



Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

March 8, 2023, Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

In-Person and Microsoft Teams [link included in email]

MEETING NOTES

Attendance -

In-Person: Emma Simmons, Kristin Haar, Tammy Nicholson, Brooke Lovelace, Dex Walker, Vienna Hoang, Carl Lingen, Darren White

Online: Scott Anderson, Roxanne Cogill, Kyra Hawley, Samra Hiros, Zach Gillen, Hugh Lively

I. Call to Order

II. Introductions

III. Review January 2023, Meeting Notes

IV. Topic Presentation – ITS4US, Iowa Public Transit Association, Carl Lingen

Carl Lingen presentation on Transit Health Connector (ITS4US Project).

39% of survey respondents cited missing at least one health care appt. due to lack of available transportation options.

Health Connector - HIRTA grant to develop mobility solutions to access health services in Dallas County

- Purpose - schedule and manage medical appts. and transportation services at the same time. Maybe in an app? Hard to coordinate multiple software systems, though.
- Did language survey - Spanish plus a couple dialects of Chinese
- Mercy or Unity Point healthcare system already has a trip booking application? Kaiser. But it doesn't do what they need it to do.
- Want to create a 'middleware' that communicates if an appointment runs long and the trip pickup will be delayed, for example.
- Challenging because also dealing with HIPAA
- Realizing that they cannot do just one app that will do all of this (coordinating all these software systems at the same time)
- Middleware being developed right now. Working with Epic electronic medical records software.
- Have another year of Phase 2. Phase 3 is rollout in 2024.
- Having trouble finding the right people to work with at Mercy and Unity Point. So maybe just working with Dallas County public health.
- www.transithealthconnector.org

- Middleware software has to be open source.
- Dallas County hospital is an affiliate of Mercy
- Samra Hiros and Iowa Public Health could have contacts to help find the right contacts at hospitals

V. 2023 Passenger Transportation Summit

Summit agenda ideas

- Mobility management
- Legislators want hear specific stories about transportation issues - invite elected officials to hear issues (Senator Trone-Garriott wanted to do a survey) have users come and tell their stories. New immigrants. People from DD Council.
- Driver recruitment and attracting new drivers
- What does age friendly transit look like (AARP, RSVP, IDA/AAAs, plus school age services - Marshalltown)
 - Passenger experience of larger passengers (mobility issues even getting to a vehicle) - sensitivity around those issues
- Passenger panel on passenger experience
- Mixer to have attendees interact - icebreaker

VI. Working Lunch

VII. Agency Spotlight – Veterans Affairs, Darren White

- Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) - for veterans with valid need
- DART has done a good job with veterans - veterans ride free
- VTS - door to door transportation. They also utilize DART and private services.
- VTS has a mobility manager. Dennis Abens, 515-699-5999 ext. 23592, dennis.abens@va.gov
- VTS has 6 wheelchair capable vans
- Hours Monday through Friday, 5:30 a - 6p
- Travel eligible and transportation eligible are two different things. Travel eligible - vet meets beneficiary travel criteria. Transportation eligible 0 priority will go to those with special modes consults in addition to their travel eligibility.
- Special mode of transportation eligible - meet one of the beneficiary travel eligibility criteria and a VA provider determines and documents the beneficiary's medical condition necessitates transport via ambulance or specially equipped van or the travel is pre-authorized
- DAV option, too, in Des Moines
- 38 CFR Chapter 1, Part 70
- To get veterans transportation, the veteran should start with their VA case manager

VIII. Statewide Mobility Manager Update – Emma Simmons

Get There Your Way Website

- Need to market the site - has a lot of good information
 - Make some posters or brochures with information from the site that we can give to independent living programs
- Map on mobility manager page is hard to read the colors

- List there counties along with their name and phone number
- Link the health and fitness brochure
- Add volunteer transportation website
- Veterans Transportation - DM, IC, Omaha/Council Bluffs, put under grey tabs
- Funding resources, just include the relevant ones
- IVRS and DD Council and VA would be willing to link this on their website
- Check the links

IX. ITCC Member Roundtable – All

- Dex met with IDPH and IDA to know how to communicate internally at HHS about transportation needs. Invited a couple new attendees to the ITCC - want to invite MTM in addition to A2C. Zach Gillen also will attend as able with medicaid information.
- Vienna Voc Rehab in process of merging with Workforce Development - main goal is to look at employment for state of Iowa. Not official until end of June/beginning of July. Individual Placement and Support (IPS) program - for individuals with significant mental health issues. Uses collaborative model - mental health provider, state resources, employer - employment is part of the treatment process. Prior to FY23 only available in Burlington and Davenport and Mason City and NE corner of Iowa. In process of expanding to rest of state. Voc Rehab got a grant to help subminimum wage workers move to competitive integrated employment. This grant will build on what doing with IPS - how are the participants impacted - transportation keeps coming up. What are some of the solutions for that? Many participants are newly out of prison system. Also focus on those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Glenwood Resource Center transitioning residents out of there when they close. Originally working with 170 people now working with about 109. Many residents relocated to Woodward, but many going to individual placements around Iowa. Those residents likely won't work off site. Transportation is a big issue for individual placements.
- Brooke - family advocate - March is national developmental disabilities month. Iowa Senate and House did a resolution recognizing Disability Awareness Month. House 8:30, Senate 9 tomorrow morning to acknowledge that. Looking for Make Your Mark sponsors and exhibitors. August 30 and 31 in Coralville. Call for presentations coming out next week. Senator Trone Garriott wants to survey those using NEMT.
- Darren - VA - pandemic means they are shorthanded. Had to shut down the whole third floor of the nursing home. Just as shorthanded at the hospital. VA got approval to run their own ambulance service, but no one applied for jobs so ambulances just sitting idle.
- Tammy - Council Bluffs streetcar. Omaha using all private funding. Should be operating in 2026. 1M population projected to grow to 1.5M. Council Bluffs major housing opportunity for Omaha. Streetcar would connect UNO medical center and Council Bluffs hospitals. CB already has ROW on 1st Avenue. Need funding for a multimodal bridge. Council Bluffs have been talking to us and FTA about funding. Also talking with DOT about PEL study.
- Emma - Low/No bus grant and bus and bus facilities grant - we'll be submitting applications - working with a consultant for low/no grant. 6 transit agencies interested in low/no and 4 have submitted their worksheets.

X. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

ITCC
July 12, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.*
Polk County River Place, Room 2
2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310

*Lunch provided