To: Laura Babcock

From: Lynne Edwards, Executive Director

Re: Transportation for SAM Program Clients

The SAM Program is an Adult Day Program with three sites serving adults and seniors with diminished abilities who live in this community.

All of the SAM Program clients are referred by Case Managers from the Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand, Brant Community Care Access Centre.

During the fiscal year 2007/2008 the average age of the SAM Program clients was 73.3 years. 54% of these SAM clients used assistive devices and 21% have identified cognitive impairments. These impairments alone limit their ability to travel independently.

This year 106 SAM clients used DARTS service. In order for this clientele to remain independent in their community they need a transportation service which is easily and simply contacted or accessed. They need a transportation service that is responsive to their limitations, facilitates their abilities and allows them to maintain as much independence as possible.

As the deliberations continue it is my hope that the needs and abilities of these clients are taken into consideration to ensure that they may remain independent and in their community. I hope that consideration is being given to simplify the current complex system so that it may be more easily accessed by the population served by the SAM Program.