

Kankakee County Transportation Committee

Minutes

May 5, 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; Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Jeannette Tetreault, Thresholds; Michael Roof, Kankakee County Veteran's Assistance Commission; and, Dorci Schoolman, Options CIL.

Others in attendance: Amy Carmack, Good Shepherd Manor; Rick Nolan, Co-coordinator, Region 6 HSTP; 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 March 25, 2014 meeting were submitted for approval. Mr. Hess made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schoolman. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES EXPANSION

Ms. Tetreault gave a presentation on the Expansion of Mental Health Services pilot project. Her organization, Thresholds, is partnered with Riverside Health Care and the Helen Wheeler Center in this project. The State of Illinois was sued for over use of nursing homes for persons with mental health disabilities, leaving patients essentially stranded in nursing homes for years after they could have been transitioned back into society under out-patient type care. Nursing home costs are much higher than other feasible residential and out-patient treatment options. The settlement of the lawsuit requires the IL Department of Mental Health to provide opportunities for individuals to move out of nursing homes or Institutes for Mental Disease (IMDs). This program will help identify those patients who no longer need to be housed in nursing homes or IMDs

and help them transition to other appropriate housing, while making available to them out-patient mental health services up to and including psychiatric appointments.

Legislation changed in defining IMDs and created a new business model called Special Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility (SMHRF) that IMDs can reorganize as to be part of the transition process. The Helen Wheeler Center will be performing Crisis Assessment and Discharge Linkage Services to help in client placement into the correct level of care facility, which may divert some away from the more costly hospitalization or nursing home in favor of a better treatment program for the client. The Helen Wheeler Center is also putting additional psychiatrist hours into their program.

Riverside Health Care is creating a Crisis Voluntary Residential Center for mental health patients who may need 5 to 6 days of residential structured assistance prior to returning home or finding new housing. This will be in the 200 block of South Washington Avenue in Kankakee.

Thresholds is creating a new facility, a Transitional Living Center (TLC) to have 10 beds and to provide residential living for up to 90 days. The site has not yet been determined.

A question was asked about local psychiatrists participation in this program. Ms. Tetreault stated that they are working on that issue as there is a greater need for more outpatient care. Mr. Lammey stated that there needs to be more psychiatrists available in Kankakee County. He stated that he has heard of clients being driven to Iroquois County to see psychiatrists who live in Kankakee County.

(See copy of presentation slides attached to these Minutes.)

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Mr. Lammey presented Mr. Michael Roof, Director of the Kankakee County Veteran's Assistance Commission, and recommended him for membership on the Committee. He has attended meetings in the past, as did his predecessor. Mr. Roof spoke to the Committee, expressing his desire to be a more active participant with the Committee. Ms. Tetreault nominated Mr. Roof for membership on the Committee, seconded by Mr. Hess. Mr. Roof was elected.

PRESENTATION OF 5310 APPLICATIONS

Mr. Lammey explained that on prior grant applications, it was required to have this Committee endorse (or not) and pass on grant applications to the Region 6 HSTP Committee. On the current grant application, this is not clearly required, but will be done anyway to make sure the intent and need is covered.

Ms. Carmack of Good Shepherd Manor stated she is preparing a grant submittal that is currently in flux as their needs are changing. They may request 2 light duty paratransit vehicles or 1 paratransit and 1 medium duty vehicle. They have an older paratransit vehicle that is getting expensive to repair and now the brakes are out. They provide over 100,000 one-way trips per year, plus have a contract with Show Bus for other regular schedule client trips. As their residents are aging, they need more ramp and wheel chair lift capable vehicles for safe transportation.

A motion to endorse the application was made by Mr. Hess and seconded by Ms. Schoolman. Motion carried.

Mr. Lammey then asked Ms. Dick to report on the Kankakee County 5310 Grant Application, which she processes for Show Bus. Ms. Dick stated that Kankakee County is applying for 1 super medium duty bus under 5310 as a replacement vehicle. Also, under a new funding source, 5339, the County is applying for 1 super medium duty bus as a replacement vehicle. This month, the County is supposed to receive 3 super medium duty vehicles from prior grants. Later this year, the County is expecting to receive 5 medium duty vehicles from prior year grants. Mr. Lammey explained that of the vehicles Kankakee County owns and operates, some are constantly out of service for repairs and are operating beyond their useful life. The replacement vehicles and expansion vehicles promised are long overdue.

A motion to endorse the application was made by Ms. Schaafsma and seconded by Ms. Schoolman. Motion carried.

Mr. Nolan reported that there is a public hearing requirement that will be met at the next Region 6 HSTP Meeting in Pontiac, IL on May 19, 2014 at 10:00 AM. Region 6 HSTP will publish announcements for the hearing in the Region 6 counties as required. These applications will need to be presented at that hearing. The deadline for filing the applications is May 30, 2014.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Accessibility Issues:

Ms. Schoolman reported the State Independent Living Council (SILC) has initiated a project to coordinate ADA paratransit certified eligibility ID card from a person's resident county to be accepted State-wide, as a Universal Paratransit ID Card. Ms. Brutlag pointed out that there are two different reasons for a person to be certified for paratransit, one being the client's physical needs and the other being environmental site needs. The second group would not necessarily qualify for the service in a large city such as Chicago. Ms. Dick pointed out that rural providers do not certify riders for ADA, but just serve them according to their needs. Ms. Schoolman will forward these issues to SILC.

State Budget Issues:

Ms. Dick reported that Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Funding has been reduced. She is waiting to find out if it can be funded with other reserve funds.

DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Medical Service Providers:

Mr. Butler reported the new lift at the Manor has been tested and should be ready for full use by next week.

Ms. Schaafsma stated they are having the same budget problems as everyone else. The first case of MERS in the US passed through Illinois at O'Hare Field, then by bus to Munster, IN. The bus continued on to Indianapolis. It isn't known yet if the contagion has been spread to any Illinois or Indiana residents. The Health Department is still signing up people under the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid, as people become newly eligible. They are still educating clients on how to use ACA utilizing existing staff, as both contract employees for ACA have left for permanent positions elsewhere.

Government Agency Reports:

Mr. Hess reported the County's budget issue is getting worse. The County needs more funding for transit. They will not receive \$800,000 expected funds from building permits for the K-4 Wind Farm this year. This is in addition to the \$3.5 million shortfall previously announced. The County does not want to cut services, so they need to find funding somewhere.

Ms. Schaafsma reported that the rise in heroin use in Kankakee County is a major problem. There was a community meeting this past week to address the issue. Coroner Robert Gessner is willing to address any organization on this topic.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

SHOW BUS – Rural Transportation Update

Ms. Brutlag reported the METRO service route to Midway Airport is doing well, with 1100 rides in the first three months. They are going to pave a new parking area on the north side of the Manteno Transfer Station for Midway service users. METRO has expanded ADA service to reach out to the entire Urbanized Area, not limiting it to a narrow corridor along the fixed routes. METRO intends to expand demand response service to the entire Urbanized Area in the future, picking people up and delivering them to the nearest fixed route bus stop. They could then schedule their pick up from the fixed route bus stop to take them home. METRO has an Outreach Coordinator, Ali Cowen, who will be available to perform Train-the-Trainer training for people at nursing homes, hospitals, doctors offices and other places to teach care givers how to help their clients

access public transit. She will also be available to give one-on-one training to those who need it.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA

No media present.

NEW BUSINESS

None

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

July 29, 2014 at 9:30 AM **County Transportation Committee** at METRO Centre

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Brutlag and seconded by Ms. Lockwood. Motion carried. Chairman Butler adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.

Mental Health Services Expansion

Williams Consent Decree

- State of Illinois was sued a few years ago for over use of nursing facilities for persons with mental health disabilities – suit was settled and named the Williams Consent Decree
- Settlement required DMH (Dept. of Mental Health) to provide opportunities for individuals to move out of nursing homes or IMDs (Institutes for Mental Disease)
- The settlement also required changes in the way IMDs operate, and legislation was passed with new standards of operation. IMDs have the opportunity to stay in business under this new provision – called a Special Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility - SMHRF

Community-based services

- Community mental health agencies urged the State to provide an opportunity to divert individuals from nursing home admission rather than just focus on helping people move out after they were admitted
- The State agreed, and decided to fund SMHRF Comparable, Community-based services. Grants opportunities were announced last fall.

Kankakee's response to SMHRF Comparable Services

- Three mental health providers in our county, The Helen Wheeler Center for Community Mental Health, Riverside Healthcare, and Thresholds developed a collaboration to apply for the grants under the new SMHRF Comparable program. Our proposals were funded.

Helen Wheeler Center's Services

- The Helen Wheeler Center will be providing Crisis Assessment and Discharge Linkage Services.
- The Assessment is for an initial screening to determine the appropriate level of care and to make referrals to a provider for that level. Most assessments will be done in the emergency room
- Discharge Linkage is for follow-up care services when someone is discharged from the hospital. It will include an appointment with a psychiatrist and other clinic services

Riverside's Services

- Riverside will provide Crisis Residential – short term, 5 or 6 days stay in a community setting. Nursing, psychiatry, and counseling services will be provided on site.
- Goal is to provide stabilization services to help prevent things from getting worse, or as a step down from the hospital to allow more time to get better
- Referrals will be made for follow-up care when someone leaves the Crisis Residential Center

Thresholds' Services

- Thresholds will provide Outreach and a Transitional Living Center
- Outreach is for individuals who need help engaging with mental health services. It is a transition service to help get people connected to mental health providers as well as to find housing
- The TLC will be a 10 bed facility, for a 90 day stay or less. This is for individuals who have nowhere to stay but do not need to be in a nursing home. We will help people find apartments or other appropriate housing and refer to ongoing services as needed

The big picture

- Provide the right level of care for the individual at the time when they need it
- Far more comprehensive system of care than we have now. We can provide quicker, more appropriate levels of care that will better preserve and promote independence and recovery
- Less expensive for tax payers to help individuals live as independently as possible as opposed to relying on costly nursing home care for individuals who do not need to be in a nursing home.