

KANKAKEE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 26, 2010

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: Dorci Schoolman, Vice-Chairman, Options CIL; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Mike Butler, Good Shepherd Manor; Cheryl Lockwood, Northeast Illinois Area Agency on Aging; and, Bob Scholl, Kankakee County Board

Others Present: Gloria Richard, Donna Kelly and Eric Bermudez, Illinois Department of Employment Security; Rob Hoffmann and Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Patrick McCarthy, Illinois Central School Bus; Richard Campbell, Kankakee County Veteran's Affairs; Jim Greenstreet and Mike Lammey, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chairman Schoolman called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM, welcoming all. Ms. Schoolman asked all present to introduce themselves and identify who they represent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Ms. Schoolman asked for any Public Comment. There were no public comment forms filed.

NOMINATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ms. Schoolman announced it was time to appoint new committee members and then elect a new chair and vice-chair. The meeting was separated into four groups, government services, transportation providers, social service providers and medical service providers (which had no one present). Each sub-group present selected up to two people to serve on the committee.

Social Service Providers:	Dorci Schoolman Mike Butler
Government Agency:	Bob Scholl Richard Campbell
Transportation Providers:	Laura Dick Michelle Brutlag
Medical Service Providers:	Bonnie Schaafsma

No medical service providers were present for the meeting. Ms. Schoolman suggested that Bonnie Schaafsma, Director of the Kankakee County Health Department, be asked to continue on this Committee, since she has continuously participated with this Committee.

The people named were approved by consensus as the committee membership.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Ms. Schoolman opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Butler nominated Ms. Schoolman for the position, seconded by Mr. Scholl. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed and Ms. Schoolman was elected Chairman.

Chairman Schoolman opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Scholl nominated Mike Butler for Vice-Chairman, seconded by Ms. Dick. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed and Mr. Butler was elected Vice-Chairman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the November 17, 2009 meeting were presented for approval. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Ms. Dick and seconded by Mr. Campbell. The vote was unanimous.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PRESENTATION:

Ms. Richard began the presentation, introducing Donna Kelly and Eric Bermudez of her staff. Ms. Richard gave an overview of the services offered by IDES, Employment Services, Unemployment Services, Veteran Services and Community Outreach. She described the on-line job search Illinois Skills Match and how it is being improved and connected with Illinois Work Net.

Ms. Kelly continued the presentation with more in-depth explanations of some programs:

- WOTC – Workforce Opportunity Tax Credit (given to employers who hire certain individuals)
- Re-Entry Program for ex-felons re-entering the work force, including Bonding
- Migrant seasonal workers programs
- Apprentice programs
- Hire the Future Program for high school students

Eric Bermudez continued the presentation explaining his work specifically with veterans:

- Assist with obtaining DD-214 (Discharge Documents) to use to apply for services
- Explain veteran's preference available at many local, state and federal jobs
- Assist with obtaining medical services
- Assist with job search and placement, including the WOTC and Re-Entry

Mr. Bermudez announced and distributed handouts on the upcoming Veteran's Job Fair to be held March 5, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Armed Forces National Guard and Reserve Center located by the Greater Kankakee Airport.

Ms. Richard then explained procedures for Unemployment Services;

- Unemployment Claims
 - Regular 26 week
 - Emergency unemployment continuation
 - Extended Benefit
- Filing for benefits

In person original filing
Internet original filing
Telephone supplemental filing within one year
Adjudication: Investigating and verifying claims
Unemployment services for other states

REGION 6 RURAL HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN ISSUES:

The Region 6 HSTP committee recommends getting each County Transportation Committee authorized by their County Board. County Board Chairman Bossert is going to appoint the new Committee members as an ad hoc Committee for the County Board. Mr. Lammey announced that JARC (Job Access and Reverse Commute) and New Freedom Grant Application cycles are in progress. Application need to be filed through this committee for recommendation, then with the Region 6 Committee.

ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES:

Ms. Brutlag reported the Village of Manteno is planning to upgrade several bus stops this spring with curb cuts and ramps, and concrete pads for shelters. METRO is posting new bus stop signs. As of February 1st METRO will discontinue picking up riders wherever they flag down the bus, only picking up at designated bus stops. This will make the busses better able to stay on schedule. Manteno is going to stripe out dedicated bus stop areas, including one at the Manteno Library.

Ms. Brutlag stated the City of Kankakee is planning to create a striped out bus loading zone at the Kankakee Library. System-wide, there are 200 bus stops needing to be improved. Mr. Hoffmann stated costs can range up to \$4,500 for these improvements. \$900,000 may be needed. He stated there has been improved coordination with local governments as commercial developments are being proposed to include transit needs in the design. The new Kankakee Aldi's store was built with bus accessibility in mind, for example.

STATE BUDGET ISSUES:

Ms. Dick reported funding for her services have been steady, but she was cautioned that State payments may be further delayed in coming months. Many social service agencies have been waiting several months for reimbursements. Everyone is heavily into dollar stretching in this tight budget time.

DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

Ms. Lockwood reported Northeast Area Agency on Aging is involved with Livable Community for All Ages, a community assessment on needs for health, transportation and streets. She stated that the coming era, when 1 in 5 people are seniors, will make the effects of deficiencies become more apparent and critical. They have completed an assessment with the City of Kankakee meeting with their Department Heads, which should produce significant improvements.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS:

Ms. Dick reported she is filing a JARC application for increased service starting at 3:45 AM for employees in Kankakee to get to work in Momence for 5:00 AM shifts. The grant would be for a 22 passenger bus, a two-way radio for it and operating costs. The

capital funding is 80% federal, with the match being Toll Revenue Credits. The operating funding is a 50% grant, with 50% from Downstate Operating Assistance (DOAP) funds. The application was recommended to forward to Region 6 HSTP. Motion by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mr. Campbell. Motion passed.

Ms. Dick also announced she is applying for a different grant through other counties for a specially modified vehicle capable of transporting special needs clients in terms of size, weight and mobility. If this vehicle becomes available, it could be useful in Kankakee County via an intergovernmental agreement.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

No media present.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Chairman Schoolman then reviewed the meeting schedule planned for this Committee:

- February 22, 2010 at 10:00 AM, The Region 6 HSTP Meeting at the LifeCIL office in Pontiac.
- March 22, 2010 at 10:00 AM, The Region 6 HSTP Meeting at the LifeCIL office in Pontiac.
- April 27, 2010 – 9:30 AM @ METRO Centre, Kankakee County Transportation Committee: Mr. Patrick McCarthy of Illinois Central School Bus Presenting
- June 29, 2010 – 9:30 AM @ METRO Centre, Kankakee County Transportation Committee:
- Meeting Location – METRO Centre

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Campbell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Butler. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Schoolman at 11:20 AM.