

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 12, 2013

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Hooper Community Center

PRESENT:

Jason Kakatsch, East Central WI Regional Planning Commission; Chris Strong, Oshkosh Go Transit; Holly Keenan, Making the Ride Happen; Kathryn Nichols, Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh; Mark Ziemer, Senior Services of Oshkosh; Mike Norton, Winnebago County Board and Human Services Board; Rob Paterson, Human Services Board, Glen & Barb Davies, Oshkosh City Cab & Cabulance; Amber Beyer, Oshkosh City Cab & Cabulance; Paulette Stoltzmann, Public Health Department; Sal LaPuma, Valley Transit; 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 NOVEMBER 13, 2012 MEETING:

Kathryn Nichols moved for approval of the minutes of the November 13, 2012 meeting; seconded by Mark Weisensel and carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments.

4. CHAIR & VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS:

Kathryn Nichols nominated Jason Kakatsch to continue as chair and Mark Weisensel to continue as vice-chair; seconded by Chris Strong and carried.

5. DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2013 GOING PLACES BROCHURE:

Mark Weisensel invited council members to take copies of the updated transportation brochure with them for distribution. He said he had 3,000 copies printed, and he will distribute them at various locations across the county.

6. ACCOMPLISHMENTS LETTER TO THE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD/COUNTY BOARD:

Jason Kakatsch asked for any comments or additions to the accomplishments letter which gives statistics and other information regarding transportation services being provided in Winnebago County. We have seen an overall increase in ridership in 2012. A copy of the letter will be given to the Human Services Board and County Board.

7. UPDATES:

- Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Study: Mark Weisensel said that people in the rural areas sometimes have trouble getting rides into the cities. In order to get actual numbers of unmet transportation needs in Winnebago County, we will do a study with the use of grant money in the amount of \$56,000 from the Department of Transportation and 20% of that amount (or \$14,000) from the Aging & Disability Resource Center. It will be a two-phase study to first look at southern Winnebago County and then the northern end of the county. East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission will be the consulting agency, and a steering committee of about 15 people will be part of the process. A transportation summit will be planned to give the results of the study. Jason Kakatsch said we hope to have recommendations in place by the end of the year. It will be a tie-in to a federal requirement to have a county-wide transportation coordination plan in place showing how federal dollars are utilized to fund transportation services. They will contact various stakeholders throughout the county to get their thoughts on how we can improve transportation services.
- Medical assistance transportation: Jason Kakatsch said Logisticare is ending their contract with Winnebago County effective mid-February for medical assistance transportation. A request for proposal has been advertised by the state to find a new provider. Some legislators would still like to proceed with a legislative audit of Logisticare.
- State and federal policy and funding: Jason Kakatsch said the governor appointed a state transportation, finance and policy commission to look at state transportation programs and funding for the future. According to a report released a few weeks ago, one of its recommendations is to restore the 10% cut in public transportation funding, and another is for the legislature to consider regional transportation authority language that would allow local units of government to have a tax to generate revenue for public and specialized transportation.

8. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:

Mark Weisensel said all of the 2013 contracts are signed and delivered to provider agencies. We are starting to look at projections for the 2014 budget.

Mark Ziemer said he has been part of a group regarding health and other needs of older adults. Transportation was identified as being an issue for the population that they serve. Their group will connect with the transportation study group to give recommendations.

Kathryn Nichols said they are hoping to receive a vehicle in response to a grant proposal that they submitted last year.

Chris Strong said ridership in 2012 was good—fixed route was up 7%, and system-wide it was up 6%. Bike rack usage was up over 30%; mobility by securement was up 7% to 8%.

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Chris Strong said the new routes will start operating April 1. They have four dates scheduled for an open house, and they will have maps available in public places and on the buses. They want to address as many questions as they can and make the transition as easy as possible.

Holly Keenan said they were awarded a New Freedom grant for 2013. They found through a small-scale study they did in Outagamie County that there is a need for a lift on any of their vehicles to handle large wheelchairs. Holly said they will be doing the self-sufficiency transportation plunge with United Way on May 3. The purpose is to get stakeholders in the community to see and experience the problems people are facing with transportation issues.

Barbara Davies said they are in the process of having new software installed so things will be time stamped. It will help to keep track of the location of drivers on their route that day. She said she had her drivers go through a simulation of being a passenger, such as being in a wheelchair. They received certificates for that hands-on training.

Sal LaPuma said they had a 2% increase in fixed route ridership, but their ADA service was down about 5% in 2012. They continue to work on the Fox Cities Regional Transit Authority (RTA). Their connector service has stayed consistent.

Jason Kakatsch said the Northeast Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee comprised of 18 counties meets quarterly to talk about transportation on a broad scale. Since there is more and more demand for public transportation and specialized services on a regional scale, they will sponsor a half day transportation summit as part of their meeting tentatively set for Friday, July 26. They will invite transportation stakeholders and decision makers from northeast Wisconsin to listen to presentations about the demographics and projected demand for transportation service; best practices and innovative programs; and discuss the direction and coordination of transportation programs in urbanized and rural areas.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council will be held on May 14, 2013 at the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy De Grace, Secretary, Human Services Department