

**Iowa Transportation Coordination Council**  
**January 13, 2016, Meeting**  
**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Polk County River Place, Room 2**  
**Des Moines, IA 50310**

**MEETING NOTES**

**I. Call to Order**

The January 13, 2016, meeting of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

Kristin Haar, Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Public Transit, Chair

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

Scott Anderson, Access2Care

Hugh Lively, Regional Transit Authority – RIDES

Tim Weltzin, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging

Frank Greise, League of Human Dignity

Tony Filippini, Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Loren Bawn, Iowa Department of Human Services, Bureau of Refugee Services

Kelly Angell, American Cancer Society

Becky Harker, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

Doreen Chamberlin, Iowa Department of Public Health

**II. Introductions**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

**III. Review of September 9, 2015, Meeting Notes**

No comments or revisions were received.

**IV. Non-Emergency Medical Transportation under Managed Care Organizations Update**

Tim Weltzin updated the group on the status of non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) under the Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs). Mr. Weltzin explained the MCOs will handle more than NEMT, they will also be responsible for providing Medicaid waiver transportation. Implementation of the MCOs in Iowa was delayed by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid by 60 days to March 1, 2016. Iowa did disqualify the WellCare MCO contract on the recommendation of an administrative law judge, but WellCare is pursuing legal action. Iowa, however, is proceeding assuming there will be only three MCOs. For transportation, each MCO contracts with a different NEMT provider. AmeriHealth-Caritas is contracted with Access2Care, AmeriGroup is contracted with Logisticare, and United Healthcare is contracted with MTM. Mr. Weltzin advised that if members could not recall their NEMT provider to always call their MCO to be connected, as the MCOs are working to set up a warm transfer system so multiple phone calls would not need to be made by the member. Mr. Weltzin informed the group that Medicaid members had until February 17 to choose their MCO.

Becky Harker asked if each MCO would be responsible for educating the members about NEMT. Mr. Weltzin responded that they would have that responsibility.

Hugh Lively added that the move away from sheltered workshops for persons on Medicaid waivers would complicate the provision of transportation, with waiver program participants going to workplaces around the community at varied times, rather than to one central location at the same time.

Kristin Haar asked Frank Greise if the centers for independent living (CILs) had any concerns with the transition to MCOs. Mr. Greise explained that the CILs were more concerned about medical care under the MCOs rather than transportation at this time.

#### **V. 2016 Passenger Transportation Summit Planning**

Chair Haar handed out a draft agenda for the May 12, 2016, summit, explaining how the schedule will proceed. Under the Concurrent Sessions, for the Volunteer Transportation break-out, Kelly Angell offered that someone from the American Cancer Society (ACS) may be able to serve as a panelist explaining how they set up and run their volunteer programs. The group felt the Employer-provided Transportation session might be better as an Employment Transportation break-out, covering more options. The Regulatory Roadblocks break-out was decided to be a listening session to gather issues experienced by attendees to address after the summit.

Loren Bawn offered to help find a keynote speaker if the speaker invited from FTA was unable to attend.

Under the Technology and Coordination portion, Ms. Angell stated the ACS might be able to demonstrate its Service Match application/software showing how ACS lines up volunteers to provide rides to cancer patients.

#### **VI. Developmental Disabilities Council and Public Transit Coordination**

Ms. Harker explained the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council is in the fourth year of a project to increase the employment of youth. Transportation is an issue, especially at odd hours, therefore people are not always able to be fully employed. Ms. Harker asked her 250 member coalition about barriers to employment and transportation. Ms. Harker met with Chair Haar and Jeremy Johnson-Miller to discuss the responses and it was agreed that many of the issues could be solved with education and travel training and that the Iowa DOT and the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council would work together on a pilot project, selecting a community to work with to problem solve transportation issues.

#### **VII. Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines, Rides to Wellness Project Update**

Mr. Johnson-Miller shared his work with Mercy Medical Center on their Rides to Wellness project. On the Rides to Wellness committee are Mercy, a consumer, Mr. Johnson-Miller, and representatives from DART and HIRTA. The goal of the project is to decrease hospital re-admittance rates. To help with making follow-up doctor appointments, the committee has created a draft handout on transportation options for staff and patients. Mr. Johnson-Miller asked for feedback on the draft handout.

#### **VIII. Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 910 Review**

Chair Haar referred to the agenda packet's supplemental material, explaining the Iowa DOT is looking at the Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 910 as part of its regular, periodic review process. Much of what is included in this Chapter are outdated processes needing evaluated for

their usefulness. Because this Chapter addresses coordination, Tony Filippini suggested perhaps the Passenger Transportation Plan process in place could be used as justification for making the changes. Chair Haar will include this item on the March ITCC meeting agenda.

## **IX. Member Roundtable**

Chair Haar informed the group that Jennifer Roberts, formerly with the Iowa DOT's Office of Systems Planning, had taken a position with Snyder and Associates.

Mr. Bawn said the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services is working with DART to get bus passes for refugees to attend their classes and meetings, rather than using bus tokens. The passes are cheaper and are better for the client's quality of life as they may be used for any purpose throughout the month.

Ms. Angell explained the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program. She said the program is well established, but the hardest things to overcome are insurance issues and legal issues with volunteer transportation. The American Cancer Society is now using a new application called Service Match to assign trips to volunteers.

Julie Bergeson shared that the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) are now providing case management under the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO). The LifeLong Links projects are moving forward. Ms. Bergeson also informed that registration is now open for the Governor's Conference on Aging taking place May 23-26, 2016.

Mr. Johnson-Miller told the group he had been mostly working on year end reporting with the public transit agencies since ITCC met last. He also shared that Congress had passed a long-term transportation bill, the FAST Act, in December.

Scott Anderson stated that Access2Care is to be the transportation broker for AmeriHealth-Caritas Medicaid MCO. Access2Care is setting up a waiver help desk to assist Medicaid waiver recipients with setting up their trips.

Mr. Weltzin explained that 25,000-30,000 Medicaid members will remain as fee for service clients rather than have MCO coverage. This is because they may not be eligible for the MCO, are medically needy, or are members who pay a premium for their service. For Iowa Health and Wellness Plan members, they will now be covered under the MCOs. However, it is unknown if they will have transportation benefits depending on if the current transportation waiver continues or not. Mr. Johnson-Miller made a suggestion that Iowa Medicaid Enterprise add a page on their website matching the MCOs with their respective transportation brokers.

Mr. Filippini stated that the planning organizations around the state are working to compile their Transportation Improvement Programs and are accepting applications for Surface Transportation Program and Transportation Alternatives Program projects.

Mr. Greise shared that the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are working with the State Independent Living Council to develop a new state plan. They are collecting information on needs; the survey is at [leagueofhumandignity.com](http://leagueofhumandignity.com). The CILs are also making sure the ADRCs focus on those with disabilities, not just those who are aging. Mr. Greise informed that the CILs do options counseling for all ages, from birth to death, whereas the ADRCs provide options counseling for those aged 18 and up. Mr. Greise's CIL has worked to implement a successful bus ridership program locally and they want to conduct a local transportation survey.

Ms. Harker reported the Developmental Disabilities Council is working on their annual report and five year review.

Mr. Lively reported the public transit agencies are working to contract with the NEMT brokers and to provide the required credentialing. The transit agencies also are working through some CDL testing issues brought on by some new rules effective last summer. The Iowa Public Transit Association is seeking a new Executive Director and the membership is deciding how they want that position to be structured at a meeting in February. Mr. Lively's own transit agency, RIDES, is buying a new building for vehicle storage.

Doreen Chamberlin stated the Department of Public Health has been busy filling vacancies and beginning some new programs.

**X. IMMN and Statewide Mobility Manager Updates**

Mr. Johnson-Miller shared that there are two new mobility managers in Iowa, one in Decorah serving Region 1 and one serving Cedar Rapids.

**XI. Other Items of Interest**

None offered.

**XII. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location**

The next meeting will be held March 9, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Polk County River Place, Room 2, 2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310.

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.