

## **Iowa Transportation Coordination Council**

**March 14, 2012, Meeting**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Polk County River Place, Room 3A**

**2309 Euclid Avenue**

**Des Moines, IA 50310**

### **MEETING NOTES**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

Those in attendance included:

Erin Mullenix, Iowa League of Cities

Sue Olson, Iowa Department on Aging

Lisa Sieren, United Ways of Iowa

Jane Schockemoehl, Iowa Workforce Development

Tim Weltzin, Iowa Department of Human Services – Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

Scott Anderson, TMS

Jeff Harris, Region 6 Planning Commission/PeopleRides

Craig Hanner, Polk County Mobility Coordinator

Margi Ness, National Resource Center, Vice Chair

Angie O'Brien, Statewide Mobility Manager

Bridget Bartlett, Region 8 Mobility Manager

Doreen Chamberlin, Iowa Department of Public Health

Kristin Haar, Iowa Department of Transportation, Chair

#### **II. Review January 11, 2012, Meeting Notes**

#### **III. JobLinks Grant**

Margi Ness detailed a JobLinks grant opportunity the Community Transportation Association of America will make available for Iowa projects. Up to \$20,000 is available to help with mobility facilitation strategies and activities to benefit IowaWorks job seekers. These will be demonstration projects to test and adopt mobility-related functions and activities that will help Iowa job seekers manage mobility challenges related to training, job search and job access.

Margi reported that the goals of such a project are to gain awareness of individual mobility needs, provide information and assistance to job seekers, assess aggregated needs of IowaWorks customers for targeted employment transportation solutions, grow transportation options, and leverage resources of partners for common activities and solutions.

Project core partners must include one partner from an Iowa transportation provider/mobility manager and one partner from the IowaWORKS program. One core partner can be the

applicant, but a letter of commitment must come from the other core partner. Applications are due April 5, 2012, with project selections announced April 12, 2012. Projects must be complete by August 31, 2012.

#### **IV. IowaCare Transportation Needs**

Kristin Haar explained that the Iowa Department of Transportation Office of Public Transit (OPT) had been made aware of transportation needs of IowaCare patients now that the IowaCare clinic and hospital system has been reorganized. With care now provided on a tiered system, persons are having difficulty getting to the regional clinics and hospitals. Formerly, with nearly all trips in the state (except those in Polk County) went to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC), and the UIHC had a fleet of 10 vans available to help transport patients to Iowa City. The Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Broadlawns Hospital now caring for many IowaCare patients do not have fleets of vehicles and the IowaCare program does not have a transportation benefit; therefore transportation is an obstacle in receiving care.

Kristin stated that the OPT hoped to make a State Transit Assistance Special Project grant available to Iowa's public transit systems to transport IowaCare patients to their appointments. As currently proposed, the funding would allow 80-percent funding for IowaCare trips performed by the transit agencies. Jeff Harris expressed concern about finding the 20-percent local match. Jeff also suggested that the OPT recommend to the transit systems to make scheduled weekly trips available to the FQHCs and hospitals to maximize the limited funding available rather than making individual trips. The clinics will need to be educated about the availability of the weekly service and make an effort to accommodate it if the patient needs transportation.

Tim Weltzin explained that IowaCare members were majority adults, as children would be covered by Medicaid. IowaCare eligibility changes month to month, depending on the income of members. Tim also confirmed that if the Affordable Care Act remains in effect, most of the IowaCare members would become full Medicaid eligible on January 1, 2014, and transportation thereafter would be the responsibility of TMS.

Doreen Chamberlin suggested Iowa DOT to submit a letter to the FQHCs, DHS, etc. to make them aware of the service once it is available. Doreen also suggested that each region have a meeting between the local transit agencies and FQHCs to get to know each other. Bridget Bartlett asked if the DHS income maintenance workers could educate clients on transportation availability and service times?

Tim wondered how the University of Iowa had been paying for the fleet of vehicles if transportation was not a benefit under the IowaCare program, suggesting that funding source could be the match to the DOT's funds.

#### **V. Volunteer Transportation Survey of Cities Update and Senior Mobility Issues**

Kristin Haar updated the committee on the process for conducting a survey of volunteer transportation options.

Sue Olson made some suggestions for additional questions to add to the survey:

- Would the volunteer program be able to coordinate with other transportation programs?
- If offered, who is providing home-based services?
- Does the community property tax support the volunteer programs?
- Are users charged or asked to make a donation to help pay for services provided?

Sue also suggested that, if we choose to use UNI for surveying, they should be consulted about whom to survey and discuss with them what the ITCC and Iowa DOT want out of the survey.

Lisa Sieren noted that she could send out the survey through United Way's non-profit network.

Sue added that the AAAs could send the survey to their meal sites.

## **VI. ITCC Action Plan**

### **a. Goal Setting: Mobility Managers in Iowa**

A year ago, the ITCC set the goal of eight mobility managers by July 2013. With that goal in sight, the ITCC was asked to re-evaluate the goal and establish a new one to give Angie O'Brien as Statewide Mobility Manager a number to work toward.

Angie asked if the ITCC wanted to establish a short term goal and a longer term goal.

Jeff Harris suggested 16 mobility managers because there are 16 regional public transit regions as a starting point, and then determine what else is needed. Or if other areas beyond the regions want mobility managers, they need to find money to sustain the position without relying on Job Access Reverse Commute or New Freedom funding.

Margi Ness suggested, if funds are available, funding the 16 regions first and if the DOT receives an application from an urban area they will need to understand that if the regions want the funding, the urban areas may be cut.

Bridget Bartlett noted that there are different rural mobility management needs versus urban mobility management needs.

Jane Schockemoehl noted the need to find other funding sources for these positions.

Margi emphasized the need to develop performance measures for the mobility managers.

Lisa Sieren suggested determining the common work elements among the state's mobility managers, look at their quarterly reports, or do a survey of the mobility managers asking how they spend their time to help establish performance measures.

The council did not arrive at a decision during this meeting and will resume discussion at their May 2012 meeting.

**b. Veterans Transportation**

Kristin announced that the Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit would be applying for a Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Grant. Whether it is funded or not, it is a great incentive to coordinate more with veterans groups on transportation issues. Kristin asked the group to concur with adding Veterans Transportation and coordinating with veterans groups to the ITCC Action Plan. The group concurred.

**c. Coordination Institute Follow-up**

Kristin announced as part of the 2011 Iowa Institute for Transportation Coordination, the participating teams were to come up with a yearlong coordination plan. In May that year will come to a close, therefore Kristin suggested inviting the Institute teams to the July 2012 ITCC meeting to give the council an update on their coordination activities over the past year.

**VII. Committee Report – NEMT**

Bridget Bartlett reported for the committee. TMS receives 19,000 calls per month and provides 30,000 trips per month, with 2,000 fixed route trips. For comparison there are 400,000 full-benefit Medicaid members in Iowa. TMS is now issuing, when it makes sense cost-wise, fixed route bus passes to Medicaid members in urban areas to use to get to their medical appointments and any other trips they may need to make during the month. TMS may contact other current urban Medicaid members to determine if they would be able to use Fixed Route buses rather than paratransit or another private transportation company for their Medicaid rides. Bridget mentioned that legislation was pending in the Iowa legislature to form a TMS user group.

Tim Weltzin added that the Iowa Medicaid Director received a letter from PADS in Linn County. The Director met with the group in February and is following through on several of their requests: form a TMS advisory group, meeting on a quarterly basis, representing a wide-range of interests; and IME is sending a letter to all DHS field workers reminding them of the transportation/TMS benefit as the group was concerned that not all members were using their transportation benefits.

**VIII. IMMN Update**

Bridget Bartlett gave the update for the Iowa Mobility Manager’s Network meeting held the previous day.

**IX. Statewide Mobility Manager Update**

Angie O’Brien informed the group of the upcoming Mobility Matters4 Workshop.

**X. Member Roundtable - All**

Doreen Chamberlain stated that in 41 of the Community Health Needs Assessments submitted by Iowa’s counties, transportation was noted as an issue.

Lisa Sieren thanked Angie O’Brien for speaking at a meeting of United Ways in January.

Sue Olson informed the group that the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) currently in place would stay that way until June 30, 2013. That will give the AAAs time to reorganize and restructure into the consolidated agencies to be approved by the Iowa legislature this Spring.

**XI. Other Items of Interest**

No items offered.

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

**May 9, 2012**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

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Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.