

Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

March 13, 2013, Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Polk County River Place, Room 1A

2309 Euclid Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50310

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Those in attendance included:

Scott Anderson, TMS

Angie O'Brien, Statewide Mobility Manager

Jeremy Johnson Miller, Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency

Kristin Haar, Iowa Department of Transportation, Chair

Doreen Chamberlin, Iowa Department of Public Health

Tim Weltzin, Iowa Department of Human Services – Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

Jeff Harris, PeopleRides

Jamie Nagel, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Jeanne Yordi, Iowa Department on Aging

Mazie Johnson, Iowa Department on Aging

Heidi Wicks, Iowa Workforce Development

Heather Byron, American Cancer Society

Connie Eastman, AARP

Erin Mullenix, Iowa League of Cities

II. Review January 9, 2013, Meeting Notes

III. AARP Transportation Survey

Connie Eastman with AARP Iowa distributed the *Summary of 2012 AARP Survey of Iowans 50+ Living in Polk County: Perceptions of Community as Age-Friendly Place to Live*. Ms. Eastman pointed out the transportation-specific questions from the survey. 63-percent of respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that public transportation is available in Des Moines/Polk County. 40-percent strongly or somewhat agreed that public transportation stops are conveniently located. 40-percent also agreed that public transportation is affordable. 34-percent considered public transportation vehicles clean.

When asked if multi-use trail were convenient, 68-percent agreed. 65-percent agreed that the area had sufficient public parking. Only 28-percent agreed that driver education/refresher courses were available. Ms. Eastman noted that AARP offers an older driver education refresher course.

The majority of respondents agreed that traffic signs were easy to read, streets/roads were well maintained, speed limits are enforced, and drivers yield to pedestrians crossing the street. However, only 36-percent agreed that pedestrian crossings have audio/visual cues for those with visual or hearing impairments.

IV. Member Roundtable

Jeremy Johnson-Miller distributed a copy of the Story County transportation brochure. This brochure includes all passenger transportation options in Story County. Mr. Johnson-Miller also explained that HIRTA has expanded their hours in Indianola on Wednesday nights in response to requests. He is also working on hospital discharge timing and transportation issues in Madison County.

Doreen Chamberlin handed out the *Health Care and Public Transit* brochure created by the Iowa DOT and the Iowa Department of Public Health. Affordable Care Organizations (ACO) are being developed, serving as the medical home for comprehensive care and will include health navigators. Ms. Chamberlin also stated that as part of the comprehensive care, social determinants of health including transportation were to be evaluated. ACOs will have performance measures with incentives/disincentives for meeting them/not. One example of a performance measure is the readmission rate. Healthcare.gov has fact sheets on the Affordable Care Act.

Jeanne Yordi explained that the Iowa Department on Aging has been active with the Area Agencies on Aging reorganization and the development of Aging and Disability Resource Centers statewide.

Jamie Nagel stated that she had attended the local Transportation Advisory Group meeting to learn about how the local groups operated. Ms. Nagel explained that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) would like to be a link to local volunteer transportation. Ms. Nagel also noted that one item on the ICVS' legislative agenda is to increase funding for the RSVP programs around the state.

Heidi Wicks informed the group of Workforce Investment Act training, performed at all 15 one stop offices, but the training at the Council Bluffs center includes one day of riding public transportation to enable the trainees to get to work using public transit.

Erin Mullenix stated that the Iowa League of Cities is monitoring the veteran's parking legislation and the property tax reform at the statehouse. The League does a weekly e-newsletter if ITCC members have any stories they would like to submit for publishing.

Tim Weltzin explained that Iowa Medicaid Enterprise has been re-writing the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation administrative rules. There will be a public comment period. The proposed rules may be posted for comment around April 1, 2013. The rules will be effective October 1, 2013.

Scott Anderson noted the successful set up of regularly schedule shuttle services to Iowa City (36 counties with access), Des Moines (14 counties with access), and Cedar Rapids (being set up currently), allowing the grouping of Medicaid client trips to medical appointments to save money. Mr. Anderson also explained the process of trip bidding. If a trip is over 30 miles, the area transportation providers have the opportunity to bid of the trip, with the lowest bid winning. If no one bids, the trip goes through its normal assignment process in the portal.

Heather Byron reported on American Cancer Society work in Iowa in 2012. The ACS had 18,000 information and service requests, 13,766 nights of free lodging provided (through the Iowa City Hope Lodge and partner hotels providing free nights), and 170 volunteer drivers providing 2,500 rides. Ms. Byron added that the Hope Lodge has a three to four week waiting list and the volunteer drivers must undergo a background check and a DMV check annually or every six months for high risk drivers.

Connie Eastman stated that AARP Iowa is following the Medicaid expansion discussion at the statehouse.

Jeff Harris distributed the Iowa Public Transit Association's legislative priorities handouts. One brochure is being placed in each legislator's mailbox every two weeks to keep public transit issues at the forefront.

V. Spring 2014 Transportation Summit

A group of state agency partners met before the ITCC meeting on March 13 to discuss planning of a statewide transportation summit for Spring 2014. Preliminarily, the group had settled on a one-day summit, with half hour panels in the morning discussing how transportation affects their respective disciplines and a break out session in the afternoon where consumers and employers can gather to discuss their passenger transportation issues.

It was suggested to have this summit outside of Des Moines to attract more rural-focused interests. Kristin Haar will check with DMACC in Newton and MCC in Marshalltown for space availability. Ms. Haar will also poll ITCC members for regularly scheduled annual conferences for 2014 which may conflict with the scheduling of this summit.

VI. Veterans Transportation Community Living Initiative Project Update

Kristin Haar updated the ITCC on the progress of the Veterans Transportation Community Living Initiative project. The survey of veterans transportation providers is underway, being conducted by the University of Northern Iowa. The one-call/one-click, 'no wrong door' portion of the project is a collaborative effort with other projects at the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise and Department of Human Services, all coordinated through the Iowa Department on Aging.

VII. Committee Report – NEMT

No report.

VIII. IMMN Update

Jeremy Johnson-Miller stated that the Iowa Mobility Manager's Network has been discussing the continued funding of their positions after the federal funding is exhausted in Fiscal Year 2015. A subcommittee of the IMMN will be forming to make a proposal. Doreen Chamberlin asked to know the amount of funding required statewide to maintain the current mobility manager positions. Kristin Haar replied that she would get the number to the group.

The IMMN has also had many discussions about IowaCare transportation.

IX. Statewide Mobility Manager Update

With the loss of federal programs to pay for mobility manager positions, Angie O'Brien reported she has been working to re-evaluate her focus from recruiting new mobility manager positions to assisting the mobility managers in place today. How she can better market the positions and looking into groups she could visit with to make as many people aware of mobility management as possible.

Ms. O'Brien noted she's been working with Iowa Workforce Development and the pilot regions' Regional Workforce Investment Boards on the Disability Employment Initiative grant work. Ms. O'Brien will attend an ADA conference in May.

X. Other Items of Interest

None shared.

XI. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

May 8, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Polk County River Place, Room 3A
2309 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310