

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 8, 2012

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

**PLACE:** East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

**PRESENT:**

Jason Kakatsch, East Central WI Regional Planning Commission; Dave Vickman, Oshkosh Transit; Jan DeKeyser, Town of Neenah; Larry Kriescher, Winnebago County Board; Guy Hegg, Winnebago County Board; Barb & Glen Davies, Oshkosh City Cab and Cabulance; Chris Strong, Oshkosh Transit System; Bruce Detweiler, Valley Transit; Beckie Pinnow, American Red Cross; Carol Kasimor, City of Neenah; Sal LaPuma, Valley Transit; Rob Paterson, ADRC Committee; Mike Norton, Winnebago County Board and Oshkosh Transit Advisory Board; Susan Locke, Winnebago County Board; Jim Erdman, Town of Oshkosh; Mark Weisensel, Winnebago County Department of Human Services & ADRC; 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 FEBRUARY 14, 2012 MEETING:**

Mark Weisensel moved for approval of the minutes of the February 14, 2012 meeting; seconded by Mike Norton and carried.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no comments.

**4. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ON THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY RURAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM:**

Jason Kakatsch explained that the Specialized Transportation Council discussed at its last meeting the barriers or gaps in transportation throughout Winnebago County. One issue of concern was that out of the 16 municipalities, only 9 or 10 of the towns or villages participate in the Rural Transportation Program. Dave Vickman distributed a brochure explaining the program, which is a partnership between Winnebago County and the Oshkosh Transit System. The program is funded by Winnebago County, the State of Wisconsin, the Federal Transit Administration, participating townships and user fares. Dave referred to a chart showing the average monthly ridership to the program for 2011. The program is offered for seniors over age 60 and for disabled individuals under age 60. The vehicles used are sedans and lift-equipped vans provided through contract with Oshkosh City Cab and Cabulance. Riders are limited to 10 one-way rides per month, but there are some exceptions. Transportation trips can be taken anywhere within Winnebago County with no trip purpose. The cost of a one-way fare is \$12; but if the township participates, the town pays half of the fare (\$6) and the rider pays the other half (\$6).

Mark Weisensel said the Rural Transportation Program started 29 years ago. He noted the other available transportation services listed in the “Going Places” brochure, which is prepared by the Specialized Transportation Council each year. Mark distributed the 2012 “Going Places” brochure.

**5. UPDATES:**

- Medical assistance transportation: Jason said Logisticare is the broker hired by the state to manage all medical assistance transportation. Logisticare contracts with local providers in coordinating and facilitating rides. Jason said there have been reports of problems with Logisticare in terms of people being denied trips and being left stranded at appointments, among other issues. Oshkosh City Cab/Cabulance was the local provider for Logisticare until recently. The new provider is Northwest Transportation Specialists of Eau Claire. Dave Vickman recently attended a state transit meeting with a purpose of discussing how the state transit systems can better communicate with Logisticare and how they could work together. Dave said Logisticare indicated that their contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) wasn't clear and that they are providing some trips that they weren't aware they would be providing. They said they get paid on membership, but their membership has gotten smaller and they are being asked to do more. Logisticare was told by the DHS that they cannot force someone to ride the city bus. Currently, they are allowing individuals to choose which service they want, and they are choosing the sedan or lift-equipped van instead of taking the bus. Dave said 95% of Logisticare trips are for ambulatory individuals. Sal LaPuma said some riders are calling Valley Transit for rides that they should be getting with Logisticare, and the counties are paying for part of the trip with 85.21 money. He said if we know they are calling through Logisticare, we will charge them an agency rate where they are paying the local share rather than the county paying it.

Mark Weisensel said the 19 counties that make up the Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee and other organizations and transportation providers have requested a statewide program audit of Logisticare because there seems to be some inefficiencies in the Logisticare program.

- State and federal policy/funding: Jason said there is nothing new at the state level regarding transportation policy or funding issues, but there is a group trying to get the 10% cut in state aid restored for public transit that was included in the last budget. A committee will be meeting to begin negotiations between the House and Senate regarding the federal transportation reauthorization bill which was extended through June.

**6. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:**

Dave Vickman said ridership for Oshkosh Transit has increased about 10% so far this year. They are working on a new logo for the transit system, and their facebook page is over 300 “likes.”

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Mark Weisensel said the Human Services Department is trying to stay within their transportation budget for consumers, but at the same time making sure people are getting their transportation needs met.

Sal LaPuma said fixed route ridership for Valley Transit is up almost 12% and para-transit is up between 10%-12%.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council will be held on August 14, 2012 at the Hooper Community Center at 1:30 p.m.

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