

COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 18, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

Amy Wiley, Provena St. Mary's Dialysis; Dorci Schoolman, Options Center for Independent Living; Bob Scholl, Kankakee County Board Member; Cheryl Lockwood, NE Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Jeanette Tetreault, Thresholds; Richard Campbell, Kankakee County Veteran's Assistance Commission; Rob Hoffman and Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Cheryl Chamberlain, KC-CASA; Donna Kelly, IDES; Mike Lammey, and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wiley called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM, welcoming all, introducing herself and asking everyone around the room to introduce themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Chairman Wiley then asked for any Public Comment. There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the September 30, 2008 meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Lockwood made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Mr. Scholl. Motion carried.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:

Ms. Schoolman gave a power point presentation on Options CIL. Options CIL is a non-residential, not-for-profit, community based organization that promotes independent living for people with disabilities. Options have four core services: Information and Referral; Advocacy; Peer Support; and, Independent Living Skills Training. They have several programs to assist people of all ages with their various needs.

Mr. Hoffman gave a presentation on River Valley METRO ADA, METRO PLUS Program. A METRO PLUS Riders Guide booklet was distributed to everyone present. They have 3 ADA vehicles and are waiting for a new fourth vehicle to be delivered. The new vehicle will be a sedan with expanded rear doors and seat. It will not be a wheelchair accessible vehicle, but will give better service for other needs, especially in small dead-end street situations, such as mobile home parks.

Mr. Hoffman explained the sign-up procedure and requirements for the ADA service. Mr. Hoffman directed people to the website (<http://www.rivervalleymetro.com>) for additional information, and to direct clients to if questions arise anytime. Discussion followed the presentation.

Circuit Breaker issues were then discussed further. Questions were raised about senior ride free and circuit breaker programs. It was suggested that the circuit breaker postcards need to be laminated so they don't wear out before the end of the year. Mr. Hoffman stated that the State should have issued photo ID cards with an expiration date for this service.

The question of State funding was raised concerning transportation services overall. Mr. Hoffman explained the State has not been paying the due bills and the Comptroller's Office has indicated the payments will be delayed even more. This problem will impact service delivery here with METRO and also with SHOWBUS in the rural area. Others present indicated the State is at least three months behind in paying due bills to nursing homes and State funding has been reduced to other agencies.

Veterans' transportation was discussed. There is a problem with the Manteno Veteran's Home bus travelling to Hines VA Hospital Clinic with only one or two patients, and not allowing other veterans from the area to ride along for their medical appointments. One reason cited for the rule is liability insurance for the riders. Discussion with State legislators such as Lisa Dugan and others is on-going about this problem. Mr. Campbell stated a meeting is being planned with Lisa Dugan and others to try to resolve the issue.

DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

Ms. Schoolman reported meeting with United Way, and giving a flyer about this Committee to those present. She explained the purpose and goals of the Committee and extended an invitation to attend the meetings.

Mr. Campbell brought up the need for transportation services from the Kankakee area to jobs in Elwood at the intermodal facility, recognizing the area is, again, out of our service area.

Chairman Wiley advised there is still a problem of getting transportation from southern Will County to the dialysis centers at Manteno and in Kankakee. The PACE service is not transporting people out of their District. Mr. Lammey reported that there are ongoing discussions with PACE concerning this need and a meeting is being planned with PACE officials. Ms. Lockwood suggested contacting Joanne Alexander from Eastern Will County Senior Center in Monee to participate in these discussions.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS:

Chairman Wiley then asked Mr. Lammey to report on SHOW BUS. Mr. Lammey stated they are working on expanding services, to include a program for workers at Baker & Taylor in Monee. SHOWBUS is adding busses and drivers. He will be having additional discussions with a County Board Committee about these changes.

Chairman Wiley then asked for an update from Mr. Hoffman for METRO – Urban Transportation Services. Mr. Hoffman stated they are expanding services and have continuously increasing ridership. The fact the State is not paying what was expected is hurting. Legislation should be introduced during the veto session to help with that problem. Mr. Hoffman will be in Springfield this week talking to legislators to work toward improving the situation. Some transportation systems have already stated the

dates they will have to reduce or stop providing bus service to their communities, if the funding does not come through soon.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

There were no questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Lammey announced the public input meeting for the Long Range Plan for County Transportation to be December 9, 2008 at 3:00 PM at the Kankakee Community College, and that invitations would be sent out.

Chairman Wiley then asked for volunteers to present on their organizations at the next two meetings. Ms. Lockwood agreed to present on the NE Illinois Area on Aging at the January 27, 2009 meeting. Jeanette Tetreault agreed to present on Thresholds at the March 31, 2009 meeting.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

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

- January 27, 2009 – 9:30 A.M.
- March 31, 2009 – 9:30 A.M.
- General Meeting Schedule – Last Tuesday of every other month at 9:30 A.M.
 - January, March, May, July, September, November of 2009
- Meeting Location – METRO Centre

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Wiley announced the adjournment of the meeting at 10:44 A.M.