

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, May 12, 2015

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC)

PRESENT:

Nicholas Musson, ECWRPC; Holly Keenan, Lutheran Social Services; Dave Vickman, Go Transit; Steve Komp, Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh; Mark Ziemer, Oshkosh Senior Services; Mike Norton, County Board Supervisor; Mark Weisensel and Dorothy De Grace, Winnebago County Department of Human Services

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Nicholas Musson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2015 MEETING:

Mark Ziemer moved for approval of the minutes of the February 10, 2015 meeting; seconded by Mark Weisensel and carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

4. NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION (NEMT):

Nick Musson shared a power point regarding NEMT. He said that each year millions of Americans miss or delay preventative medical care due to the inability to access transportation services. The Medicaid NEMT benefit fills the various access gaps by providing the least costly but appropriate method of transportation. Nick said that in Wisconsin, one in five residents aged 65+ does not drive and will be seeking transportation options; 53% of those drivers stay isolated in their homes. NEMT is funded through the Department of Health Services, and it has been managed statewide since 2011 by a for-profit company. During that time we have seen poor quality service; between 600-900 complaints a month by riders; cost shifting to other transportation programs due to riders' inability to access MTM which results in the tax payer paying twice for the ride; increased costs to medical facilities due to missed appointments; and increased costs of the program each year. Nick shared a letter prepared by Carrie Porter of GWAAR and other transportation representatives that was sent to the Legislative Audit Bureau. It outlines their suggestions for improving the provision of the NEMT benefit. In the letter they stated that they would like to see a regional brokerage system operated by non-profit or governmental entities which would allow for local control having knowledge of local people, service and geography, while creating economies of scale and operational efficiencies. Nick Musson shared the list of recommendations of the Legislative Audit Bureau for the Department of Health & Human Services regarding considering developing additional performance standards related to NEMT service.

5. HEALTH AND PLANNING:

Steve Komp said Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh has been working with ECWRPC to start a community program called, "Cycling Without Age" which involves volunteers going to nursing homes or other senior living facilities to take interested seniors on a bicycle outing.

Nick Musson said he's been talking to several people about the possibility of starting a bike share program for Oshkosh.

6. STATUS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

Nick Musson said they started a transportation coalition within Winnebago County as a recommendation of the Specialized Transportation Plan. They are looking at rural transportation options for the future and are investigating the "Making the Ride Happen" program expanding to Oshkosh. They are also working with Advocap regarding volunteer transportation. They will continue working on the recommendations and try to improve transportation throughout the county.

7. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:

Mike Norton reported that the Human Services Board recently received a presentation from Pam Busch of Door Tran service.

Dave Vickman said they started a new program on April 1 where Fox Valley Tech students in Oshkosh can ride the bus for free, similar to the program in Appleton. It has been successful so far. Go Transit received a grant award of federal capital funds for a new bus, which will be helpful as they have a fleet of about 10 buses from 2003 that are in need of repair. At their Board meeting on Wednesday, June 17 at City Hall they will discuss their next request for proposal (RFP) for Cabulance service, as their contract with Cabulance is up at the end of this year. They will be asking riders for feedback on what transportation issues should be prioritized, which will help when evaluating proposals. Dave will be making a presentation on July 2 to the transportation coalition explaining the funding that pays for transit service.

Mark Weisensel said he updated the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation brochure and had 3,000 copies made. He said they will be disseminated throughout the county and he asked everyone to take copies with them today.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE – AUGUST 11, 2015: The date of the next meeting was noted.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Dave Vickman moved for adjournment; seconded by Steve Komp and carried at approximately 2:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council will be held on August 11, 2015 at the Hooper Community Center at 1:30 p.m.

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