

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, November 8, 2011

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

PRESENT:

Jason Kakatsch, East Central WI Regional Planning Commission; Chris Strong, Oshkosh Transit; Holly Keenan, Making the Ride Happen; Lori Duclon, Public Health Department; Mike Norton, County Board; Kathryn Nichols, Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh; Barb, Glen and Bonnie Davies, Oshkosh City Cab/Cabulance; Carol Kasimor, City of Neenah; Mary Kay Rathe, Oshkosh Senior Center; Mark Weisensel & Dorothy De Grace, Winnebago County Department of Human Services

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Jason Kakatsch acknowledged the service of Harvey Rengstorf, a long-time member of the County Board and this Council, who passed away recently.

Jason welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2011 MEETING:

Mark Weisensel moved for approval of the minutes of the August 9, 2011 meeting; seconded by Carol Kasimor and carried.

3. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE STATE ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR 2012 (85.21 FUNDING):

Mark Weisensel explained that each year the Human Services Department applies to the state Department of Transportation for dollars for elderly and disabled transportation. He said the Winnebago County Department of Human Services intends to submit to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation an application for Specialized Transportation Assistance (s 85.21, Wis. Stats.) in the amount of \$362,509 for 2012. The matching requirement of county dollars in the amount of \$72,509 or 20% is included in the Department's 2012 approved County budget. The funding for 2012 is being allocated evenly between the following two programs for the provision of rides to the elderly and/or disabled citizens of Winnebago County: 1) ADA and Para-Transit service provided by Oshkosh Transit and 2) ADA and Para-Transit service provided by Valley Transit.

Mike Norton moved to open the public hearing at 1:37 p.m.; seconded by Kathryn Nichols and carried. With no comments brought before the council, Mike Norton moved to close the public hearing at 1:38 p.m.; seconded by Carol Kasimor and carried.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2012 SECTION 5310 GRANT TO BE SUBMITTED BY BETHEL HOME/LUTHERAN HOMES OF OSHKOSH:

Kathryn Nichols said they have been providing transportation since 2006 and have added several vehicles along the way, and they currently have a 1989 bus that is no longer operating. The grant she is requesting would replace that bus and be used to drive about 600 Lutheran Home residents and people in the surrounding area that need accessible transportation. It will fill any gaps in the current system. Lutheran Homes pays 20% of the cost of the vehicle; the 53.10 grant would provide the rest.

Mark Weisensel moved to open the public hearing; seconded by Chris Strong and carried at 1:41 p.m. With no comments brought forth regarding the grant application, Holly Keenan moved to close the public hearing; seconded by Mike Norton and carried at 1:42 p.m.

5. AMENDING THE 2008 COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PLAN TO INCLUDE BETHEL HOME/LUTHERAN HOMES OF OSHKOSH 2012 SECTION 5310 GRANT/VEHICLE REQUEST:

Jason Kakatsch said that counties are required to have a Human Service Public Transportation Coordination Plan in place for identifying the utilization of certain federal transit funding programs. One of those is the section 53.10 capital grant for the acquisition of vehicles. The last plan for Winnebago County was developed in 2008, and we will need to amend it to include the recent 53.10 proposal by Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh for a 12 ft. bus with two wheelchair securements.

Mike Norton moved to approve the amendment to Winnebago County's Transportation Coordination Plan; seconded by Carol Kasimor and carried.

6. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no additional comments.

7. 2012 TRANSPORTATION BROCHURE CHANGES

Mark Weisensel asked for any changes or updates to the 2012 Transportation Services Brochure for Winnebago County. Changes need to be given to Becky Pinnow at the American Red Cross by December 31, 2011. Mark will then get the brochures printed and will bring some to the next meeting for distribution. He said he will include information regarding LogistiCare's non-emergency Medicaid transportation.

8. UPDATES:

- a. Task Force – Holly Keenan said the group initially met to discuss ways to get the Making the Ride Happen program working in the Oshkosh area, and they were able to accomplish that task.

The Task Force will be working on the bus buddy program this summer with a goal of having disabled adults and the senior population ride the bus instead of using para-transit if possible. They decided that the Task Force would reconvene when there are issues that need to be addressed in the smaller group setting.

- b. Medical Assistance Transportation: Jason Kakatsch said he continues to hear of issues with the program in other counties; although some improvements have been made. Mark Weisensel said the Department of Human Services is keeping track of all complaints. He said any LogistiCare complaints or issues can be directed to him.
- c. State and Federal Policy/Funding:

Jason Kakatsch said he heard that State Senator Robin Voss, who lead the charge to stop regional transit authority legislation in the state, is talking about developing his own RTA legislation that would include funding for transit, as well as for streets and highways.

9. 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

Jason shared the meeting schedule for next year.

10. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:

Mark Weisensel reported that the County Board approved the Human Service budget with no changes in the proposed 2012 transportation areas.

Holly Keenan said she is in the process of applying for a New Freedom grant to supplement their funding, because they were told that based on the population in the rural area, they will get a 4.1% decrease in funding. She is also exploring a collaborative effort for an organizational model of transportation between Making the Ride Happen and Clarity Care's "Living Assistance" program. It would also include Christine Ann Center and American Red Cross.

Chris Strong explained that they recently had a Try Transit Day where free transit was offered. It was very successful. For 2012, they are not looking at any service changes in their fixed route system and no fare increases to that system. There will be a couple of other fare increases that will be considered by the City Council. Chris said they are recommending some funding for travel training. They have rolled out a new application for ADA transportation.

Lori Duclon said the Public Health Department is working on a consolidation with the Oshkosh and Neenah Health Departments.

Carol Kasimor said their contract will be with Fox Valley Cab again next year for Neenah/Menasha Dial-a-Ride and town of Menasha Dial-a-Ride. They are looking at what federal dollars will be available next year, but they don't anticipate any fare increases.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council will be held on February 14, 2012 at the Hooper Building at 1:30 p.m.

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