

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Tuesday, August 11, 2009

**TIME:** 1:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Hooper Community Center, 36 Broad St., Oshkosh

**PRESENT:**

Jason Kakatsch, East Central WI Regional Planning Commission; Harvey Rengstorf and Mike Norton, Winnebago County Board; Holly Keenan, Making the Ride Happen; Mark Ziemer, Senior Services of Oshkosh; Mary Kay Rathe, Oshkosh Seniors Center; Barb Davies, Cabulance; Glen Davies, Oshkosh City Cab; Lori Duclon, Public Health Department; Beckie Pinnow, American Red Cross; Steve Herman, Winnebago County Sheriff's Department; Mark Weisensel and Dorothy De Grace, Winnebago County Department of Human Services

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

Jason Kakatsch welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2009 MEETING:**

Harvey Rengstorf moved for approval of the minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting; seconded by Mike Norton and carried.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no comments.

**4. WINNEBAGO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION/DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

Deputy Steve Herman of the Sheriff's Department is the Community Programs Coordinator for Winnebago County. He said the Sheriff's office has been involved with the senior community for many years through the TRIAD program, the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), and the File of Life program. In the past, they have sponsored several presentations at the Menasha Senior Center regarding transportation options for the elderly. Steve said he became aware of a program on the Internet sponsored by the AAA Foundation for traffic safety called, "Getting Around." The program was a pilot program in California conducted to help seniors in the transition from driving a vehicle. It consisted of a transportation support information network and a public information campaign. Steve pointed out that although we have options available in Winnebago County for senior transportation, we don't have the education piece. He said that in an effort to begin a similar transportation education program in Winnebago County he will conduct an informational meeting on Tuesday, August 25 at 10 a.m. at the Sheriff's office. He hopes to involve relevant organizations to support strong relationships and train volunteers to counsel older drivers about transportation options. He would like to launch a multi-media education campaign.

Steve Herman said his transportation education program could be a resource for the elderly as well as the disabled. He said a meeting is scheduled for September 15 at 1 p.m. at the Oshkosh Seniors Center with a presenter from the DOT to focus on road construction and roundabouts.

**5. REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY UPDATE:**

Jason Kakatsch reported that we have been trying to get RTA legislation for the Valley Transit System which is faced with losing a substantial amount of federal dollars with the processing of the 2010 census. He said Governor Doyle has included RTA language in his state budget that addressed RTA's for Milwaukee and Dane counties, as well as the Fox Cities urbanized area. The legislation failed to make it through the legislative process and has been taken out of the budget. Two new regional RTA's were added to the budget—the Eau Claire/Chippewa Valley area and the Ashland/Bayfield County area. Jason said there are still efforts to maintain RTA discussions for the Fox Cities.

**6. MOBILITY PLANNING SERVICES (MPS) INSTITUTE:**

Jason Kakatsch said that he, Mark Weisensel, Dave Vickman from Oshkosh Transit, and Jeff Olmstead from the Oshkosh Transit Advisory Board attended this event in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Easter Seals Project Action. Their goal was to draft a mobility management plan for Winnebago County. He said the program offers 12 months of free technical assistance in implementing the plan. The focus was an expansion of the “Making the Ride Happen” program in Winnebago County with the hiring of two mobility managers using federal New Freedom funding.

**7. MAKING THE RIDE HAPPEN – NEW FREEDOM GRANT:**

Holly Keenan said she currently works with individuals in the northern part of Winnebago County, but she is writing a New Freedom grant application with a Mobility Manager component to include all of Winnebago County. She is proposing focusing on establishing an accurate day-to-day resource guide, looking for needs and gaps. She said Lutheran Social Services would be the fiscal agent for the grant. If they are awarded the grant, it would involve additional staffing hours for her role to focus more on daily operations. Mark Weisensel said that part of the plan is to ask for enough funding to have two mobility managers. He said we could expand each year, since the New Freedom grant is for an expansion of programs.

**8. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:**

Mark Weisensel reported that the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) will start in Winnebago County on February 1, 2010 for individuals aged 18 and over. Family Care will start on July 1, 2010. Family Care is the managed care part of the Lakeland Care District, which includes Manitowoc, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago counties. Mark said that he will be one of the supervisors in the new ADRC.

Harvey Rengstorf said the Human Services Board passed its 2010 Budget which will now need the approval of the County Executive and the County Board.

Holly Keenan said they will be offering a car fit program at the Thompson Community Center.

Mike Norton reported for Chris Strong that bike racks will be installed on all Oshkosh city buses by the end of the month. Oshkosh Transit is considering consolidating one or two routes and extending some service into the evening hours.

Beckie Pinnow reported on a couple of staff changes they've had recently. They currently have nine volunteer drivers.

Lori Duclon said she is very impressed with the work of the volunteer drivers. She has heard good comments about the connector service and the transportation services of the new provider, Running Incorporated.

Jason Kakatsch said he has been working with Valley Transit and Oshkosh Transit in looking for alternative routes for the #10 bus during the Hwy 41 construction. Jason reported for Kathryn Nichols that their 53.10 grant vehicles are in the process and they should have them sometime this fall.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting of the Specialized Transportation Council will be Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the East Central WI Regional Planning Commission Building located at 400 Ahnaip St., Menasha.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, Mike Norton moved for adjournment; seconded by Harvey Rengstorf and carried at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dorothy De Grace, Secretary  
Department of Human Services