

## **Iowa Transportation Coordination Council**

**July 10, 2013, 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 10:05 a.m.

Those in attendance included:

Scott Anderson, TMS

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency

Kristin Haar, Iowa Department of Transportation, Chair

Doreen Chamberlin, Iowa Department of Public Health

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

Jamie Orozco Nagel, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Christian Corley, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Ruth Thompson, Iowa Department on Aging

Theresa Allen, American Cancer Society

Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services

David Mitchell, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Jennifer Kammeyer, United Ways of Iowa

#### **II. Review March 13, 2013, Meeting Notes**

#### **III. Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code Updates**

Kristin Haar presented Iowa Code Section 324A.5 and Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 910 for the council's review. Ms. Haar reported the Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit is reviewing all public transit-related chapters of the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code at this time.

Kristin Haar stated that the Office of Public Transit would like to remove much of the text of these chapters as they currently are written to be very heavy handed in getting organizations to coordinate. Rather than being an enforcement tool, the Office of Public Transit would like to encourage coordination, not demand it.

Tim Weltzin recommended adding the department of public health to those agencies required to assist the DOT in transportation coordination issues. Ms. Haar also wishes to add the department of veterans affairs to encourage participation in the ITCC and workforce development as they already are a frequent, active participant.

Loren Bawn recommended leaving in the part about any organization receiving public funds for transportation should coordinate with their local public transit agency to the greatest extent possible.

Doreen Chamberlin suggested including mobility management in the chapters and ITCC's involvement, encouragement of the local Transit Advisory Groups, placing the Passenger Transportation Plans in the Administrative Rules and requiring review of State Transit Assistance Coordination funding applications by the ITCC, making recommendations to the DOT.

Ms. Haar stated the suggestions would be incorporated and the draft chapters will return for review at the September ITCC meeting.

#### **IV. Volunteer Transportation Survey**

Jaime Orozco Nagel and Christian Corley reported that, in cooperation with the ITCC, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services (ICVS) is conducting a survey of volunteer transportation programs throughout Iowa. The ICVS has identified that volunteer transportation is a need and knows there are real and perceived policy barriers to volunteer transportation. The survey will be done over Survey Monkey. Ms. Nagel and Mr. Corley requested input on the survey content and also requested assistance in distributing the survey to known volunteer organizations.

Theresa Allen with the American Cancer Society volunteered the American Cancer Society to help test the survey before it went 'live'.

#### **V. Member Roundtable**

Tim Weltzin reported the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) contract with TMS for Medicaid non-emergency transportation expired on June 30, 2013. This contract was extended for one year. IME will also have new administrative rules out around January 1, 2014. The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan was sent to the Centers for Medicare Medicaid for approval, not including a transportation benefit.

David Mitchell noted that the Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services will have Angie O'Brien, Statewide Mobility Manager, speak at a meeting in September.

Jamie Orozco Nagel stated that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services' Policy Committee is talking to legislators about discrepancy between the volunteer mileage rate and the business mileage rate.

Theresa Allen of the American Cancer Society reported from January 1 – May 31, 2013, the ACS in Iowa provided 68 cancer patients with 1144 rides. There are currently 44 hotels participating in their lodging program with 90 patients staying 360 nights in those hotels. Currently, Ms. Allen is recruiting volunteers in Iowa's metro communities.

Doreen Chamberlin advised that the Health Care and Public Transit brochure is available online or copies are available from Ms. Chamberlin. The Iowa Department of Public Health also had recently done a presentation to IME on the Medical Home Project. There are 24 organizations providing services to Medicaid providers.

Ruth Thompson stated that as of July 1, the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) have officially consolidated into six agencies. The AAAs also have been officially designated as Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) providing information, referral and assistance, options counseling, and serving as the contact for lifelonglinks.org.

Jennifer Kammeyer reported the United Ways of Iowa are looking for a new executive director. For United Way of North Central Iowa, working with the Region 2 Transit System, the Marshalltown Missile service has been running full, for the Saints Shuttle Region 2 is looking at ways to partner with Region 7 and Decorah to transport passengers from those regions to Iowa City. The North Iowa Commuter Express (NICE) starts next week. Marketing for this service has included educating persons and businesses about the transportation benefit and selling bus wraps.

Loren Bawn stated the Central Iowa Transit Advisory Group is working on a study with a grant provided by the Community Transportation Association of America to study transportation that runs anywhere, anytime, on any service, for anyone.

Jeremy Johnson-Miller reported on the Mobility Matters 5 conference held in May. One of the more interesting discoveries for participants through a panel discussion at that conference was Endure Iowa, an organization helping cancer patients and their families with hotel vouchers and transportation assistance such as gas cards and vehicle repairs.

#### **VI. Spring 2014 Transportation Summit**

Kristin Haar announced that the 2014 Passenger Transportation Summit is scheduled for May 15, 2014, at the Marshalltown Community College in Marshalltown.

ITCC members discussed agenda timing and possible speakers for each panel.

#### **VII. Veterans Transportation Community Living Initiative Project Update**

Kristin Haar presented preliminary results of the veterans transportation provider survey conducted for the DOT by the University of Northern Iowa. One of the takeaways for Ms. Haar from the survey was the lack of accessible transportation for veterans and that may be one way to increase partnerships between public transit agencies and veterans transportation providers.

#### **VIII. Committee Report – NEMT**

No report.

**IX. IMMN Update**

Jeremy Johnson-Miller stated Region 1's mobility manager has worked with Upper Iowa University to add a question about transportation to their student entrance survey. This will help the local public transit agency work with the university to create transportation services useful to the student population.

**X. Statewide Mobility Manager Update**

No report.

**XI. Other Items of Interest**

None shared.

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

**September 11, 2013**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

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