

# **Iowa Transportation Coordination Council**

**November 8, 2017**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Polk County River Place, Room 2**

**2309 Euclid Avenue**

**Des Moines, IA 50310**

## **MEETING NOTES**

### **I. Call to Order**

The November 8, 2017, meeting of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

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

Joe Drahos, Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning

Loren Bawn, Bureau of Refugee Services

Roxanne Cogil, Epilepsy Foundation of North Central Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska

Kelly Angell, American Cancer Society

Tony Filippini, Ames Area MPO

Mindi Nguyen, Iowa DOT

Scott Anderson, Access2Care

David Mitchell, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Hugh Lively, RIDES

Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging

Megan Hartwig, Iowa Department of Public Health

Rebecca Bax, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

### **II. Introductions**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

### **III. Review of July 12, 2017, Meeting Notes**

No comments or revisions were received.

### **IV. ITCC Member Agency Spotlight – Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, David Mitchell**

Chair Haar introduced a new feature on the ITCC agendas, an ITCC Member Agency Spotlight. The purpose of this item is to introduce ITCC representatives to the other agencies around the table, learning more about their missions and functions, hopefully to lead to further understanding and coordination among the agencies. David Mitchell, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) Administrator, agreed to be the first agency in the spotlight.

Mr. Mitchell explained that IVRS is a division of the Iowa Department of Education and is 80-percent federally funded. Vocational Rehabilitation works with individuals with disabilities to find jobs. IVRS has staff assigned to public schools, community colleges, and to the regents schools with 13 area offices and 34 service units around the state.

IVRS has a Disability Determination Unit with 170 staff, making decisions on SSI and SSDI funding; this unit does not work much in the area of transportation.

IVRS' Independent Living Program assists individuals in monitoring their spending and providing assistance to enable persons to live at home rather than in an institutional setting.

IVRS' Employment Program has an active case load of 12,500. For every dollar spent in the Vocational Rehabilitation program, \$3 goes back into the economy. Mr. Mitchell informed the group that all secondary schools have a responsibility to help kids with individualized education plans (IEPs) to gain work skills; the youngest age for referral for assistance is 14.

IVRS also works with the Area Agencies on Aging to hire employment specialists to work with individuals with disabilities aged 55+.

**V. Update on Medicaid Transportation - Haar**

**a. Presentation to National Rural Transit Assistance Program conference**

Chair Haar guided the group through a presentation she, along with the Iowa DOT's Jeremy Johnson-Miller and SWITA transit manager Mark Lander, gave at the National Rural Transit Assistance Program Technical Assistance Conference in Omaha on October 31. The topic was Iowa public transit's approach to working with the Medicaid Home and Community Based Settings (HCBS) Integrated Settings Rule.

**b. New Medicaid rules impacting transportation**

Chair Haar shared the potential impact of the Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) AmeriHealth Caritas leaving the state is the scheduling of non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) public transit trips through the other two MCOs transportation brokers is more time consuming, creating the possible need for the public transit agencies to add additional staff to ensure all of the trips properly scheduled.

Another change involving Medicaid is the payment for transportation for Intellectual Disability Supported Community Living clients. Previously, for some clients around the state, transportation costs were in addition to the daily rate the waiver allowed. As of December 1, 2017, however, transportation costs will need to come out of that total daily allotment. This means Iowa's public transit systems need to get contracts in place to account for this change and some supportive community living organizations may be choosing to provide their own transportation instead of contracting that service out so all of the daily rate amount can stay within the organization. The impact of this change will be seen in the coming months.

**VI. 2018 Passenger Transportation Summit Topic Ideas - Haar**

Chair Haar requested the ITCC representatives to begin thinking of topics and panel ideas for the 2018 Passenger Transportation Summit. The date had not yet been set at the time of this meeting. More discussion about the agenda will happen at the January ITCC meeting.

**VIII. Member Roundtable - All**

Loren Bawn shared that the Bureau of Refugee Services' lead driver retired. The Bureau had been filling in with staff but recently contracted with a new driver. The Bureau is working to modernize communication with refugees going to work. The Bureau has four vehicles and provides up to three months of employment transportation in the first year the refugee is in the US. The Bureau provides approximately 50 rides per week.

Joe Drahos updated the ITCC on the Iowa DOT's park and ride locations. A park and ride location at US 20 in Dyersville and another at Thunder Bay restaurant at I-80 in Davenport both just opened. The Dyersville location is the first purpose-built park and ride the Iowa DOT has invested in. A third park and ride at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids opened last November. Megan Hartwig asked how the park and rides support economic development. Mr. Drahos stated that the partnerships to use the parking lots of businesses mean those parking there will likely also patronize that business.

Rebecca Bax introduced herself as the new executive director of the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council. Ms. Bax previously worked for the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council. Ms. Bax informed the group that the Iowa Coalition for Integration and Employment has been working on a project in Story County, a report for which will be out in January. Ms. Bax also shared she had the opportunity to ride DART in Des Moines for a couple weeks in October. Through this experience she was able to meet many people, but was concerned about the amount of technology riders must rely on in order to determine routes/fares, etc. This may be too difficult for persons with developmental disabilities to navigate.

Tony Filippini shared that CyRide is hosting service adjustment meetings, discussing a new fixed route structure to better accommodate student trips. Mr. Filippini also noted that Ames is working on a complete streets plan and making public health benefit linkages. From a regional transportation planning perspective, the Ames Area MPO is working on transit asset management and highway safety performance measures.

Mr. Mitchell announced the availability of 'Summer Work Camps' for persons aged 16-18. These camps are 3-4 days in length and teach job skills and participants learn about different businesses.

Roxanne Cogil stated that Iowa DOT Statewide Mobility Coordinator Jeremy Johnson-Miller spoke at the Seizure Smart Conference earlier this month, along with Deb Carney discussing driver license issues. The Epilepsy Foundation was able to get a \$1,000 grant from the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council to help persons with epilepsy living over 50-miles away get to the Seizure Smart Conference. Ms. Cogil informed that the Epilepsy Foundation can fund taxi rides and paratransit tokens when a person with epilepsy needs help getting to an appointment. The Iowa Epilepsy Foundation is becoming a chapter of the national foundation. Ms. Cogil reminded the group she is available to present seizure education training to groups upon request.

Scott Anderson shared that Access2Care is done providing Medicaid NEMT trips under AmeriHealth Caritas at the end of November. Access2Care does still have a contract directly with Iowa Medicaid Enterprise to provide NEMT for fee-for-service clients, but that totals only approximately 12,000 people.

Kelly Angell expressed her appreciation for Jeremy Johnson-Miller's recent participation on a panel for the Iowa Cancer Consortium.

Julie Bergeson informed that through the Area Agencies on Aging, Title IIIB funds paid for 264,427 one-way trips for 5,499 individuals in 2017. Ms. Bergeson also shared that LifeLong Links is updating its database records, so if your organization receives an update request, please complete it. Ms. Bergeson had a recent call from a company called GoGo Grandparent, wanting to come to Iowa. The company is like an Uber or Lyft service, but uses a telephone reservation system rather than a mobile application which may be more appealing to older adults.

Hugh Lively explained that this is the time of year when the transit agencies are making budget requests to their respective cities and counties. Mr. Lively's own transit agency just ordered 22 new buses, replacing about one-third of their 70-vehicle fleet. Northwest Iowa Connection mental

health region is working with RIDES to pilot some new after hours and weekend services in Dickinson and Clay Counties. RIDES also has applied to the Iowa Economic Development Authority for a grant to provide transportation from Buena Vista County to Ida County for shift workers at VT Industries. Approximately 30 employees are expected to use the service.

Chair Haar read Jeremy Johnson-Miller's report, as he was unable to attend the meeting:

Tricia Wagner has started at Region 8 – she comes from a marketing background, so they have changed the scope of the position to include a lot more outreach, etc. They have launched a marketing campaign to increase ridership to Delaware County (for Rides 2 Wellness grant).

Met some great contacts at RTAP – looking to expand mobility management performance measures to include “local support efforts” to garner future funding, after DOT programs complete.

Working with Easter Seals and NCMM to develop Mobility Management course at NTI – MM performance measures and competencies.

Healthcare Access Project – ACS, Johnson/Linn Counties

Chair Haar also shared that she and Mr. Johnson-Miller met in September with the Kidney Foundation. She hopes they will be able to start attending ITCC meetings soon.

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

**January 10, 2018  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
HIRTA Public Transit  
2824 104<sup>th</sup> Street  
Urbandale, IA 50322**

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.