

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, August 9, 2011

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Hooper Community Center

PRESENT:

Jason Kakatsch, East Central WI Regional Planning Commission; Chris Strong, Oshkosh Transit; Holly Keenan, Making the Ride Happen; Lori Duclon, Public Health Department; Harvey Rengstorf, County Board; Kathryn Nichols, Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh; Bob Poeschl, ARC-Winnebago County Disability Association; Barb & Glen Davies, Oshkosh City Cab/Cabulance; Mark Ziemer, Oshkosh Senior Center; Carrie Porter, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources; Mark Weisensel & 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 FEBRUARY 8, 2011 MEETING:

Harvey Rengstorf moved for approval of the minutes of the February 8, 2011 meeting; seconded by Mark Weisensel and carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments.

4. DISTRIBUTION OF FINAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS LETTER TO THE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD/COUNTY BOARD:

Jason Kakatsch provided copies of the letter describing the 2010 accomplishments of the Specialized Transportation Council. A letter is prepared annually and given to the Human Service Board and County Board.

5. UPDATES:

- a. Task Force – Holly Keenan said the Task Force committee has targeted some goals they would like to accomplish: 1) further elaborate on the Volunteer Driver Program and 2) look at providing some travel training and/or bus buddies, which they are working on through Oshkosh Transit. Mark Weisensel said he participated in a meeting regarding the collaboration of the Volunteer Driver Program and Making the Ride Happen. They will share riders aged 60 and over in the city of Oshkosh who do not qualify for LogistiCare rides.

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- Bob Poeschl asked for ideas on ways to address the issue of riders not giving 24 hrs. notice to schedule a ride. It is a burden on the city, on the company, and on the rider (because they end up not getting the best quality service with such short notice). Bob expressed concern that there would be a fee assessed for less than 24 hrs. notice. He asked if they could work together in addressing this concern for the disadvantaged population that he serves. He suggested training be given to those riders about the appropriate way to access rides through City Cab or other para-transit services. Holly said she would coordinate this with Barb & Glen Davies of Oshkosh City Cab/Cabulance.
- b. Medical Assistance Transportation: Mark Weisensel said Oshkosh City Cab/Cabulance started providing transportation services for LogistiCare in Winnebago County on July 1 of this year. Mark said any concerns that existed with LogistiCare in Winnebago County have been worked out. Barb Davies said LogistiCare sets their schedule five days in advance, which helps in planning. She said she and Glen amended the proposed contract, adjusting it to what would work for the clients. There has not been a big change for individuals who previously received transportation services through Oshkosh City Cab/Cabulance. Jason Kakatsch said some providers are having a problem with not being paid in a timely manner. Some providers are having their itineraries changed at the last minute, and some have received a “red flag” if they deny doing a trip that is out of their geographical area. Carrie Porter said she has received information from the aging community through the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources and is compiling these to the state department. She said some communities don’t have a local provider, so LogistiCare brings in a provider. This can have a significant effect on service. Carrie said she raises awareness so LogistiCare is held accountable for the performance measures outlined in their contract and people get the rides they are entitled to. Jason Kakatsch said there has been communication with local legislators regarding LogistiCare issues. Carrie said nursing homes are currently exempt because of lobbying by the nursing association against having to use LogistiCare. Mark Weisensel said Family Care is exempt; whereas the IRIS program is not. Jason encouraged everyone to contact Carrie if they hear of any other issues regarding participation with LogistiCare.
- c. Impacts of State Budget Repair Bill/Biennial Budget: Jason Kakatsch said we continue to track this information. He reminded everyone that the passage of the State Budget Repair Bill would have eliminated the ability for transit systems to obtain federal operating assistance, because at the federal level receipt of those funds requires collective bargaining rights to be in place for transit workers. That has since been resolved with the passage of a bill that now includes transit workers from being exempt from the loss of collective bargaining rights. Regarding the Biennial Budget, Jason said the state at one point was looking at moving transit funding from the transportation fund to the general fund to compete with other programs. That has since been changed where transit is again included in the transportation fund; however, the hurdle we have faced is that it still takes away 10% of state operating assistance beginning in 2012. Chris Strong said they estimate the 10% would have about a 3% impact on their revenues. He said federal revenue is a big component of their funding, and there is a lot of uncertainty at the federal level regarding transportation spending. Local funding is about 18% of their budget, and they haven’t yet started on their budget process. He anticipates there will be reductions in this area, but he is uncertain about county funding.

- d. RTA/TMA/2010 Census: Jason Kakatsch said we have been tracking Regional Transit Authorities (RTA) for a number of years. The four RTA's that were authorized in the state a few years ago have since been eliminated through legislation, and future RTA's were prevented from being formulated. Jason said he heard that there is potential legislation being drafted for RTA's again.

Transportation Management Area (TMA) is a federal designation that says when an area reaches 200,000 people or more, the federal government no longer provides funding for transportation. Valley Transit and Green Bay Transit have exceeded that threshold and will lose roughly 20% of their annual budget starting next year, which means there will be less federal money for all transportation agencies in the state. Oshkosh Transit will lose approximately 8%-10%. Jason said the federal transportation bill dictates that every dollar spent for transportation has to be authorized. It has been continually extended using the same funding formula since 2005. There is hope that a new bill would be created that would address some of the concerns about transit, but a reauthorization probably won't take place until next fall.

6. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:

Mark Weisensel said the Human Services Board approved his proposed budget for Valley Transit and Oshkosh Transit.

Chris Strong said the Common Council adopted the Transit Development Plan. He said they are now working with the Transit Board and the Common Council in the implementation process.

Kathryn Nichols said they received the second vehicle that was awarded them through a 53.10 grant from February 2008. The new vehicle is a 12-passenger vehicle with 2 wheelchair tie-down seats. It is used primarily for residents' shopping trips. The first vehicle they received is a mini-van which has accessibility for one wheelchair and is used for admissions from the hospital or other medical trips. Kathryn said there is a possibility that they will apply for a 53.10 grant again, this time for a larger bus with more wheelchair tie downs.

Kathryn reported for Judy Britton of Cerebral Palsy of Mideast Wisconsin stating that the 53.10 vehicle transportation was extremely helpful in relocating the residents of their respite house after it was damaged in April. She said they may also consider applying for a 53.10 grant if it is posted.

Holly Keenan said they now have some volunteer drivers in the Oshkosh area. She said there will be a "free" transit day in Oshkosh on August 27. They will set up bus buddies in each of the bus routes on that day to encourage people to ride the bus. They will advertise and encourage businesses to provide free items or incentives to get people on the bus and into their stores. Holly said she has been giving presentations about the volunteer bus service.

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7. 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 November 8, 2011 at the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission at 1:30 p.m.

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