

Kankakee County Transportation Committee Minutes

January 31, 2012

Members in attendance: Mike Butler, Chairman, Good Shepherd Manor; Roger Hess, Vice-Chairman, Kankakee County Board Member; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Cheryl Lockwood, North East Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Steve Mitchell, KCTC

Others in attendance: Richard Nolan, McLean County Regional Planning Commission and Co-coordinator Region 6 HSTP; Pat McCarthy, Illinois Central School Bus; Jeannette Tetrault, Thresholds; Dorci Schoolman, Options CIL; Bette Reed, Dan Haspell, and Ben Stortz, Cornerstone Services, Inc.; David Allen, Jr. and John Fulton, VAC; Melissa Morehouse, Harbor House; Mike Baran, River Valley Supportive Living; Mike Lammey and Lindsey Harper, Kankakee County Planning Department

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. David Allen commented about the conditions of the sidewalk from the bus stop in front of Salkeld's to the Veteran's Clinic. After a heavy snowfall, the sidewalk was not cleared. A 79 year old patron of the clinic was left outside for over an hour before nurses came to his assistance, resulting in the man missing his bus to Hines. Mr. Allen requested an alternate bus route to the clinic and provided the following two suggestions: have the bus pull in to the clinic parking lot and drop patients off at the door; or drop off patients directly in front of the clinic property, where the owner of the building has agreed to erect a bus shelter.

Mr. Baran requested that a bench be installed at the bus stop near River Valley Supportive Living and was advised to contact River Valley Metro.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the September 27, 2011 and November 29, 2011 meetings were submitted for approval. Mr. Hess made a motion to combine the approvals of both sets of minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lockwood. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY CORNERSTONE SERVICES, INC.

Mr. Stortz from Cornerstone Services, Inc. introduced himself, along with Bette Reed and Dan Haspell. Mr. Stortz gave an overview of Cornerstone Services, Inc., an organization committed to providing services to the developmentally disabled and mentally ill

communities in the following five areas: residential services, community services, employment, behavioral health, and industrial operations.

Mr. Stortz informed the group that Cornerstone Services Inc. has purchased a 22,000 ft² building at 1475 Harvard Drive in Kankakee with the intent of providing developmental training facilities primarily for residents of the Shapiro Developmental Center. Cornerstone intends to begin renovations at the facility in early March and to have the center open this summer.

Ms. Lockwood and Mr. Mitchell commented that this facility is a welcome addition to the area, as there is a growing need for such services as the State of Illinois transitions to serving fewer individuals in state facilities.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF JARC/NEW FREEDOM PROJECTS

Mr. Lammey and Ms. Dick discussed the availability of JARC and New Freedom grants, with an upcoming application submittal deadline of March 2nd, 2012. The submittal date on the packet handed out at the meeting was corrected from February 25th to the March 2nd date. Mr. Lammey pointed out that there are examples of programs that have used these grants, as well as a training session on February 8th in Springfield.

Ms. Dick stated that the JARC and New Freedom grants are available to agencies outside of transit providers and encouraged the group to apply for these federal funds, as they must be allocated to projects in order to benefit from them.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Ms. Schoolman reported that a ramp that was recently constructed between the Options facility and the new Veterans' Clinic is not up to code. Mr. Fulton advised that the sidewalk on the west side of the driveway at the Veterans' Clinic is not in good condition and difficult to navigate in a wheelchair. Mr. Allen noted that when the bus stop was added in front of Salkeld Sports, the aforementioned sidewalk was supposed to be repaired and was not.

Ms. Dick reported that state budget issues continue to be a problem. Due to late payments by the State of Illinois, agencies are being forced to cut back on transportation services. Ms. Dick reported that the delay can be up to one year, and advised agencies to try to find federal funding as much as possible.

DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Mr. Mitchell advised the group that a 2005 lawsuit has been settled, allowing individuals living in large group homes the opportunity to move to smaller group homes. The

availability of affordable housing has become an issue, along with state budget issues that are stopping agencies from expanding their small group home programs.

Ms. Lockwood reported again that state budget issues are forcing agencies to cut back programs and services. Ms. Lockwood also advised that the issues with the Circuit Breaker program have been temporarily solved, and River Valley Metro will now accept the cards through June of this year. The problem with the effective dates on the cards will become a problem again in July when new cards are issued.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

Ms. Dick reported that SHOW BUS continues to grow and receive requests for increased service. Mr. Allen requested an explanation of SHOWBUS, and Ms. Dick provided it. Mr. Lammey advised that further information is available on the county's website.

Mr. Lammey informed the group that River Valley Metro reached its 5 millionth rider this morning.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA

No media present.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lammey handed out the Transportation Brochure to inform the group of various transportation related projects that are in the works.

Ms. Dick informed the committee that Iroquois County has lost its Public Health Office, and those patrons will now be coming to Kankakee County for services.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The March 27th meeting will be rescheduled to an earlier date to accommodate the needed for recommendations from the committee for the March 19th Region 6 HSTP meeting in Pontiac, IL at 10AM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Lockwood and seconded by Ms. Dick. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45AM.