

tele-health services. The VA is increasing in-home services, as well. The Bourbonnais VA Clinic will not be a “super clinic”, but there are ongoing discussions of making one in Joliet.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS:

- a. SHOW BUS: Ms. Dick reported that the Kankakee County project under the JARC Grant should start with-in a month. The State contract has been signed. This will provide bus transportation from Kankakee to Momence leaving at 4:00 AM to arrive at 4:45 AM in Momence. Ms. Dick reported Iroquois County SHOW BUS will be operating 5 days a week from Iroquois County to Kankakee trips. They will not be early enough to get to the Manteno Veteran’s Clinic in time to catch the 7:30 AM bus to Hines, however, they will be able to bring people to the Bourbonnais VA Clinic when it becomes operational.
Mr. Lammey reported that the County’s IDOT grant application for rural transit will go to the County Board for approval in April.
- b. RIVER VALLEY METRO: No attendee.
 - Citizen’s Advisory Committee: Mr. Greenstreet reported attending the first Citizen’s Advisory Committee meeting as a guest, not a member. The meeting was an introduction and history of the River Valley METRO Mass Transit.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

No media present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Dick announced that for small urban areas, the JARC (Job Access and Reverse Commute) and New Freedom grant application process is open for not-for-profit entities. Mr. Nolan explained some of the discussions held concerning qualifications for the grants in recent training meetings and passed out some grant application information. He said IDOT is concerned that vehicles obtained through grants are being under-utilized and there should be steps taken to prevent that in the future, such as vehicle sharing. There will probably be stricter qualification scoring of applications for consolidated vehicle purchase (CVP) in the future. He stated the state has indicated they will purchase and award 150 – 175 vehicles in the next round. They had 275 applicants last time. Ms. Dick stated that IDOT should make all potential applicants aware of the qualifications they will be scoring well in advance of opening the grant applications.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Region 6 HSTP Meeting – April 11, 2011 @ 10:00 AM – LifeCIL in Pontiac, IL
County Transportation Committee – May 31, 2011 @ 9:30 AM – METRO CENTRE
Region 6 HSTP Meeting – June 13, 2011 @ 10:00 AM – LifeCIL in Pontiac, IL
County Transportation Committee – July 26, 2011 @ 9:30 AM – METRO CENTRE

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Hess. Motion carried. Chairman Schoolman adjourned the meeting at 10:45AM.

Mr. Hack reported there is state legislation pending to create a “stretcher van” category of approved transportation, which may help getting approval for more patient transports at a cost considerably lower than an ambulance trip.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES:

- a. Accessibility Issues: Chairman Schoolman reported that accessibility issues remain. Chairman Schoolman stated that METRO has plans to make improvements on accessibility at several bus stops. Ms. Lockwood advised the City of Kankakee intends to upgrade 3 bus stops when the weather improves.
Mr. Campbell asked if there is a bus stop where the new Veteran’s Clinic will be located (851 William Latham, Sr. Drive in Bourbonnais) or if one can be located there. It was suggested that the parking lot was large enough that the bus could pull into it, although some form of agreement between the VA, the property owner and River Valley METRO may be required for that to occur. Mr. Lammey was asked to send a letter to River Valley METRO requesting transit service at that location when it opens about October 1st.
- b. State Budget Issues: Ms. Dick reported the State is still behind in making payments. Some federal funding seems to be paid sooner than state funded programs. Budget cuts are affecting everyone, and mental health cuts seem to be the deepest.

DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

- a. Social Service provider comments: Chairman Schoolman reported that the various Center for Independent Living (CIL) offices in the state began pushing for transportation coordination activity by the different offices. She suggested the CIL’s participate in the urban and regional HSTP programs, instead of duplicating the same work. The state is now taking her advice and sending CIL personnel (including Chairman Schoolman) to the Rural Transit Assistance Center (RTAC) Spring Conference in April.
- b. Medical Service provider comments: no attendee.
- c. Government Agency comments: Mr. Campbell reported that the VA has provided a van service from the Manteno Veteran’s Clinic to Hines VA Hospital on weekdays. They do not allow any additional rider with the veteran. They are retrofitting a wheelchair lift into the vehicle in the near future. The van leaves the Manteno VA Clinic at 7:30 AM and leaves Hines to return at 1:30 PM. At Hines, they are scheduling appointments for these patients so they can be ready for the return trip. Mr. Campbell thanked SHOW BUS for assistance in providing transportation for a veteran from the east side of Momence near the state line into town for treatment.
- d. Ms. Lockwood reported that at a recent senior legislative forum her agency hosted, Sharon Helman from the Veteran’s Administration participated and explained what will be available at the new Bourbonnais facility. The event was attended by over 100 people, with 35 – 40% being veterans. Services will include major testing services, case workers for coordinating services, mental health services, pharmacy services and more. Some services are provided via

KANKAKEE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 29, 2011

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: Dorci Schoolman, Chairman, Options CIL; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Richard Campbell, Kankakee County Veteran's Assistance Commission; and Roger Hess, Kankakee County Board Member.

Others Present: Cheryl Lockwood, Northeast Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Richard Nolan, McLean County Regional Planning Commission; Steve Mitchell, Kankakee County Training Center for the Disabled, Inc.; William Bibbs and Rex DelaCruz, Blessed Hope Transportation; Pat McCarthy, Illinois Central School Bus; Becky Rzegocki, Harbor House; Kevin Hack, Director of Emergency Services, Riverside Health Care; Mike Lammey, Jim Greenstreet and Lindsey Harper, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Schoolman called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Everyone around the room introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

There were no public comment forms filed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the January 25, 2011 meeting were submitted for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Hess and seconded by Mr. Campbell. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION FROM RIVERSIDE HEALTH CARE:

Mr. Kevin Hack, Director of Emergency Services, gave a presentation on transportation as it pertains to the Riverside facilities. Riverside began its ambulance service in the 1980's, transporting patients for a wide spectrum of needs. In the late 1990's to early 2000 years, Medicare and insurance qualifications and allowances to pay for ambulance trips changed to reflect funding cuts in those areas, and made ambulance trips not allowed. The hospital sees difficulty in patients coming to the hospital via ambulance and not having a way to get home, as the return trip is not covered by Medicare or insurance.

Riverside currently provides about 10,000 trips per year in the emergent and non-emergent categories. Riverside does provide some non-emergent transportation, largely for their related facilities, Miller Rehabilitation, and Butterfield Court Senior Living Center. Riverside has opened a new facility for specialized testing and treatment in Watseka and will be transporting people from Watseka to the Bourbonnais Riverside facility for certain cancer treatments.