

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 13, 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; Holly Keenan, Making the Ride Happen; Beckie Pinnow, American Red Cross; Kathryn Nichols, Lutheran Homes 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 AUGUST 14, 2012 MEETING:**

Holly Keenan moved for approval of the minutes of the August 14, 2012 meeting; seconded by Beckie Pinnow and carried.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE STATE ELDERLY & DISABLED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR 2013 (85.21 FUNDING):**

Beckie Pinnow moved to open the Public Hearing at 1:34 p.m.; seconded by Holly Keenan and carried. Mark Weisensel said that next year we will get a 1.7% increase in funding for specialized transportation. He said the Department of Human Services will submit to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation an application for Specialized Transportation assistance in the amount of \$362,509 for the year 2013. The matching requirement of county dollars in the amount of \$76,139 (or 20%) is included in the Department's 2013 budget. The funding will be allocated to the ADA and para-transit service provided by Oshkosh Transit and Valley Transit for the provision of rides to the elderly and/or disabled citizens of Winnebago County. With no public comments, Kathryn Nichols moved to close the Public Hearing at 1:35 p.m.; seconded by Dave Vickman and carried.

**4. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no comments.

**5. 2013 TRANSPORTATION BROCHURE CHANGES:**

Mark Weisensel asked for any changes to the "Going Places" brochure. The brochure contains information about the transportation services offered in Winnebago County. Council members should let Beckie Pinnow know of their suggested changes by December 14. Mark will have 5,000 copies printed and will bring some of them to the next meeting for distribution.

**6. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION:**

Jason Kakatsch said a letter had been circulating the Legislature asking for an audit of the Medical Assistance Transportation program because of some inconsistencies in the program. We won't know if an audit will take place until the Legislature reconvenes in January.

**7. UPDATE ON POTENTIAL WINNEBAGO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION STUDY:**

Dave Vickman said a subgroup met a couple of times and sent an application to the Department of Transportation for a grant of \$56,000 to be used for a transportation study. The Human Services Department would put in the 20% match of \$14,000. Mark Weisensel said the study will be a two-phased approach: 1) the first phase would be for southern Winnebago County rural areas including Oshkosh, and 2) the second phase would be for northern areas of the county, especially rural areas. He said they are looking at hiring a consultant who would interview stakeholders, riders, and Transportation Committee members for the completion of surveys regarding transportation services. They would then have a summit meeting where recommendations would be made to handle unmet transportation needs. Dave Vickman said some of the cost to meet the needs would be captured by shifting existing resources; we could also apply for grants. The outcome of past studies will be included in the decision-making.

**8. 2013 MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Jason Kakatsch noted that the 2013 meetings will continue as scheduled; i.e., quarterly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

**9. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:**

Mark Weisensel said the County Board has approved the Human Service budget and all of the included contracts for 2013.

Holly Keenan said they just recruited another volunteer driver. She said they are seeing more need for transportation between Oshkosh and Neenah/Menasha. She recently did more travel training.

Beckie Pinnow said the American Red Cross is looking for additional volunteer drivers.

Kathryn Nichols said they were recently notified that they have been awarded a 53.10 grant that they submitted in February. One of their vehicles will then be used to predominately serve the Town of Algoma.

## SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Minutes of 11/13/12 Meeting

Page 3

Dave Vickman said they've changed their name from Oshkosh Transit to "Go Transit." Their para-transit service is now referred to as "Go Plus." Their October ridership was up 18% from the same time last year. They are selling more of the monthly ridership bus passes—especially an increased amount to the IRIS program and Lakeland Care District. They offer a free Saturday ridership program for the elderly and disabled called "Freedom to Go" which will take someone as far as Neenah. This will be offered until the end of March. Dave said they project that ridership for the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh will reach 100,000 this year.

Dave said the implementation for the new bus routes is April 1. At this point there is no increase in fare requested in their budget for 2013. Cabulance and Oshkosh City Cab are rolling out new software that will streamline communication with drivers. It will help keep data in federal compliance by tracking each rider individually with a tablet system when there is more than one rider on a trip. They are buying two new Excelsior model buses that operate on diesel fuel. They are close in similarity to the hybrid bus for fuel efficiency. The buses should arrive in April or May. Dave said the City Council has asked that they install automatic passenger counting systems on their buses to be sure they are getting accurate data. They will try them on the two new buses with the anticipation that it will improve their ridership data.

### **10. ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council will be held on February 12, 2013 at the Hooper Community Center at 1:30 p.m.

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