

Kankakee County Transportation Committee

Minutes

September 24, 2013

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, and Dorci Schoolman, Options CIL.

Others in attendance: Richard Nolan, McLean County Regional Planning Commission and Co-coordinator Region 6 HSTP; Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Amy Carmack, Good Shepherd Manor; Jeannette Tetreault, Thresholds; Whitney Means, Catholic Charities; Mike Lammey and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Butler, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM, and welcomed everyone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO SERVE

Mr. Lammey asked for volunteers from those present who represent social service providers to the County Transportation Committee. They were Dorci Schoolman, Jeannette Tetreault and Mike Butler.

Mr. Lammey volunteered Bonnie Schaafsma from the medical service providers for the County Transportation Committee.

Mr. Lammey next asked for volunteers from government agencies to be members of the County Transportation Committee. These were Cheryl Lockwood and Roger Hess.

Lastly Mr. Lammey asked for volunteers from transportation providers for the County Transportation Committee. These were Laura Dick and Michelle Brutlag.

Mr. Lammey thanked all who raised their hands for being regular participants in this process and welcomed them to the committee.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Hess nominated Mr. Butler as Chairman. There were no other nominations for Chairman. Ms. Dick nominated Ms. Schoolman for Vice-Chairman. There were no

other nominations for Vice-Chairman. Nominations were closed with Mr. Butler elected as Chairman and Ms. Schoolman elected as Vice-Chairman.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Butler asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves for the benefit of all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the May 28, 2013 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 ROLL-OUT OF NEW FREEDOM GRANT

Ms. Dick gave a presentation on the newly signed contract for Kankakee County under the New Freedom Grant. This grant will provide funding to pay for an assistant to ride with client passengers, training for staff in social service provider offices, or even pay for a driver to transport clients when Show Bus is not available or when a bus simply is not the appropriate vehicle for the client. The power point presentation will be e-mailed to the entire County Transportation Committee list. It was also suggested this presentation be given to the United Way agencies.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Accessibility Issues:

Ms. Schoolman stated that Options has already been actively participating with Show Bus in Iroquois County with personal attendants and will immediately implement it here in Kankakee County.

Ms. Brutlag announced they have only verbal confirmation on a grant to improve numerous bus stops to bring them into ADA compliance. METRO has been working with Ms. Schoolman and Options CIL to identify the needs and to prioritize sites for the improvements. Some locations do not have sidewalks, making some improvements impractical at this time. They are also getting about 50 new benches to place at bus stops.

Ms. Brutlag reported they had asked for permission from the Kohl's store to establish a bus stop location by their building, but they refused.

State Budget Issues:

Ms. Dick reported having \$120,000 in reserve to purchase a state approved low-rider bus for the past 3 or 4 years, but the state has no approved low-rider bus on their purchasing list. She has asked to be allowed to switch the funding to mini-vans, but the state

recommended piggy-back off another contract. If she cannot get the low-rider bus approved in 3 or 4 months, she will again ask for the mini-vans.

Ms. Dick also stated that the County is again providing service while operating without a signed contract with the State. There is a danger of the State running out of money. There remains the possibility of funding cuts.

DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Ms. Tetreault stated they have service contracts with Show Bus that work well with many of their clients. They also have one IDOT supplied bus that is aging out. Many clients ride River Valley Metro, with some using the ADA service.

Ms. Schoolman reported that other CILs in the state are now beginning to participate in rural Regional HSTP committees. She had suggested it to the state CILs for the past few years, but they declined to participate. Now the state organization is recommending it. Ms. Schoolman stated this has validated how well our Region 6 HSTP Committee is working.

Ms. Schoolman also announced that Ms. Laura Dick received an award from Options CIL for the fine work she has done with Options CIL clients.

Ms. Schaafsma reported that the Health Department is gearing up to assist eligible people with signing up under the Affordable Care Act. More people will be eligible for Medicaid and many adults and families will be eligible for health insurance through the Illinois Health Market Place Exchange. People on Medicare do not need these and are not eligible under these programs. Her staff may be able to schedule sign-up times at various social service and medical service provider's locations, as well. There is more information on the Health Department website.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

Ms. Brutlag reported that they are required to provide ADA service with-in $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of their fixed route service routes. They are now going to expand their ADA service to anywhere with-in the urbanized area. She distributed maps showing the urbanized area. She stated their new North / South bus route is performing well.

Ms. Brutlag stated they now have a photo ID card maker and will require all Circuit Breaker clients to come to their facility to have the ID card made, AFTER having applied for Circuit Breaker and getting their approval into the State computer system. Client will need to file their applications with Amy Jarvis at KCCSI and wait a few days before they can get their ID card photo appointment at Metro. She stated there are about 460 Circuit Breaker clients presently.

Ms. Brutlag also reported they will be starting a new bus route in about 3 months from Metro Centre to Momence and back. It will stop at Wal-Mart, travel Larry Power Road, Aspen Ridge and other stops along the way.

Ms. Brutlag encouraged service providers to let their clients know about the Sheriff's Department website where persons with disabilities or of special needs can register in

case of a need for evacuation in time of disaster. There is also a premise alert section on the website for information for the emergency dispatcher to see if there is a call to your home.

Ms. Dick brought up the unknowns with the implementation of the Integrated and Managed Care Plans. Ms. Lockwood stated there is more confusion with people who are dual eligible status as they implement the plans. Ms. Schaafsma pointed out discussions are ongoing concerning Covered Care Entity programs. We have no participants in this County yet. There are also Capitated Service Plans, where medical providers give preventive care to enrolled clients, and are paid monthly based on the number of enrolled clients, with the intent of preventing trips to the emergency rooms for health issues that could be handled in the office setting.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA

No media present.

NEW BUSINESS

None

MEETING SCHEDULE

November 19, 2013 at 9:30 AM **County Transportation Committee** at METRO Centre

December 2, 2013 at 10:00 AM **Region 6 HSTP meeting** at the historic Courthouse in Pontiac, IL

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Lockwood and seconded by Ms. Schaafsma. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.