

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014

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

**PLACE:** Hooper Community Center

**PRESENT:**

Nick Musson, East Central WI Regional Planning Commission; Lorraine Yarbrough, Cerebral Palsy & ARC; Steve Komp, Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh; Mark Ziemer, Senior Services of Oshkosh; Mike Norton, Winnebago County Board and Human Services Board; Glen & Barb Davies, Oshkosh City Cab & Cabulance; Heidi Vargas, Lakeside Packaging Plus; Barb Wolf, Public Health Department; Mark Weisensel and Dorothy De Grace, Winnebago County Department of Human Services

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

Nick Musson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2013 MEETING:**

Lorraine Yarbrough moved for approval of the minutes of the November 13, 2013 meeting; seconded by Mark Weisensel and carried.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no comments.

**4. WINNEBAGO COUNTY SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION STUDY UPDATE:**

Nick Musson said there was a meeting recently with the Transportation Steering Committee to review the results of the study. He will build off the recommendations that were given and prepare them in more detail to be presented at the next Steering Committee meeting. At that meeting he will give examples of best practices or something similar that other agencies are doing. They will have another meeting at which time the committee can follow-up and refine the recommendations. The final plan will be presented at a meeting near the end of March. Nick said they will continue to collect data and surveys up until the completion of the plan.

**5. THE FORMATION OF THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY ADVOCACY COALITION:**

Nick Musson said the formation of a Mobility Advocacy Coalition is one of the recommendations in the Transportation Plan. He said while going through the study process, they noticed there are a lot of transportation issues that need to be discussed among the various partners, such as transportation providers, elected officials, disabled users of transportation, Public Health Department, Human Services, and the general public. They will try to meet quarterly, and the meetings will have an educational component.

**6. VALLEY TRANSIT RIDER SURVEY AND STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:**

Nick Musson said Valley Transit is currently going through a survey process with their riders throughout their complete system. He will ask someone from Valley Transit to present the results at a future meeting. The results will be part of the Strategic Plan process.

**7. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:**

Mark Weisensel distributed copies of the 2014 Transportation Brochure which lists the transportation programs and services available for the elderly and/or disabled in Winnebago County.

Steve Komp said he is in the process of identifying the transportation needs of the over 300 independent seniors on the campus of Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh. He doesn't want to duplicate transportation services that are already available within the county. They have four buses on campus, with one of them having the capacity of transporting 14 ambulatory individuals and one bus for wheelchair residents.

Mark Ziemer asked Heidi Vargas to share the effects of the changed bus routes for the clients of Lakeside Packaging. Heidi said with the transition of bus route changes, there was some confusion and anxiety; but their clients did very well through the transition. They had asked Go Transit to come to their agency and provide specific training and explain detailed routes to their employees which helped with the transition. The majority of their riders decreased their transportation time to and from work significantly. One person wasn't able to continue riding the bus because of health issues. Also, employees were able to access public transportation on a half hour basis; whereas prior it was every one and one-half or two hours. Heidi said they continue to monitor the situation and try to encourage and train clients on their independence of using public transportation.

Nick Musson said the East Central Regional Planning Commission is working on its long-range transportation plans for the next 20 years, specifically for Oshkosh, Appleton and Fond du Lac. Nick said they finished the Winnebago County/Human Service Public Transportation Coordination Plan. They were part of a group that worked on eight other county plans, and the plans have all been approved by the state.

Nick Musson said the State Senate approved Senate Bill 259 regarding a Regional Transit Authority. The bill will now go to the Assembly for vote. He said an RTA would be essential for Valley Transit because when the Federal Government goes to reauthorize the transportation legislation, we may not have all of the funding that we have right now. He said the RTA is really an attempt to put together some stable funding sources for the Fox Cities area.

**8. NEXT MEETING DATE: May 13, 2014**

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**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, Mike Norton moved for adjournment; seconded by Mark Weisensel and carried at 2:15 p.m. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council will be held on May 13, 2014 at the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission at 1:30 p.m.

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