

Kankakee County Transportation Committee Minutes

May 29, 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, Kankakee County Training Center for the Disabled.

Others in attendance: Richard Nolan, McLean County Regional Planning Commission and Co-coordinator Region 6 HSTP; Pat McCarthy, Illinois Central School Bus; Dorci Schoolman, Options CIL; Michael Roof, John M. Fulton and Karen Smietanski, VAC; Amy Carmack, Good Shepherd Manor; Rob Hoffmann, River Valley METRO MTD; Phillip Walton, Jr., Hines VA Hospital; Mike Lammey, Ashley Skimerhorn and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County Planning Department

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM, and welcomed everyone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the March 16, 2012 meeting were submitted for approval. Mr. Hess made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dick. Motion carried.

VETERANS TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Mr. Lammey introduced the new Kankakee County Veterans Assistance Commission Superintendent, Michael Roof.

A Good Shepherd Manor video titled "A Day in the Life of J.J." was shown, in which resident J.J. expresses his feelings and displays his routine day. He is shown riding SHOW BUS to the Manteno Veteran's Home where he volunteers, and back at Good Shepherd Manor, singing, playing dominoes, having dinner, helping with the dishes and even vacuuming the carpet. This video can be viewed on You Tube.

Mr. Phillip Walton, Jr., Supervisory Program Specialist, VTS Mobility Manager, with the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, gave a presentation on current and planned expansion of transportation assistance for veterans in this area. The goal for the Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) is: "To overcome the transportation barriers that stand

between our nation's Veterans, proper health care and an improved quality of life." He stated the van transportation they are now providing from the Clinic in Bourbonnais to Hines is at capacity, so they are looking at adding another vehicle to the route. They are currently providing door-to-door shuttle service for veterans with-in a 15 to 20 mile radius of Hines, but plan to expand that service. Hines has contracted services 24 hours a day with 2 medicar companies and an ambulance service.

They are working on a program to recruit volunteer drivers for their Disabled American Veteran transportation program, to operate Monday through Friday from 6:30 AM to 1:00 PM to start, expanding hours later. The volunteers would drive for a 4 hour shift. Improvements have been made in scheduling multiple appointments in one day for the veterans, to minimize the number of trips required.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Ms. Dick stated they are presently in a holding pattern waiting for the State to determine the budget and to decide on the grant applications that have been filed.

DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Mr. Mitchell stated they are holding up at KCTC with the current economic reality. Chairman Butler agreed with this for Good Shepherd Manor. Ms. Carmack stated she has received several telephone inquiries for clarification and additional information on their grant application, so at least we know they are working on the grants.

Ms. Lockwood announced the Illinois Cares Rx Program was voted out by the legislature, pending signing by the Governor. The program is expected to end July 1st. It will be a nightmare to implement alternative programs for those left without the benefits of the Illinois Cares Rx Program, especially with so little time.

Mr. Hoffmann stated the Circuit Breaker Program will have its problems, since it is an annual program, however his System is using an ID card valid for 2 years, instead of 1 year, to reduce costs. One problem is people do not understand the program, and give their mailed authorization card to ineligible relatives (kids, grandchildren) to use. That does not work. The authorized user must show valid ID. The disabled system works more smoothly.

Mr. Hess stated the County Board has authorized the County Board Chairman to sign the grant documents when they are awarded.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

Mr. Hoffmann stated METRO is expecting to have over 900,000 riders for the year, at a rate of over 70,000 riders per month. Bids will be received and let for the Manteno Transfer Center soon. It will be located on Mains Street at West First Street. He stated METRO is preparing to add two new routes to their system. They will be installing a new bus shelter at K-Mart, with K-Mart now allowing their busses to drive onto their property.

Ms. Dick presented there has been a new pattern of calls for people to travel to medical appointments further away. This may be a result of the managed care roll-out with physicians opting out of the program.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA

No media present.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lammey announced the need for all present Committee members to complete the Open Meetings Act training and to provide us with a copy of the Certificate of Completion. Also, election to the Committee and election of officers will take place at our next meeting, July 31, 2012.

MEETING SCHEDULE

June 18, 2012 Region 6 HSTP meeting in Pontiac, IL at 10 AM.

July 31, 2012 County Transportation Committee at METRO Centre at 9:30 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hess and seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 AM.