

COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 26, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dorci Schoolman, Options CIL; Richard Campbell, Kankakee County Veteran's Assistance Commission; Bonnie Schaafsma, Kankakee County Health Department; Rob Hoffmann and Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Patrick McCarthy, Illinois Central School Bus; Gloria Richard, Illinois Department of Employment Security; Cheryl Lockwood, NE Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Mike Butler and Amy Carmack, Good Shepherd Manor; Mike Lammey, Melissa Rosenow and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Lammey called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM, welcoming all.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Mr. Lammey then asked for any Public Comment. There were no public comment forms filed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the March 31, 2009 meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Dick made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Mr. Butler. Motion carried.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:

Mr. Butler introduced Ms. Amy Carmack, Public Relations Director for Good Shepherd Manor, to present on their organization. Ms. Carmack distributed two brochures on Good Shepherd Manor. Ms. Carmack showed a power point presentation on Good Shepherd Manor. Ms. Carmack reported the facility operates constantly at a full capacity of 126 gentlemen clients, with a staff of 160 people. They have residential group home facilities for their clients and have a need for back-up generators for several of the residential homes. They have created an infirmary for clients to have medical exams and treatment on site, except for dental. Doctors come to see their patients on site, reducing the need to transport residents to doctors' offices. Many clients perform work for pay on site or at businesses in town. Many clients have made Good Shepherd Manor their home since it opened in 1971.

Ms. Carmack invited all to come to the facility for a tour, and to attend their fund raising events such as upcoming golf outings or their September Fall Festival.

Mr. Lammey then opened discussion on Veterans' transportation issues. He stated that County Board Chairman Mike Bossert will attend the Veteran's Assistance Commission

meeting this evening to discuss the problem and seek a resolution to it. Mr. Campbell explained that there is no expectation of any change in the position of the Manteno Veteran's Home to not allow non-VA Home residents to ride their near-empty bus to Hines in Maywood.

Rural Human Services Transportation Plan Issues were presented by Mr. Lammey. The reorganization at the Region 6 HSTP is progressing well, with an IDOT contract expected to be signed soon with McLean County to provide staffing for Region 6. McLean County will then create a website for the Region 6 HSTP. County Committees have now been created in all six counties in Region 6. Ms. Dick stated the recent organizational meeting in Iroquois County went well.

Accessibility Issues:

Vice-Chairman Schoolman opened this topic, reporting Options CIL has invited three local legislators to take to wheelchairs for a day in July to visit sites in the community. Representative Lisa Dugan has accepted the invitation. The purpose is to enlighten the legislators of accessibility issues in structures and transportation. Options does free site surveys for accessibility. Options receives complaints about sites and recommends corrections for compliance with state law. After 4 attempts to rectify the problem with the property owner, they can refer the violator to the Illinois Attorney General's Office for prosecution.

Mr. Hoffmann reported the Village of Bradley is agreeing with River Valley METRO to have commercial and residential development applications reviewed for bus accessibility issues prior to issuing a building permit. He further that METRO will be hiring a staff person to provide maintenance for bus shelters and benches, and that METRO has \$100,000 budgeted annually for improving bus shelters and access points at bus stops, including curb cuts, sidewalks and pads. Mr. Hoffmann stated that beginning July 1st, another bus route will be added in Bourbonnais that will be able to drop off and pick up in front of Options CIL, instead of across the street at a less accessible site.

Other Issues: Ms. Dick reported the 5310 Applications are out and due to be filed by June 30th. The 5310 program is special funding for busses for seniors and disabled. Springfield applied for and was awarded \$250,000 in New Freedom Funds to work on improvements needed at bus stop sites, including shelters, sidewalk, curb cuts, etc.

DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

Mr. Butler stated that he is meeting today with Ms. Dick from SHOW BUS about the possibility of contracting some of the transportation service needs for Good Shepherd Manor.

Ms. Schaafsma stated that following the recent and on-going H1N1 health issues, there may be a need for closer co-ordination with METRO in any event needing dispersion of medicines to the public.

Ms. Lockwood addressed the current State budget problems, with present predictions of cuts in funding as high as 37%. People are proposing an increase in the State income tax in order to balance the budget without cutting essential services for the needy.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS:

Ms. Dick reported on SHOW BUS and rural transit service in Kankakee County. There has been an increase in usage and with new contracts for specific locations for service.

Mr. Hoffmann reported on River Valley METRO Mass Transit District. Ridership is up 22% over the previous year. Federal and State money scheduled to come to METRO has not been released. The free Summer Pass program for 3rd grade through 12th grade are in use, but must be accompanied by an adult to go to University Park. METRO is promoting information on missing or endangered children on the front sign, and will do so in busses in the near future. They will also place not-for-profit announcements on the signs. METRO also has video conferencing links to military bases in IRAQ and Kuwait for families to make contact with service men and women in those regions. This is a free 30 minute call. It was suggested to get this information into the newspaper, in the Military News section.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

No media present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Richard reported that there will soon be 126 American service men and women returning to the Kankakee area, needing jobs. Anyone with job information should contact her, so she and her staff can co-ordinate this effort.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

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

- June 29, 2009- 10:00 AM Region 6 HSTP @ LifeCIL, Pontiac, IL
- July 28, 2009 – 9:30 AM @ METRO Centre, Kankakee County Transportation Committee: Ms. Schaafsma presenting on the Kankakee County Health Department
- September 29, 2009 – 9:30 AM @ METRO Centre, Kankakee County Transportation Committee: Ms. Lockwood presenting on NE Illinois Area Agency on Aging.
- General Meeting Schedule – Last Tuesday of every other month at 9:30 A.M.
 - July, September, November of 2009
- Meeting Location – METRO Centre

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chairman Schoolman announced the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 AM.