

**Iowa Transportation Coordination Council
November 9, 2016, Meeting
Polk County River Place, Room 2
2309 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310**

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The November 9, 2016, meeting of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council was called to order at 10:09 a.m.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

Kristin Haar, Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Public Transit, Chair

Brent Paulsen, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging

Frank Greise, League of Human Dignity

Becky Harker, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

Loren Bawn, Bureau of Refugee Services

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

Hugh Lively, Iowa Public Transit Association

Michelle Meadors, Olmstead Consumer Task Force

Roxanne Cogil, Epilepsy Foundation of North Central Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska

Megan Hartwig, Iowa Department of Public Health

II. Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Review of July 13, 2016, Meeting Notes

No comments or revisions were received.

IV. Iowa RideShare Application Demonstration

Brent Paulsen presented one of the Iowa DOT's newest web service, IowaRideshare.org, launched on October 20, 2016. Iowa Rideshare is a commute management software where users will find carpool matches, transit buddies, and walk buddies. Mr. Paulsen reported some transit agencies actually offer incentives for registering rides through the site. Some transit agencies also have guaranteed ride home programs for vanpool users, such as DART in Polk County. Several subsites are offered off of the main IowaRideshare.org webpage for individual transit agencies to accept registrations for local vanpool and carpool programs. Currently, Corridor Rides (Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area), DART, and MAPA (Omaha/Council Bluffs area) are participating. Sioux City and Bi-State Regional Commission (Quad Cities) are interested adding subsites, as well. Corridor Rides also has a couple sub-sites for larger employers in their area, such as University of Iowa and Kirkwood Community College.

Loren Bawn asked if the site was offered in any other languages. Mr. Paulsen responded he would check with the site developer. Mr. Bawn offered Spanish, Arabic, Somali, Burmese, and Karen as the popular languages seen in refugee populations right now, soon to add French and Swahili.

Mr. Paulsen informed the group the website developer is working to make the site '504' compliant.

Michelle Meadors asked for a note about wheelchair accessibility be added to the choices.

Roxanne Cogil asked about the liability coverage for carpools linked up through this site. Mr. Paulsen answered that the liability coverage is through the driver's auto insurance.

V. Medicaid Integrated Settings Rule and its Effect on Public Transit meetings update

Kristin Haar opened the discussion of the Medicaid Integrated Settings Rule by giving some background on the rule to be fully in place by March 17, 2019. This rule is meant to ensure persons with disabilities, as able, are working, living, enjoying activities in the community in which they live, rather than being automatically placed in sheltered workshops and group homes. Chair Haar emphasized that this is a wonderful thing for persons with disabilities but will present challenges for public transit agencies currently providing transportation to those individuals. Public transit agencies, mostly rural demand response systems, currently are able to stop at several group homes each morning, then take a full bus of individuals to the sheltered workshop for the day, return in the afternoon and take the persons home. Under the implementation of this integrated settings rule, each person will potentially have work hours varied throughout the day and week, including nights and weekends when many public transit agencies do not operate, and each person may live in homes and apartments scattered throughout the community.

Chair Haar shared a pilot region in Southwest Iowa was chosen to start having meetings on this subject, with the first held in September. Approximately 60 people attended. Becky Harker added she was impressed to see the coordination already taking place during that meeting with several volunteer transportation programs sharing the services they offer, and the mental health region offering their website as a central repository of information about available transportation services. Chair Haar stated a Transit Advisory Group has since formed and the South West Iowa Transit Agency Director has already met with many of the volunteer and taxi programs in the area to find ways to coordinate.

To bring the issue into statewide focus, a group of transit managers and members of the Iowa Coalition for Integration and Employment met in Des Moines on November 2, 2016. Many transit managers were unaware of this rule and will be working with their human service agencies locally to work on solutions. At this meeting, volunteers were requested for a statewide working group and for the next pilot region.

Hugh Lively stated prior to the statewide meeting on November 2, he was already working with the mental health region on this issue. One of the things Mr. Lively's transit agency, RIDES, is working on is providing after hours transportation. In some cases, RIDES will be allowing other agencies to use RIDES' vehicles when not in service for RIDES.

It was suggested to have LeAnn Moskowitz from Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) present further on this rule at the January ITCC meeting.

Ms. Cogil added that the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waivers affected by this rule include ID and BI. Ms. Cogil also asked if there was Mental Health and Disability Services region funding for transportation. The response was it varied from region to region.

VI. Draft *Transportation Coordination in Iowa* Report

Chair Haar presented the draft of the *Transportation Coordination in Iowa* report. This report is assembled biennially for the Governor and Iowa General Assembly compiling transportation coordination efforts and any recommendations for assistance from the legislature on coordination

issues. Chair Haar asked for comments from the ITCC members by November 23, 2016. This report is due to the Legislature and Governor by December 15, 2016.

VII. LifeLong Links Project Update

Julie Bergeson reported on the LifeLong Links project, funded by the Iowa DOT's Veterans Transportation Community Living Initiative grant. The ICN cabling is complete to link all of the Area Agencies on Aging for the one-call network. The end of January is the goal for having all of the ICN components up and operational. The LifeLong Links website has been up since July 11. At this time, the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) is working on database policies for how often the agency and provider information should be updated and by whom.

VIII. Member Roundtable

Chair Haar started the Roundtable by announcing some leftover Job Access Reverse Commute and New Freedom funds were made available to Iowa's public transit agencies with applications due October 1, 2016. One of the New Freedom funding recommendations made to the Iowa Transportation Commission for the use of the funds was for Johnson County to add a part-time mobility manager position. The Commission will vote on all projects in December.

Ms. Meadors reported the Olmstead Consumer Task Force had been questioning the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) about which MCOs pay for different transportation needs. Ms. Meadors shared that United Healthcare pays for a variety of trips while AmeriHealth Caritas and AmeriGroup pay for less and because of the differences in benefits consumers are suffering. Ms. Cogil added that it would be helpful for a chart of transportation services covered by each MCO would be helpful.

Jeremy Johnson-Miller shared he has been meeting with the Iowa Public Transit Association director and IME to address public transit issues with Medicaid funded non-emergency transportation trips. Many public transit agencies have had issues with the MCO transportation brokers and these meetings and discussions are helping to resolve those problems.

Mr. Bawn stated that the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services has a new bureau chief who is emphasizing statewide refugee issues rather than just those occurring in central Iowa.

Ms. Cogil shared there are 30,000 Iowans living with epilepsy. If a person has a seizure, they are not to driver for 6 months following according to state law. The Epilepsy Foundation of Iowa does have a few dollars available to assist persons with epilepsy to get to support group meetings if all other resources are exhausted.

Ms. Bergeson informed the group the IDA director, Donna Harvey, left the agency to work for the Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging. Ms. Bergeson also shared that IDA does have a managed care ombudsman for helping with MCO issues.

Mr. Lively reported his transit agency was already out of Title IIIB funds (Administration on Aging funds for transportation through the Area Agency on Aging) for Fiscal Year 2017. RIDES is working with the Elderbridge AAA to find more money to provide transportation to persons over age 60.

Ms. Harker stated the Developmental Disabilities Council staff conducted voter training in 32 communities prior to the election. Transportation availability was a big issue during these discussions. Ms. Harker also shared the Council gave a mini-grant to Johnson County to help persons with disabilities get to the polls via public transit on Election Day. The Council has included transportation in its 5-year plan, placing more emphasis on the issue.

Frank Greise informed the group his center for independent living had sponsored a successful bus ridership clinic to teach people how to ride public transit.

IX. IMM and Statewide Mobility Manager Updates

Mr. Johnson-Miller reported that Iowa's public transit region 4 will be ending its mobility manager position. The current mobility manager will still be employed by SRTS, but will have other job responsibilities. She will still be available to answer questions, however, if needed.

Mr. Johnson-Miller also recently attended the Public Health Family Health Conference, serves on the Active Living Iowa Taskforce, and on the Social Determinants of Health Taskforce.

X. Other Items of Interest

None offered.

XI. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting of the ITCC is scheduled for January 11, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at HIRTA Public Transit, 2824 104th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322. Please note change in location for this meeting only.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.