



Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

March 13, 2019, Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Polk County River Place, Room 2

2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The March 13, 2019, meeting of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

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

Terry Bergen, Iowa Mobility Manager's Network

Roxanne Cogil, Epilepsy Foundation Iowa

Tony Filippini, Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Scott Anderson, Access2Care

Joe Drahos, Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning

Brooke Lovelace, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

LeAnn Moskowitz, Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

Lee Ann Russo, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation

Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging

Shelaine Harbart, Veterans Affairs

Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services

Mindi Nguyen, Iowa DOT Driver and Identification Services – via telephone

II. Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Review of January 9, 2019, Meeting Notes

No comments or revisions were received.

IV. Medicaid Integrated Setting Rule Implementation – LeAnn Moskowitz, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

LeAnn Moskowitz reminded ITCC representatives that the Home and Community Based Services settings rule requires Medicaid members on Waivers must reside in settings integrated into the community, not segregated.

The state has reviewed non-residential providers to ensure those settings are integrated and is wrapping up reviews of residential settings now. If a provider is found to be non-compliant with the integrated setting rule, they must submit a corrective action plan.

Ms. Moskowitz reminded the group that the state of Iowa did stay with the original integrated setting deadline of March 17, 2019, even though the federal Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) extended the deadline to March 17, 2022. No agencies in Iowa have been disenrolled. Some do have heightened scrutiny that will need to be reviewed by CMS.

Scott Anderson asked if the state is in good shape? Ms. Moskowitz answered that the state is in good shape. Some large organizations are having a harder time but have good plans of action.

Ms. Moskowitz also discussed transportation for those on the Intellectual Disability (ID) Waiver under the tiered rate payment system. On December 1, 2017, members transportation costs were rolled into the daily supported community living (SCL) reimbursement making the SCL provider responsible for the cost of transportation. This change didn't impact other waiver populations. There are 4,506 members on the ID Waiver with their SCL provider responsible for transportation.

Iowa Total Care is the newest Medicaid Managed Care Organization, starting July 1, 2019. They are guaranteed a minimum of 25% enrollment of Iowa's Medicaid population. From March 4 through June 16, Medicaid members can change MCOs for any reason with a July 1 start date. Then from July 1 – September 30, members can change MCOs if they do not like the one they are with. After September 30, there needs to be a good cause for requesting a change. Access2Care will be Iowa Total Care's transportation broker. If a member is assigned to Iowa Total Care has an appointment of procedures scheduled between July 1 and September 30, Iowa Total Care has to honor exceptions to policy established by the former MCO for 90 days.

Kristin Haar asked how the SCL facilities providing their own transportation fit with the Integrated Setting Rule. Ms. Moskowitz explained that transportation is not included in the Setting Rule, so having that rolled into the tiered rate for the ID Waiver population isn't a concern.

Terry Bergen asked if the rest of the waivers will go to tiered rates. Ms. Moskowitz stated they would not and the only possible one in the future is the Brain Injury Waiver. The ID Waiver is the largest waiver group.

Ms. Moskowitz said there had been some legislative talk of pulling the transportation back out of the tiered rates, and that may show up in the appropriations bill.

Roxanne Cogil asked if non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) providers underwent background checks. Mr. Anderson answered that they do and each MCO transportation broker has rules about background checks for contractors.

Ms. Moskowitz stated the NEMT workgroup has not met for a while, but with the transition to Iowa Total Care it might be a good time to start that group up again.

V. ITCC Member Agency Spotlight – Terry Bergen, Linn County Mobility Manager

Mr. Bergen shared his work as Linn County Mobility Manager with the group. One of Mr. Bergen's responsibilities is to staff the Transportation Advisory Group or TAG. TAG meetings regularly attract 20-25 people and the TAG also has trainings and workshops at least once a year, too.

As Mobility Manager, Mr. Bergen also provides information and assistance to Linn County residents through the 365-RIDE hotline and website. Requests for help range from rides to medical appointments to needing a ride but unable to pay for transportation to kids needing rides to school.

Mr. Bergen also hosts booths at community events and fairs to educate on transportation options in the community and he serves on multiple community committees to learn about transportation needs.

Some projects Mr. Bergen has worked on include the low-income half fare program, a transportation access project, ADA qualification process, travel training, Corridor Rides/380 Express (which Mr. Bergen rides once a month to talk to passengers about the service), regional transportation coordination, and public-private partnerships.

Ms. Cogil suggested linking Mr. Bergen's Transportation Resources Directory from the Iowa DOT website.

VI. State Transit Assistance Special Project Application Changes – Haar

Chair Haar presented a background on State Transit Assistance (STA) Special Projects and changes to the application process. The Iowa DOT receives funding for public transit annually of which \$300,000 is kept back for two purposes: Large Urban Transit System Fellowships and STA Special Project grants. Approximately \$177,000 is available annually for the STA Special Projects. Any public transit agency in the state of Iowa can apply for these funds for pilot projects and coordination work. Historically, the projects have been small and the Iowa DOT had plenty of funding to grant these requests as 'immediate opportunity'. However, in recent years, the size of the grant requests has grown with pilot projects being larger in scale and more costly. Therefore, some changes are needed to this program to ensure all transit agencies have a chance at the dollars.

Currently, the grants are awarded with up to 80% operations funding the first year and 50% for the second year; capital funding could be requested at an 85% level. The maximum project length is two years. Projects must have a coordination basis and support, responding to the needs of human service agencies or other community partners to begin a new project.

With project funds running tight, changes are occurring to this grant program this year. STA Special Project application will now be due October 1 each year – no longer immediate opportunity – with projects starting the following July 1. Projects will be for two years, with a check-in at the end of year one. One project per system at a time. Maximum funding is 50% state/50% local, but no cap on the amount requested. The coordination emphasis of the program continues, responding to needs of human service agencies or other community partners. Small capital items are eligible at the same funding ratio, but no vehicles or facilities.

The project application will be updated soon and placed on the Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit's webpage. The first round of applications will be accepted October 1, 2019, with a July 1, 2020 project start date.

The idea was presented to have the ITCC review the STA Special Project Applications at their November meeting to give input to the DOT.

VII. DRAFT 2019 Passenger Transportation Summit Agenda – All

Chair Haar presented the draft 2019 Passenger Transportation Summit agenda. Chair Haar is still waiting to hear from a couple requested panelists, but the panel topics should not change. As of this morning there were 51 registered to attend.

VIII. ITCC Member Roundtable - All

Loren Bawn informed the group that Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services does not have a director. Also, the Federal refugee programs are changing causing a lot of uncertainty at the moment.

Joe Drahos reported he has been working on park and ride usage counts. One example of growth at a park and ride location is a Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids where in 2017 the daily counts would be 5-6 vehicles. In 2019, that is now 30-35 vehicles. That is likely the result of the location serving as a pick up and drop off location for the 380 Express bus. Mr. Drahos is also working on the Iowa DOT long range transit plan, with a survey of the transit agency just completed. An input session for that plan is included on the Passenger Transportation Summit agenda.

Jeremy Johnson-Miller attended the Shared Use Mobility Conference in Chicago. The conference discussed bikeshare, scootershare, Uber, and Lyft, and how to include them with public transit partnerships. Mr. Bergen asked if cities and counties allowed for testing of automated vehicles and if that should be a legislative focus. Discussion ensued.

Tony Filippini shared that CyRide will be tweaking its routes with the new school year in response to passenger input. The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is starting its long-range transportation plan and is working with the regional planning affiliation, the Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance, as part of that effort.

Ms. Cogil has been working with Deb Carney of the Iowa DOT's Motor Vehicle Division on working with persons who have had seizures and had their drivers license taken away as a result. The Epilepsy Foundation Iowa will be exhibiting at the Iowa Association of Community Providers conference.

Julie Bergeson, through her work at the Iowa Department on Aging, works to disseminate information about transportation. Ms. Bergeson also pointed out that the Area Agencies on Aging have conferences for caregivers and it might be a good idea for public transit to have an exhibit or give presentations at those events.

Lee Ann Russo shared that Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation works with 12,500 persons with disabilities. Voc Rehab can pay for transportation. Ms. Russo noted that persons with disabilities have difficulty private paying for transportation due to the high cost.

Brooke Lovelace informed the group that the Developmental Disabilities Council will be advertising local public transit as an option to attend local meetings during their 'state sweep' where they tour all 99 counties to hear concerns from the disability community.

IX. IMMN Update – Bergen

Mr. Bergen reported that the Johnson County Mobility Manager, Kelly Schneider, has translated many documents into multiple languages to serve the community population.

The DART Mobility Manager, Catlin Curry, has been busy working at resource fairs, doing public outreach, travel training, coffees, and working with AARP to host focus groups on transit usages. They are applying for a grant from national AARP for those efforts.

X. Statewide Mobility Manager Update – Johnson-Miller

Mr. Johnson-Miller is currently working to update Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit marketing materials. Mr. Johnson-Miller also reported the 'Get There Your Way' website is currently on hold due to other Iowa DOT information technology projects, but staff may develop toolkit materials for distribution to interested parties in the meantime.

XI. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

**ITCC
May 8, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Polk County River Place, Room 2
2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310**

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.