

KANKAKEE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 7, 2010

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: Dorci Schoolman, Chairman, Options CIL; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District, and Richard Campbell, Kankakee County Veteran's Affairs.

Others Present: Cheryl Lockwood, Northeast Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Rob Hoffmann, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Jennifer Sicks and Richard Nolan, McLean County Regional Planning Commission; Pat McCarthy, Illinois Central School Bus Company; Jeanette Tetreault, Thresholds; Jim Greenstreet and Mike Lammey, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Lammey called the meeting to order with no quorum present at 9:38 AM, welcoming all, and asking all present to introduce themselves and identify who they represent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

There were no public comment forms filed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Tabled for arrival of quorum.

HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (HSTP) ISSUES:

- a. Report on Region 6 Rural HSTP – Ms. Sicks made a presentation on the Region 6 Rural HSTP. The HSTP system was mandated by the SAFETEA-LU Federal Transportation Bill. For entities to access certain federal funding sources, they must participate in the HSTP planning process and file their applications through the HSTP. The rural regional HSTP organizations process applications for the parts of the state that are not in an urbanized metropolitan area that has an MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization. Region 6 established smaller County Transportation Committees in order to accommodate social service agencies, medical transportation providers and local governments in localizing their meetings, with delegates to the Region 6 Committee meetings. The urbanized areas will need to have their own Urban HSTP to be able to apply for these funds: section 5310 (to benefit seniors and people with disabilities); JARC – Job Access Reverse Commute; and, New Freedom – services beyond ADA requirements.
- b. Ms. Sicks continued to report on the program of Urban HSTP for Bloomington-Normal. They already had in place a Transportation Advisory

Committee when SAFETEA-LU was implemented. This Committee took the lead for the Urban HSTP.

- c. Urban HSTP for Kankakee – Mr. Lammey stated the County has received planning grant monies that must be dedicated quickly. Using a portion to fund preparing an Urban HSTP Plan had been approved by the MPO and submitted to IDOT. Mr. Hoffmann stated METRO intends establish a committee to review an urban HSTP plan. He is reviewing the Decatur Urban HSTP Plan. They are preparing to advertise for applicants for the committee in the newspaper and on the radio. The applicants will be screened by the METRO Board.
- d. Accessibility Issues – Mr. Hoffmann stated METRO has applied for approximately \$900,000 in funds to improve accessibility at the bus stops through Representative Halverson. The Easter Seals Project Access was also discussed as a resource.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

With a quorum present, Chairman Schoolman asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the June 29, 2010 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Ms. Brutlag and seconded by Mr. Campbell. Motion carried.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:

- a. Chairman Schoolman reminded Mr. Hoffmann that there is a need / requirement for such applications to be made available in multiple formats, including on-line and in Braille. She offered the services of Options CIL to convert the application from a Word Document to Braille.
- b. State Budget Issues: Ms. Dick reported that the State late payment to various care providers is causing late payments to SHOW BUS for transportation services. Ms. Lockwood stated that overdue payments by the state had caused her agency the need to take furlough days in August. One very late payment was made, so further furlough days are being held in abeyance until October.
- c. Other Issues: Chairman Schoolman asked if anyone knew of a provider who could transport a patient from Kankakee to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago on a regular basis. A local bus could take him to the Will County Line, meet with a PACE bus to take him further, probably with one or two other PACE bus transfers to get there. A similar trip would be needed to come back. The patient would first need to get certified for ADA service here. Another suggestion is to contact Southland Senior Services. They may be able to assist.

DISABILITY/ AGING/ TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

- a. Social Service provider comments- Ms. Tetreault stated that she had missed a prior meeting where possibly some misinformation was given. The Committee had been told there were no mental health providers that could

meet the needs of nursing homes in preparing clients for re-entry into general population living. She stated this is not true. Thresholds already provides services to the nursing home that had met with the committee and could expand to provide additional services. She had talked to the administrator of the Kankakee Terrace they were OK with Thresholds providing this service. It would be a costly error to provide transportation for patients to an out of county location when services are available locally. A resource to check for available services would be the KAN-I Help information Network on-line directory.

- b. Medical Service provider comments – no attendee.
- c. Government Agency comments –
 - 1) Mr. Campbell stated the previously reported veteran’s van program has not proceeded on schedule. No drivers have yet been hired. A location has not yet been identified for the proposed new clinic.
 - 2) Ms. Lockwood reported the Kankakee Livable Community Assessment Task Force is making progress. Ms. Brutlag is serving on the Task Force, as is the City Planner for Kankakee. They have identified seven goals for improvement, including addressing accessibility issues at bus stops in Kankakee. The program utilizes a national assessment tool.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS:

- a. Ms. Dick reported that with the knowledge of METRO, SHOW BUS is stopping at the Sun River Terrace Village Hall when on its’ Kankakee-Momence run, providing regular service. In October, there will be a Hopkins Park to Momence bus route added. Later, a St. Anne bus stop will be added as well.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

No media present.

NEW BUSINESS: None

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Mr. Lammey stated that the next meeting of the group would be held on November 30, and the October 26 meeting is cancelled..

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Campbell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Brutlag. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Schoolman at 11:09 AM.