

# COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

**November 17, 2009**

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Members: Amy Wiley, Chairman, Provena St. Mary's Dialysis; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Bonnie Schaafsma, Kankakee County Health Department; and, Dorci Schoolman, Vice-Chairman, Options CIL.

Others Present: Rob Hoffmann and Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Patrick McCarthy, Illinois Central School Bus; Richard Campbell, Kankakee County Veteran's Affairs; Jim Greenstreet and Mike Lammey, Kankakee County Planning Department.

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Wiley called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM, welcoming all.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Chairman Wiley asked for any Public Comment. There were no public comment forms filed.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes were tabled for lack of a quorum until later in the meeting.

## **AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:**

### **VETERAN'S TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:**

Mr. Lammey presented the VA (Hines) issues for discussion. It appears there are similar problems statewide, which could be coordinated better through the Regional HSTP groups. Ms. Dick stated there should be a push at the Regional level for a subcommittee to address this issue. Grundy County VAC had requested a vehicle to serve its needs and the Region 6 HSTP passed that request on to IDOT.

Mr. Campbell reported there is a petition being circulated to encourage the VA to provide transportation for area non-resident veterans from Manteno to Hines. Chairman Wiley and Ms. Brutlag both stated they need names, addresses and telephone numbers for veterans who have transportation needs. Mr. Hoffmann stated that Senator Durbin could be approached to intervene in this matter. The Federal legislation has been requiring coordination and consolidation of efforts at the local level, so it should be done at the Federal and State level as well with the (State) Veterans Home bus and local veterans getting to the (Federal) VA Hospital.

### **KANKAKEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION:**

Ms. Schaafsma, Director of the Kankakee County Health Department presented an overview of the Department which was created by County Board Resolution in

December, 1985. Ms. Schaafsma described each of the services provided by the Health Department, which include:

Environmental Health

- Food Sanitation
- Well Water Supplies
- Nuisance and Solid Waste
- Private Sewage Disposal

Chronic & Communicable Diseases

- STD Counseling & Testing
- Communicable Disease (Including H1N1)
- Cancer Screening
- Lead Screening
- Vision and Hearing

Health Promotion

- Health Education
- Smoking Prevention/Cessation

Maternal Child Health Services

- Clinical Services
- WIC – Women, Infants and Children Program
- Health Works Case Management Program
- Kidcare/Familycare
- Family Case Management
- Child Health Clinic
- Genetics
- Teen Parent Services

Ms. Schaafsma stated that the clinics for the H1N1 injections have been well attended. She stated that no one over age 65 will get the injection, unless they are a working healthcare worker.

Ms. Schaafsma stated that her facility is served by a River Valley METRO bus route, and from the rural areas by SHOW BUS, with both being very helpful.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

With a quorum present, minutes of the September 29, 2009 meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Dick made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Ms. Schoolman. Motion carried.

**REGION 6 RURAL HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN ISSUES:**

The Region 6 HSTP committee recommends getting each County Transportation Committee authorized by their County Board. This will be discussed at the next Region 6 meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>. A McLean County staff member will be meeting with County Board Chairmen in Region 6 to help facilitate this recommendation.

**ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES:**

Ms. Schoolman stated there had been no significant change since the prior meeting. Mr. Hoffmann agreed, and stated there were numerous locations that need fixing, but he does not have the jurisdiction rights on the property to do the upgrades, and funding is not readily available to the various municipalities to do the upgrades. He is in the process of doing an inventory of the 500 bus stops to identify problem sites. He then will need to prioritize locations for needed enhancements. Ms. Schoolman stated she would be happy to work with Mr. Hoffmann to help prioritize the sites, and seek cooperation from property owners or municipalities to make the improvements.

**STATE BUDGET ISSUES:**

Ms. Dick reported that ARC (Area Rehabilitation Centers) units have been dropping their transportation services due to budget constraints. In some instances public bus services have been meeting their needs. One side benefit of the bus usage noted has been a reduction of injuries to the clients with the bus service, as opposed to the clients getting in and out of cars.

**DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:**

Chairman Wiley stated there have been some concerns with some medical transport providers for dialysis. She has been sending more clients to METRO for certification than ever before.

Mr. McCarthy stated there is a business in Ottawa and Rockford providing medical transport that may be willing to set up a business in the Kankakee area, if there would be a sufficient usage. City Cab & Shuttle, part of Illinois Valley City Cab, Inc., telephone (815) 830-1818. The operator is named Brad.

**PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS:**

Ms. Dick reported there will probably be a new cycle of JARC and New Freedom funding applications coming up in early 2010. There is an opportunity for Kankakee County to apply under JARC to apply to do a very early route from Kankakee to at least three Momence businesses for 5:00 AM shift starts. The JARC funding will cover up to 50% of operating costs, but as yet and unknown percentage of capital costs. Ms. Dick also reported on a trend of procurement of bariatric vehicles for special needs patients.

**QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:**

No questions.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**THANK YOU TO CHAIRMAN WILEY FOR SERVICE:**

Ms. Wiley announced this is her last meeting as a Chairman of the Committee, and thanked everyone for their support. Since forming the original committee in 2005, she has seen the interagency communications improve and efforts coordinated. Mr. Lammey thanked Ms. Wiley for her long-term support of transportation in Kankakee County.

## **MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Chairman Wiley then reviewed the meeting schedule planned for this Committee:

- November 30, 2009, at 10:00 AM, The Region 6 HSTP Meeting at the LifeCIL office in Pontiac.
- January 26, 2010 at 9:30 AM @ METRO Centre, Kankakee County  
Transportation Committee: ? Presenting
- March 23, 2010 – 9:30 AM @ METRO Centre, Kankakee County Transportation Committee: Mr. Patrick McCarthy of Illinois Central School Bus Presenting
- General Meeting Schedule – Last Tuesday of every other month at 9:30 A.M.
  - January, March, May, July, September, and November of 2010
- Meeting Location – METRO Centre

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Wiley announced the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 AM.