

# Kankakee County Transportation Committee

## Minutes

March 25, 2014

Members in attendance: Mike Butler, Good Shepherd Manor; Roger Hess, Kankakee County Board Member; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Cheryl Lockwood, Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Bonnie Schaafsma, Kankakee County Health Department; Steve Mitchell, Kankakee County Training Center; Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Jeannette Tetreault, Thresholds; and, Dorci Schoolman, Options CIL.

Others in attendance: Amy Carmack, Good Shepherd Manor; Kelly Derr, Riverside Health Care; Allison Diemer, VNA Healthtrends; Cheryl Chamberlain, KC-CASA; Mike Lammey, Geoff Olson and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County Planning Department.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed everyone. He then asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the September 24, 2013 meeting were submitted for approval. Ms. Brutlag made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hess. Motion carried.

### **IDOT YELLOW DOT PROGRAM**

Ms. Schaafsma introduced the IDOT Yellow Dot Program and distributed copies of materials. A short video was played from the IDOT Traffic Safety website to explain the subject. When someone is injured in an auto accident, seconds count. If EMS personnel can find the driver or passenger's medical history information quickly, it can save lives. By placing a vinyl yellow dot sticker on the driver's side of the rear window, emergency personnel are alerted to check the glove compartment for a yellow card with the driver or passenger's name and photo, with important medical history and medicines currently taken. There is space for emergency contacts and for physician's name, address and telephone number. A yellow card can be in the vehicle for everyone who frequently rides

in the vehicle. The Yellow Dots and Yellow Cards are currently available at the Health Department, the Limestone Fire Department and at Services of Will, Grundy and Kankakee Counties, Inc. Other Fire Departments are considering getting them as well.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF 5310 APPLICATION**

Mr. Lammey announced that the 5310 Application Process is currently open until May 30th. Ms. Carmack attended the 5310 Application Training conducted by Mike Healey from IDOT. Mr. Healey has instituted a website for information. Highlights of the new process include:

- Shortened application

- User friendly

- Less subjective, more quantitative, numerically qualified

- Documents need to be signed, scanned in and e-mailed

- Limited space for narratives in boxes (no room to over write)

- May be submitted with multiple e-mails to Mr. Healey and to Region 6 HSTP

- Mr. Healey will confirm receipt

- Must document policies approved by entity board

- Board Resolution annually must authorize signatory for grant documents by title  
(President, Director, not by individual name)

- Number of trips count in addition to number of miles travelled

- Census info required, IDOT looking for overlap of services, ways to improve service

Mr. Lammey explained that 5310 Federal Funding through IDOT is currently available to rural transportation providers in Kankakee County, through the Region 6 HSTP Plan for the rural area. Applicants must be participants in the Region 6 HSTP Plan program, for which participation with this Committee fulfills that requirement.

Entities inside the Urbanized Area cannot apply through the rural program, however, River Valley METRO is currently in the process of preparing an Urban HSTP plan. Entities in the Urbanized Area should be able to apply for 5310 Funds next year through the Urban HSTP Plan.

## **AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES**

### **Accessibility Issues:**

Ms. Schoolman reported that she had responded to METRO's survey and had an in-person interview as they prepare the Urban HSTP Plan. Options had received many

complaints about the snow blocking access to the bus stops, but with all the snow we had this winter, getting it clear was an impossible task.

Mr. Butler announced that they are installing a lift at one of their buildings that should be completed by the end of April.

Ms. Brutlag reported that METRO is still working on improving bus stops. They have one and a half routes to review. Some will need a landing pad for access, some will need to be moved a half a block to have better sites. As usual, State funding was approved to make the improvements, but no contract was yet been signed to allow the funding to be spent.

Ms. Schoolman stated that Mr. Koning has been doing a good job planning the improvements, having made a thick book of photos and drawings of plans for the improvements.

### **State Budget Issues:**

Ms. Dick reported that there are bills pending that may adversely affect the funding sources. She is currently mailing out contracts based on the current year funding, but that could change quickly. She reported that 3 buses from grants approved as far back as 2011 are supposed to be delivered in April. These are greatly needed to replace aging buses.

## **DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

### **Medical Service Providers:**

Ms. Schaafsma reported that the Health Department is in its final week of signing up people under the Affordable Care Act and dealing with signing up adults into Medicaid. She stated that there are some Medicaid clients that can have eligibility back-dated to January 1<sup>st</sup>, but the private insurers who sign up client this month will not provide coverage until May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Health Department has registered 4500 clients through the ACA program and have switched many into Medicaid. Mr. Hess asked if there were any doctors that have turned away clients that were on Medicaid. Ms. Schaafsma stated that it is expected, but she had no reports of it happening yet. She stated that their program combating the infant mortality rate has seen successes. The pregnant women are signed up to Medicaid and have had a presumptive eligibility in the past. With the new system, that presumptive eligibility may not exist as their applications are processed with all the other applications. The State is months behind in processing those application. It is reasonable for doctors to want to get paid by Medicaid in a timely manner and not have to wait for the Medicaid payments. The Health Department also trains their clients to properly use their health insurance, to be responsible patients, including not missing appointments.

### **Government Agency Reports:**

Mr. Hess advised there was nothing new to report other than the County's budget crises that has been in the news.

Ms. Lockwood announced the 2014 Legislative Forum will be next Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, at the Kankakee Public Library 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room. She will e-mail a flyer to Mr. Greenstreet to forward to the Committee e-mail list. There are three topic areas to be addressed by the legislators:

1. Funding
2. Pension Reform Affects on Human Services
3. Changes in the abuse reporting structure

Ms. Lockwood stated that abuse of disabled persons will be reported through Catholic Charities. The Ombudsman program is being expanded to cover home health care services, but was funded at one-third the level that was requested from Federal Funds, and no State funds have been approved.

Ms. Lockwood stated that the MMAI project is dealing with dual eligible Medicare and Medicaid clients to enroll them into Managed Care programs with one of 6 available providers. They may enroll or opt out, keeping the plan they have. There is voluntary enrollment (or opt out) until July. July 1<sup>st</sup>, everyone not enrolled (or opted out) will be automatically enrolled and notified. They may still opt out if they so choose. The Ombudsman will be available to the clients to help them understand the process, and there will be an appeal process. One positive note on the managed care program is nursing homes have reported faster payments than before.

Ms. Diemer reported that the home healthcare program is paying less for home therapy visits than Medicaid had paid, \$57 versus \$62. The therapist is paid \$70, so the loss is greater to the provider of the service. Clients are being limited to 2 therapy visits, no matter what their needs are, even after surgery like hip replacement. Requests for additional sessions seem to be ignored. Ms. Lockwood stated that the Ombudsman program should be utilized to advocate for the client.

Mr. Mitchell stated that with the integrated care pilot program, mental services are limited by for-profit insurance companies. Ms. Lockwood stated she was told that 85% of the funding goes to patient care services and 15% goes to the administration, including only about 1 to 2 % for the insurance company to profit. Ms. Diemer stated that they have to have at least 2 diagnostic codes on a bill for it to be considered for payment. Ms. Lockwood stated that there is no consistent billing for clients. Ms. Derr stated that one problem they had had at Riverside facilities is when patients come to their facility with insurance that Riverside is not in their network. Some patients simply do not understand the difference.

### **Social Service Providers:**

Ms. Schoolman stated that Options will be hosting a training event on Empowerment on April 11<sup>th</sup> at which those needing CE Units may want to attend. She will forward a flyer to Mr. Greenstreet to forward to the Committee e-mail list. Also, Options CIL will be celebrating 25 years of service at its annual meeting in August.

Mr. Mitchell stated that his facility is currently about 80% funded by Department of Human Services funding. He has been told to expect a 15% cut in that funding. He will be going to Springfield on March 26<sup>th</sup> to hear the official announcement on that funding.

Ms. Tetreault reported that Thresholds and KCC are co-hosting a Mental Health First Aid training class at KCC on May 8<sup>th</sup>. There will also be CE Credits awarded for this program. There is a limit of 30 people for this class, but they will put the class on again in the near future. She will forward the information to Mr. Greenstreet to forward to the Committee e-mail list.

Ms. Tetreault stated that as the Mental Health area is being squeezed, Thresholds is in growth mode. They are expanding in their present building and looking for another facility, adding a Drop In Center. They are involved in helping patients graduate out of nursing homes or diverting them away from nursing homes when they are being released from hospital care. They will establish a Temporary Living Center and are increasing their Outreach Care. They do a lot of home visits and will be needing another vehicle by next year. They are working closely with Riverside Medical Center, the Helen Wheeler Center and the Resolve Center. They will soon be hiring three qualified workers, such as Licensed Clinical Social Workers. Ms. Schaafsma stated that the Community Health Committee helped make the expansion of the Threshold programs a reality.

Chairman Butler thanked everyone for their support to this committee and the process, helping Good Shepherd Manor to get buses it needed.

### **PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS**

#### **SHOW BUS – Rural Transportation Update**

Ms. Dick stated she has been told three buses are coming May 15<sup>th</sup>. With the rural system, there continues to be a push for coordination and collaboration. Rural transit emphasizes seniors, low income and disabled client needs. There has been NO coordination with the six insurance company providers in the integrated care plans for billing transportation services.

Ms. Brutlag stated that METRO had a slimmer January ridership, but had more free ride days due to the sub-zero weather that they had paid fare days. The Midway Airport route had nearly 400 riders in February, paying \$2.00 each way. The Momence route ridership is improving. They are selling more \$40.00 monthly passes for the Midway Airport

route, University Park Route, the Momence Route and ADA service. They do have a taxi cab under contract north of I-80 in case of a bus break-down, and had to use it once. They had the taxis come to Kankakee County to run routes when the buses had no heat in zero wind chill weather.

#### **QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA**

No media present.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

#### **MEETING SCHEDULE**

April 2-3, 2014 - **RTAC Conference** ó Springfield

May 6, 2014 at 9:30 AM **County Transportation Committee** at METRO Centre

May 19, 2014 at 10:00 AM **Region 6 HSTP meeting** at the historic Courthouse in Pontiac, IL

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Brutlag and seconded by Ms. Lockwood. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 AM.