

Kankakee County Transportation Committee

Minutes

September 30, 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; Ken Munjoy, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Michael Roof, Veteran's Assistance Commission; Don Mitchell, Options CIL; Rick Nolan, HSTP Region 6.

Others in attendance: Mike Lammey, Geoff Olson, and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County Planning Department; Cara Mitchell, Medi-Car Transport.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM and welcomed everyone. Each person in the meeting introduced themselves and which agency they represented. He also asked Ms. Mitchell if she would like to explain Medi-Car and the service they provide.

Ms. Mitchell informed the committee that Medi-Car has been providing service for about two months. They provide door-to-door service and escort patients to their appointments. There is also no additional charge for having an assistant provided help the patient or having family members accompany the person for their appointment. The fare for a round trip starts at \$39 for the origin and destination with Bradley, Bourbonnais, and Kankakee. There is an additional \$2 per mile for trips outside those municipal boundaries.

They will provide service for appointments as far away as Tinley Park in Will County and Watseka in Iroquois County or even Danville or Champaign if needed. Service is for non-emergency trips and can be provided 24 hours a day. The drivers receive training. They are currently unable to accept insurance or Medi-Care because the state is backlogged with processing applications. They have two vehicles in their fleet and are hoping to obtain two more to have a full fleet of four vehicles.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the July 29, 2014 meeting were submitted for approval. Mr. Hess made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schaafsma. Motion carried.

ADDITION OF MR. DON MITCHELL AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE

Chairman Butler also appointed Mr. Mitchell the member of the committee for Options CIL.

PRESENTATION ON DRAFT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PLAN FOR KANKAKEE COUNTY

Mr. Lammey gave a presentation explaining the Public Transportation Service Plan (PTSP). Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) has required public transportation operators to implement a Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM). It is part of the PCOM's duty to have the PTSP approved by their County Board. One suggestion for creating the PTSP was to plan for the ideal service as though funding was no object. Unfortunately, that just isn't feasible. The Plan contains SHOW BUS's hours of service, and days of operation.

Also discussed in the Plan are the contracts SHOW BUS has with Good Shepherd Manor and Thresholds and the current bus fleet in Kankakee County. The County is supposed to receive 8 more buses in the future. Mr. Lammey also informed everyone that SHOW BUS uses their own buses to help provide service in Kankakee County. The buses that have green decals are owned by the County and those with blue are not owned by the County.

SHOW BUS is working toward arranging a service contract with KCTC, however it may be possible that IDOT will implement required rates for service contracts and that could affect the possibility of creating new ones. The Plan also has descriptions for future service in the short, mid, and long term. Mr. Hess asked what the expected conditions are for the current buses when the eight new buses are received. Mr. Lammey and Ms. Dick responded by saying we currently have three buses that have been on their last leg for a long time, and one more bus that is out of service indefinitely and is awaiting IDOT's approval for disposal.

HSTP COORDINATOR ISSUES

Mr. Nolan informed everyone that IDOT is focusing heavily on the PCOM implementation. The PCOM has to be a full time employee of the grantee, leaving many of the PCOMs to be individuals with limited or no experience with planning or public transportation. There is no update on 5310 grants.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Mr. Munjoy had nothing new to report for METRO. Ms. Dick said SHOW BUS is taking veterans to Iroquois County because Hines has sent portable a medical van to give treatment to them. Mr. Roof explained that the Hines has these portable doctor's offices and they go to Iroquois County once a month. Ms. Dick said she would like to be able to coordinate with the VA service to better serve the veterans. She also informed everyone that IDOT has offered low-rider buses, which may be a possibility to increase service in the County. SHOW BUS is still

exploring the feasibility for becoming a transit district, and is still waiting to receive a check for a bus that was in a wreck last December.

DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Ms. Schaafsma did not have any updates from the Health Department regarding transportation issues. Mr. Hess said the County has passed a budget that is less than the budget last year and it begins December 1.

Mr. Roof said the VA has received a 14 passenger van. The rear four seats have been removed for the inclusion of a lift and to secure wheel chairs. He explained that there is a transportation provider called Medi-Van that has a federal contract to provide service to veterans that require assisted transportation. He said Medi-Van will pick them up anywhere and take them wherever their appointment is. The service does not cost anything to the veterans, the only requirement is that the patient has a doctor's note stating they require assisted transportation.

Mr. Roof also explained that the VA is willing to provide vans, but finding eligible drivers has been difficult. The drivers must be volunteers with no medical conditions. He said the bus from Hines has left some patients without transportation because it leaves at 1:30 PM whether all the appointments for everyone who took the bus that day are completed or not. Mr. Butler asked where they get their fuel from, and was informed the VA purchased gas at the County Highway Departments pumps.

Ms. Lockwood said they are continuing to re-introduce patients back into the community, into Medi-Care eligible housing. The Northeast Illinois Area Agency on Aging has also reached the 20 employee threshold and is going to be subject to the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Butler said Good Shepherd Manor has received repayment within 60 days, which was much better than the 270 days of a previous reimbursement.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

Mr. Munjoy informed everyone that ridership in FY 2013 has increased over the previous year. Also, METRO has seen an increase in rides on the University Park route and Metra is interested in coordination. The Midway Airport route is also seeing an increase in rides. Construction of the METRO parking lot in Manteno should begin next week and will hopefully be completed before winter. Ms. Dick stated that rural service is currently limited by the number of buses in service. SHOW BUS has also received a capital grant for new radios, software, and a garage in the long term.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lammey presented the adopted Urban Human Services Transportation Plan to everyone. Mr. Hess asked if a section was added regarding the eligibility for 5310 funding. Mr. Lammey explained that chapter 7 has been added and sets the requirements for agencies seeking funding. Those agencies must be a "participating" member of an HSTP committee. The HSTP was adopted by METRO at their August Board Meeting.

NEXT MEETING

There will be a Region 6 HSTP meeting on October 20, 2014 at 10:00 AM in Pontiac. On November 18, 2014 at 9:30 AM the next County Transportation Committee meeting will be held.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Lockwood motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Hess. The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM.