

Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

September 9, 2015, 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 September 9, 2015, 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

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

Scott Anderson, TMS

Hugh Lively, Regional Transit Authority – RIDES

Tim Weltzin, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging

Frank Greise, League of Human Dignity

Tony Filippini, Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Loren Bawn, Iowa Department of Human Services

II. Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Review of July 8, 2015, Meeting Notes

No comments or revisions were received.

IV. Non-Emergency Medical Transportation under Managed Care Organizations

Tim Weltzin updated the group on the status of non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) under the new Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs). Mr. Weltzin explained there were four successful MCO bidders, out of the 11 bids submitted (1 withdrew). The MCOs will cover waivers, medical, and behavioral health benefits. In providing that coverage, the MCOs may subcontract with other companies so all requirements of the contract are met. For NEMT, all of the MCOs will broker out that service.

Iowa Medicaid Enterprise expects to sign contracts with the MCOs on September 11, 2015. These contracts will take effect January 1, 2016.

Medicaid members will have a choice of MCO; if the member doesn't choose one by the specified date, one will be assigned to them.

ITCC members asked if there were any protests to the award announcement. Mr. Weltzin thought there were two and the Iowa Department of Human Services' Director would be reviewing them. Another ITCC member asked about the fate of the current Medicaid NEMT broker, TMS. Mr. Weltzin thought TMS may broker with one or more of the winning MCOs. Mr. Weltzin was asked if public transit agencies would need to contract with all four MCOs to provide NEMT. The reply was yes, if there is a different NEMT broker for each MCO.

V. Presentation to Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

Chair Haar gave a presentation on public transit on July 9, 2015, to the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council. Chair Haar shared this same presentation with the ITCC members in attendance.

VI. 2016 Passenger Transportation Summit Planning

In planning for the May 12, 2016, Passenger Transportation Summit, Chair Haar asked for discussion of keynote speaker suggestions, breakout session ideas, and an overall theme.

ITCC members suggested LifeLong Links as a breakout session or general session, showing the new Iowa Public Transit Association video, having breakout sessions on volunteer transportation, employment transportation, and a separate session just for transit manager discussion.

VII. Community Development Block Grant Funding for Public Transit

Chair Haar explained that the Iowa Economic Development Authority has made Community Development Block Grant funds available to public transit agencies operating in non-entitlement communities (those with populations under 50,000) for the Career Link program, providing transportation to individuals for job activities and adult students for educational training/instructional opportunities. The public transit agencies are invited to a workshop explaining the grant in more detail on September 28 and after that the application would be available online.

VIII. Member Roundtable

Loren Bawn reported the Bureau of Refugee Services has one full-time and three part-time drivers. Denison, Ottumwa, Oskaloosa, Sac City, Marshalltown, and Perry are all areas in need of transportation for refugees. The Bureau recently had to end their relationship with DART's RideShare program.

Tim Weltzin updated the group on the ownership and control disclosures required of all agencies under contract with Medicaid. Some public transit agencies have returned the forms/information, some have not. A letter will be sent out reminding the agencies they will

be disenrolled from the list of Medicaid transportation providers if they do not return the information. If a number of the transit agencies choose not to return the information, the impact will be significant on the waiver programs and Medicaid NEMT brokers.

Scott Anderson explained that waiver medical trips are now covered by the NEMT broker (currently only TMS) as of July 1, 2015. Call and trip volume went up significantly, over 4,000 trips.

Hugh Lively reported not having enough drivers for the amount of demand, especially with increase in waiver rides. Mr. Lively also informed the group the Iowa Public Transit Association's (IPTA) mid-year meeting is at the end of October.

Frank Greise stated that among the Centers for Independent Living representatives, the MCOs have been a big discussion topic. Transportation has not been a part of those discussions. Mr. Greise also informed the group that locally, there will be bus rider training in early October in Council Bluffs for the public and human service agencies. There is a winterization car maintenance program in November at Iowa Western Community College. Mr. Greise also is serving on the regional human service advisory committee transportation sub-committee, with 40-50 human service agencies represented.

Julie Bergeson informed the members that the LifeLong Links project database contract is still being negotiated. Ms. Bergeson also distributed a 'save the date' handout for the 2016 Governor's Conference on Aging and Disabilities being held May 23-26 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.

Tony Filippini shared that the Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is working on their Long Range Transportation Plan update through the year 2040. This update will include transit ridership in its modeling and the impact of regional growth on transit. The plan will be adopted at the end of September. The plan also will include performance measures. Mr. Filippini attends the United Way of Story County's transportation collaboration committee meetings. From those meetings, some medical facilities are asking patients if they have a ride when scheduling appointments so they can direct them to transportation providers if necessary. They are also doing a Wheels to Work program, with donated vehicles and the receiver gets the title to the car.

IX. IMM and Statewide Mobility Manager Updates

Jeremy Johnson-Miller reported that there are two new mobility managers in the state, replacing persons in Cedar Rapids and in Region 1. The IPTA has been producing a 30-second commercial on public transit, focusing on ridership not branding. The IPTA also wants a longer video to use when speaking to groups. Mr. Johnson-Miller has been working with Jennifer Roberts to create a Transit Advisory Group guidance document to give helpful tips and advice to running a successful TAG.

X. Other Items of Interest

None offered.

XI. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

The next meeting is January 13, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Polk County River Place, 2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310.