

Kankakee County Transportation Committee

Minutes

November 18, 2014

Members in attendance: Mike Butler, Good Shepherd Manor; Roger Hess, Kankakee County; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Cheryl Lockwood, Northeast Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Michael Roof, Veterans Affairs Commission; Jeanette Tetreault, Thresholds.

Others present: Rick Nolan, HSTP Region 6 Coordinator; Mike Lammey, Jim Greenstreet, Geoff Olson, Kankakee County.

Call to order

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Public Comment

None presented.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hess motioned to approve the September 30, 2014 minutes, seconded by Mr. Roof. Motion carried.

Withdrawal of Mr. Don Mitchell as Committee Member

Mr. Don Mitchell resigned from Options CIL and will no longer be attending the Kankakee County Transportation Committee meetings as their representative.

Presentation on HSTP and 5310 Eligibility

Mr. Lammey gave a presentation explaining the sections of the Urban Human Transportation Services Plan that pertained to Section 5310 funding eligibility. The Plan was approved by the METRO Board on September 23, 2014. Section 7 of the document explains the eligibility requirements for agencies that would like to apply for Section 5310 funds.

There are three transportation projects that are eligible for funds: expanding service beyond ¾ mile required by ADA, same day para-transit service, and feeder services. The agencies must also be a government entity, a public transportation agency, or a private not-for-profit agency.

The cost for vehicle procurement is minimal to the applicant agency. The bus itself does not cost anything ó 80 percent of the cost is provided by federal funds, 20 percent is provided by IDOT. The cost to the agency is operating the bus, maintenance, keeping records that the vehicle is being used.

The applications must go through the local HSTP committee for approval and then to the HSTP Region 6 Committee for approval. Kankakee County Planning staff will assist agencies interested in 5310 funding. The next application cycle begins in February 2015. Mr. Butler noted that the first vehicle is the most difficult to procure and maintain because it requires a lot of time and work to go through the application process and maintain the vehicle, but any additional vehicles procured are much easier afterwards.

HSTP Coordinator Issues

Mr. Nolan told everyone HSTP Region 6 is in the process of updating the Region 6 plan and should be completed in spring. On December 17, 2014 there will be an inter-city transportation planning session. Mr. Nolan said he will send out details regarding the session. IDOT will also be sending out a survey about the direction of vehicle inspections in the future.

Agency Transportation Needs, Inter-Agency Coordination and Accessibility Issues

Ms. Dick explained that there is an increase in demand for trips from Kankakee County to Iroquois County and a greater demand for frequency for riders with mental health appointments. Ms. Tetreault informed everyone that Riverside Medical Center has assigned a psychiatrist to a Kankakee Medicaid Clinic on East Court Street and should help reduce the need for patients to go to Watseka for their appointments.

Disability/Aging/Transportation Issues

Mr. Roof said the VAC has a shortage of drivers but is working on filling those positions. Also, the VAC will be getting a sign at the Kankakee Train Depot for their clientele explaining the bus leaves Monday through Friday at 7:15 A.M. Mr. Hess asked about the preferred choice cards being provided to veterans. Mr. Roof explained that veterans who have an appointment beyond 30 days can call the phone number on the card and request the appointment be changed to a sooner date at a local doctor's office. The VAC will then schedule the appointment for the patient.

Ms. Lockwood said the MMAI pilot project is still underway. This is the program that will move Medicare and Medicaid patients, including those with a disability or elderly, to a managed care program and if they choose to opt out they may. Currently 5 out of the 8 counties in the project are rolling out the changes, with an expected 128,000 patients to be affected by the change. The state ombudsman program has also been expanded to include the disabled population. Last year, the disabled adults protection program was included into the ombudsman program. The roll outs are being done by the Department of Human Services.

Ms. Tetreault said Thresholds is progressing with their expansion. They are making sure they can collect Medicaid reimbursements.

Mr. Butler told everyone that Good Shepherd Manor is hoping funding will remain the same with the change in state administration.

Program Status of Transportation Providers

Ms. Dick said they are still hoping for additional buses from the State. The acquisition of CTA buses seems to have come to a standstill.

Mr. Lammey told everyone that METRO had a record month of ridership in October with over 90,000 rides.

Questions from the News Media

None.

New Business

None.

Meeting Schedule

The next Region 6 HTSP meeting will be on January 26, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. in Pontiac, IL.

The next Kankakee County Transportation Committee meeting will be March 31, 2015 at 9:30 A.M. at METRO Centre in Bourbonnais, IL.

Additional meetings may be needed due to application deadlines. Notifications will be sent out if this is required.

Adjournment

Mr. Hess motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Roof. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.