



Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

July 10, 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 July 10, 2019, meeting of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

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

Terry Bergen, Iowa Mobility Manager's Network

Roxanne Cogil, Epilepsy Foundation Iowa

Hugh Lively, RIDES

Scott Anderson, Access2Care

Joe Drahos, Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Public Transit Bureau

Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging

Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services

II. Introductions

No introductions as no new representatives were present.

III. Review of March 13, 2019, Meeting Notes

No comments or revisions were received.

IV. ITCC Member Spotlight – Scott Anderson, Access2Care

Scott Anderson shared the work of Access2Care, a non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) broker for the state's newest Medicaid managed care organization (MCO), Iowa Total Care. Access2Care serves 31 states plus Washington, D.C., receiving 8.6 million trip requests annually.

In Iowa, an Iowa Total Care member would call Iowa Total Care requesting transportation to their medical appointment. Iowa Total Care routes that call to Access2Care for scheduling. The trip is assigned to a contracted NEMT provider through the Access2Care portal. That NEMT provider contacts the member for trip arrangements. The provider then clears the trip through the portal and Access2Care processes the payment.

If an Iowa Total Care member is on a Medicaid Waiver, the member is able to schedule Waiver trips directly with the approved transportation provider with service provided according to the member's Member Plan. After the trip is provided, with the trip details submitted to Access2Care, a payment is issued.

Access2Care also provides the NEMT for those enrolled in Medicaid fee-for-service. This covers persons unable to participate in the managed care programs.

NEMT services provided in Iowa include bus passes, mileage reimbursement, ambulatory ride, wheelchair ride, and stretcher ride. The public transit providers contracted with Access2Care receive the bulk of the trip assignments and are first priority when selecting a provider.

Partnerships with Lyft or Uber are not yet allowed in Iowa's Medicaid program, but are in other states. Lyft provided nearly 125,000 trips for Medicaid members under Access2Care in the 4th Quarter of 2018.

V. State Transit Long-Range Plan Update - Drahos

Joe Drahos gave an update on the State Transit Long-Range Plan development. So far, the Iowa DOT has surveyed the public transit agencies on fleet, facility, and staffing needs. After a presentation on this topic at the Passenger Transportation Summit, 60 comments were received during a brainstorming activity. Currently, Iowa DOT staff is working on approaches to analyze data and doing a literature review of resources. A stakeholder group will be formed soon with the first meeting expected to be in August. At that first stakeholder group meeting, a background of the planning process will be presented and the content for the public survey will be reviewed. This fall it is planned that Iowa DOT and stakeholders will refine the strategies and it is hoped the plan is complete by March 2020.

VI. 2019 Passenger Transportation Summit Summary – Haar

Chair Haar presented a summary of the responses to the Passenger Transportation Summit attendee survey. Asking if the group wanted to continue to host the Summit, the response was yes as it was the only time all year many human service agencies had a chance to hear about transportation. A suggested panel for next year was those who faced transportation challenges and how they overcame those obstacles.

VII. Review DRAFT 761 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 920 – Haar

Chair Haar presented a draft of the updated 761 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 920. The portion of the updated chapter likely of interest to the ITCC is about Application for State Transit Assistance Special Project funding. Chair Haar explained that comments on this chapter update will be solicited in the next month prior to taking the proposed changes to the Iowa Legislature's Administrative Rules Review Committee.

VIII. ITCC Member Roundtable - All

Chair Haar asked if the group might be interested in doing a poverty simulation at a future meeting. The group was interested so Chair Haar will check into the possibility.

Roxanne Cogil announced that the next Seizure Smart Conference is November 2 in Des Moines.

Terry Bergen reported that the Cedar Rapids Transit Advisory Group has been focusing on employment transportation and transportation between Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, and North Liberty. He also has participated in a local expungement clinic to help people struggling to get traffic or other violations off their records, educating them about transportation options in Linn County. Mr. Bergen also recently talked with the University of Iowa researchers involved with study of autonomous vehicles and the Advanced Driving Simulator about the emerging technology.

Hugh Lively shared that RIDES has started two employment routes, one from Storm Lake to VT Industries and one from Spencer to Graettinger. A third route to Polaris in Spirit Lake is proposed. RIDES is receiving 17 new buses! Mr. Lively reported having 15 left to order of those 17. RIDES is building a new facility in Sioux Center with local funding. RIDES is expanding its dispatch software to RouteMatch "Pay" which will give passengers more payment options. Mr. Lively stated that RIDES had to end the evening and weekend service that was helping to serve those with disabilities and the general public in getting to off-hour jobs. Unfortunately, there was no local match funding available for the service.

Loren Bawn announced he is the interim acting state coordinator for refugees. Mr. Bawn explained that in times of low unemployment, employers seek out refugees to fill open positions. This creates a need for transit options. Iowa brought in about 600 refugees last year. Nationally, the numbers of refugees have been cut by one-third from the last administration.

Jeremy Johnson-Miller shared that the Iowa DOT Public Transit Bureau is down a couple staff currently due to a retirement and a resignation. Iowa DOT is starting to work on the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative and working with the Department of Corrections on mobility management.

Julie Bergeson shared a report by AARP on mobility management. The Older Americans Act expired on September 30, 2019, and is going through the reauthorization process. Ms. Bergeson also shared that the Administration for Community Living is restructuring at the federal level.

IX. IMMN Update – Bergen

Mr. Bergen announced that the next meeting of the Iowa Mobility Manager's Network is July 24. In mobility management news from around the state, Mr. Bergen stated that the Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA) is contracting with the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) for vanpool services and has started a Job Link commuter program to Norwalk. July 16 is Rural Transit Day.

X. Statewide Mobility Manager Update – Johnson-Miller

Mr. Johnson-Miller reminded the group of the partnership the Iowa DOT and American Cancer Society have had in conducting workshops for cancer centers on transportation options using a grant through the Iowa Cancer Consortium. That grant is entering year two where the results of those conversations will be investigated.

Mr. Johnson-Miller is also headed to Missouri to a conference meant to help build their mobility manager program; he will also give a presentation at that conference on mobility management in Iowa.

XI. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

**ITCC
November 13, 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 2:10 p.m.

**No September 2019 ITCC Meeting will be held due to a scheduling conflict.