

Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

September 11, 2013, Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Polk County River Place, Room 3A

2309 Euclid Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50310

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

Those in attendance included:

Scott Anderson, TMS

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

Jamie Orozco Nagel, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Ruth Thompson, Iowa Department on Aging

Theresa Allen, American Cancer Society

Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services

David Mitchell, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Connie Eastman, AARP

II. Review July 10, 2013, Meeting Notes

III. Volunteer Transportation Survey

Jamie Orozco Nagel reported on the progress of the volunteer transportation survey conducted by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) in partnership with the ITCC. Ms. Nagel thanked the group for helping to distribute the survey. As of meeting time, at least 60 responses had been received.

Loren Bawn asked if an Executive Summary would be written with conclusions drawn and what the closing date of the survey was. Ms. Nagel stated the survey was open-ended. Kristin Haar agreed to write the summary with responses received by October 15, 2013. In order to solicit more input, Doreen Chamberlin requested the link to the survey be re-sent.

Tim Weltzin noted that one of the main issues with volunteer driver programs was insurance. Ms. Nagel responded stating 60% of the agencies completing the survey supplemented the volunteer drivers' insurance. Ms. Nagel also informed the group that ICVS is working on a white paper on volunteer insurance and mileage reimbursement issues. Jeremy Johnson-Miller added that CTAA had a speaker on volunteer driver insurance and has some resources he may be able to share.

IV. Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code Updates

Kristin Haar explained the Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit is updating its Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code chapters. The chapters relevant to the ITCC are Iowa Code Chapter 324A and Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 910. Ms. Haar noted she tried to incorporate the ITCC's input from the July ITCC meeting into the draft chapters presented at the meeting.

ITCC members present offered suggested changes to the chapters presented. Ms. Haar will incorporate those changes for consideration by Iowa DOT management.

V. Member Roundtable

Tim Weltzin updated the group on the replacement to IowaCare, the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. The Centers for Medicare/Medicaid (CMS) like the plan, but do not like the lack of transportation or premium amounts. CMS must approve the plan before it can be enacted. Mr. Weltzin noted the non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) rules are being updated. A stakeholder meeting was held on the rule re-write with no concerns expressed. Comments from the public are due September 15, with the rules going into effect April 1, 2014 if approved. Mr. Weltzin also added that a NEMT advisory board was being established. The first meeting will be held September 12 at 4 p.m. in the IME Cabinet Room. Participants can call in. Meetings are planned quarterly.

Theresa Allen gave an update on the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program. Since January 2013, 85 patients have been helped, 1486 trips taken. 63 new volunteer drivers have been recruited, with one-third of them trained and driving at this time. 43 hotels in Iowa participate in donating rooms to cancer patients, 12 are located in Des Moines. 114 patients have received 478 free nights this year. The Hope Lodge in Iowa City in 2013 has provided 160 patients with 4,536 free nights of lodging. There is a 2-week waiting list to get in at the Hope Lodge.

Connie Eastman stated that AARP has been busy educating on the new health care law. As an update to AARP's age friendly community effort – great places for all ages in Des Moines, the infrastructure committee has been working with local planners.

Ruth Thompson mentioned that the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) and the Iowa DOT are working on the RFP for a call system as part of the one-call/one-click veterans project. Ms. Thompson also noted that IDA is working on a readiness tool for Area Agencies on Aging to become Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

Dave Mitchell stated that he will be a speaker at IDA's upcoming independent living conference. Angie O'Brien [statewide mobility manager] will be speaking to the state rehabilitation council next week. Mr. Mitchell announced that the IVRS is planning a statewide business summit discussing empowering people with disabilities through employment. Panels of businesses and consumers will be included.

Jeremy Johnson-Miller highlighted the study in Central Iowa on transportation gaps and why people are riding and why they are not riding. A survey is currently being conducted with a primary audience of persons with disabilities and the aging community. Mr. Johnson-Miller stated he would forward the survey link to ITCC members. So far, five focus groups have been held with hopes of hold one in each of the 8 counties. The study will be complete in November.

Loren Bawn announced that Jeremy Johnson-Miller had been named Federal Transit Administration Region 7's Mobility Manager of the Year at a conference in August. Mr. Bawn also stated that the Iowa legislature provided state funding for refugee training and education. Three proposals were received and Mr. Bawn ensured a transportation question was included.

Doreen Chamberlin explained the reorganization of the Iowa Department of Public Health. Bureaus are merging, programs are shifting. Volunteer health providers are now under Ms. Chamberlin's purview and she's hoping to keep a transportation focus in that area.

VI. 2014 Passenger Transportation Summit

Kristin Haar asked for volunteers to help with notifying panelists and marketing the May 15, 2014, Passenger Transportation Summit. Jeremy Johnson-Miller and Loren Bawn volunteered to help with inviting panelists and Theresa Allen, Connie Eastman, and Ruth Thompson volunteered to help with marketing.

ITCC members decided the registration fee should be \$20, low enough to enable people to attend, but high enough to encourage people to attend if they have paid but have another possible commitment that day.

One ITCC member suggested encouraging carpooling to the event and making transit buses available from regions around the state.

VII. Veterans Transportation Community Living Initiative Project Update

Kristin Haar stated that the veteran transportation provider survey by the University of Northern Iowa had been completed. The Iowa Department on Aging, Iowa DOT, and Iowa Department of Human Services are all creating an MOU for the communication system, database, and website for the one-call/one-click statewide system. The Iowa DOT is working on an RFP for a consultant to guide the state agencies through the communication system procurement and set up.

VIII. IMMN Update

Jeremy Johnson-Miller stated Region 1's mobility manager has worked with Upper Iowa University to add a question about transportation to their student entrance survey. This will help the local public transit agency work with the university to create transportation services useful to the student population.

IX. Statewide Mobility Manager Update

Kristin Haar read Angie O'Brien's report in her absence. In summary, Ms. O'Brien is finishing up her Master's Degree in Social Work at the University of Iowa. She is required to do an 800 hour advanced practicum, so she has had to reduce her Statewide Mobility Manager duties to half time or 20 hours per week. She will typically be available Mondays and Tuesdays, will respond to emails in the evenings on other days and return phone calls, and will still be able to travel and give presentations on Monday and Tuesdays through May. After May, Ms. O'Brien will return to full-time.

Ms. O'Brien also has been attending the Iowa Workforce Development disability employment initiative meetings and giving input on transportation issues. She has also been fielding several TMS and IowaCare transportation calls. Ms. O'Brien has been in touch with DHS to learn about the new Iowa Health and Wellness Plan to offer the assistance of the mobility coordinators around the state.

Ms. O'Brien sits on the Cardiovascular Task Force and Lifespan Respite Coalition. She would be happy to serve on as many coalitions and taskforce groups as possible to talk about transportation solutions.

X. Other Items of Interest

Tim Weltzin noted that on October 1, 2013, a new rule will be released on Home and Community-Based (HCBS) Waiver transportation where the HCBS waiver transportation rates must equal the Medicaid non-emergency medical transportation rate.

XI. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

**September 11, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Polk County River Place, Room 3A
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Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.