who fit into the "older or disabled" category. The current wording is vague and does not clarify this need to refresh skills and knowledge periodically.

The DRIVE course was originally developed in 1996 as a jointly funded effort between the Ohio Dept. of Aging and the Ohio Dept. of Transportation. It continues to be underwritten by the Ohio Dept. of Aging and is widely accepted in the State of Ohio as a passenger assistance curriculum in other systems like Medicaid Ambulette transportation, the ODDD, the VA and other places where medical and non medical transportation is provided to disabled populations. Currently there are 267 active DRIVE trainers in the state and approximately 17,000 drivers have been trained in the curriculum's 24 year history. As such, we have updated the DRIVE curriculum 18 times and significantly redesigned it twice. We consider these changes to be essential in providing drivers with the most up to date knowledge and skills so that they can provide the highest quality of transportation to consumers. The transportation industry has continued to develop new best practices; the federal and state laws have been changed & modified; and new techniques, technologies and products have been introduced. The DRIVE training will absolutely be different 3 years from now for someone who takes the course in 2020.

For this reason, we feel strongly that the rules contain clarifying language that is helpful in keeping drivers up to date in skills and knowledge in an every changing transportation industry. I have also attached an overview of the DRIVE curriculum to this email. Thank you for considering our testimony in support of this language change.

# **DRIVE: Transporting Older and Disabled Passengers<sup>1</sup>**

## **Courses offered in the State of Ohio**

### **Fact Sheet**

#### **Courses For Drivers:**

##### **DRIVE Fundamentals Course Parts A & B: Transporting Older and Disabled Passengers**

- Two four hour, hands-on segments which together comprise the 8 hour DRIVE Fundamentals Course.
- Must be taught by an active DRIVE Trainer (see below-who is listed on the active DRIVE trainer list).
- A current certificate of completion is issued by the DRIVE Trainer to the participant which is valid for 3 years.
- Content is required by ODA for transportation providers in both the Medicaid Waiver PASSPORT and OAA Title III services.
- ODOT requires all drivers from transit systems, coordination projects, and Specialized Transportation Program agencies to complete a passenger assistance training. The DRIVE Fundamentals training meets this requirement.
- Ohio Board of Emergency, Medical, Fire & Transportation Services(EMFTS) requires passenger assistance training for drivers in the Ambulette regulated programs. The DRIVE Fundamentals training fulfills this requirement.
- DRIVE Fundamentals Curriculum includes 7 topics: Driver Responsibilities, Infection & Pest Control, Understanding Impairments, Using Assistive Equipment, Assisting Passengers in Wheelchairs, Assisting Passengers to Sit or Stand, & Wheelchair Lift Operations and Wheelchair Securement.

##### **DRIVE Optional Modules: Special Situations and Populations**

- DRIVE Optional Module: Understanding Common Impairments & Diseases (Two Hours)
- DRIVE Optional Module: Making Decisions in Challenging Situations (Two Hours)
- DRIVE Optional Module: Transporting Young Passengers with Special Needs (One Hour)
- DRIVE Optional Module: Transporting Passengers with Developmental Disorders (Two Hours)
- DRIVE Optional Module: Transporting Passengers With Mental Illness (Two Hours)

#### **Course for Trainers:**

##### **DRIVE: Train-the-Trainer Course**

- Ohio Departments of Aging sponsors the DRIVE Train-the-Trainer sessions periodically. The course has limited slots each year. Because the course is subsidized by ODA, attendance is prioritized to drivers in programs it funds.
- The course is three days and held in Columbus. It teaches trainers to use the DRIVE curriculum. Trainers must participate in the full Train the Trainer Course. Trainers are then certified to train drivers in their agencies using this curriculum. They are not certified to train other trainers.
- Active DRIVE Trainers must complete an update course every 3<sup>rd</sup> year to continue use the curriculum to train drivers.
- Those on the Active DRIVE Trainers list sign a Curriculum Use Agreement & agree to comply with its terms.

For further information, contact:

Paula M. Taliaferro, Education Consultant, COAAA, 614-645-7300; [ptaliaferro@coaaa.org](mailto:ptaliaferro@coaaa.org)

<sup>1</sup> Developed by the Ohio Department of Aging, the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging and the Ohio Department of Transportation. Copyright Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (1996)