

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC) COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 9, 2013

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: Oshkosh Human Services Bldg., Room 33

Members Present: Ginger Beuk, Diane Egan, Debra Hogue, Ann Jungwirth, Donna Lohry, Mike Norton, Rob Paterson, Harold Singstock, and Claire Steger

Members Excused: Peter Christianson, Eileen Lienweber and Deb Pahl

Staff Present: Mary Krueger, Ron Duerkop, Mark Weisensel, Beth Biesinger and Dorothy De Grace

Others Present: Lori Duclon, Public Health Department; Larry Lautenschlager, Human Services Board; Judy James, consumer; Chris Strong, Oshkosh Go Transit; and Mark & Joshua Ziemer, Oshkosh Senior Center

1. Public Comments:

Judy James expressed concerns about the location that the new route #4 bus drops off riders at Logan Drive. She said people in wheelchairs will especially have problems when it snows out.

2. Introductions:

Introductions were made.

3. Approve Minutes of the August 12, 2013 ADRC Meeting:

Ginger Beuk moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Rob Paterson and carried.

4. ADA Regulations for Transit (Clarification):

Chris Strong responded to a statement that was made at a recent City Council meeting and at a Transit Advisory Board meeting saying that the changes made to the Oshkosh Go Transit route system made them out of compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. He referred to a copy of "ADA Essentials for Transit Board Members" which was prepared by Easter Seals Project Action and was sent to each Committee member. Chris said the ADA prohibits discrimination against people based on their disability status. He said the ADA doesn't say they have to route buses to hospitals or grocery stores. They are required to have accessible vehicles and they must provide complementary para-transit service, which means when someone cannot use the fixed route system because of a disability, they must provide a bus service that is complementary and must be within three-fourths of a mile of a bus route. Chris said when they go through their review process with the feds they look at on-time performance; they look at hold time; and they make sure their accessibility equipment is working.

Chris said they are allowed to have a transit stop that goes into a grassy patch; but as a transit manager he doesn't want to do that. He said they are far better served by making sure they have people using the bus when they can. They have money set aside to look at doing improvements to bus stops to add shelters and make carriage walks between the sidewalk and the curb; however, it is not a requirement that they do that at all of their stops. Chris said the route system impacts different people in different ways, but he doesn't believe it is a legal issue. The intent is not to deprive anyone of their transit services. If there is a regular pattern of having capacity issues such as for mobility devices, they must make note of that and make changes, since the feds could require them to add another bus to that route. Chris said that while there have been a lot of change requests, it takes a lot of staff time to analyze the changes. They want to try and focus on the priority issues first.

5. Resource Directory:

Beth Biesinger referred to the recently published Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Resource Directory for 2013-1014. She said changes were made from the last directory based on suggestions of the Committee and employees of the ADRC. Mark Weisensel said 10,000 copies were printed by the marketing firm "44° North" at no cost to us. They are being distributed throughout the county. There is also an on-line version for anyone to access from the ADRC website. Mike Norton moved that the Committee send a note of thanks to the marketing firm; seconded by Ann Jungwirth and carried.

6. Transportation – Fixed Route Update (Action):

Donna Lohry said that she, Ginger Beuk, Rob Paterson and Larry Lautenschlager appeared in front of the Common Council on two occasions and voiced the Committee's concerns about the new changes to the Go Transit bus routes. She said the Transit Advisory Board will be discussing Route #9 at its next meeting, and the Common Council has been invited to attend that meeting. Anyone can attend and speak. Donna asked for any more discussion on things that the Committee would like changed on Route #9 or any of the other routes. Harold Singstock said he feels we should give the Transit Advisory Board time to make some changes to the requests we've made so far. Rob Paterson said most of the problems are during the winter months. Larry Lautenschlager read a letter that he sent to Affinity Medical Group regarding the fact that the buses can no longer stop in their parking lot for passengers. He asked them to look into the situation as soon as possible.

Donna Lohry said it has come to her attention that there is an extra fee being charged for para-transit rides if they aren't scheduled at least 24 hours in advance by the rider. Mark Weisensel said the cost of a fixed route ride on a bus is \$1.00 (or .50 cents for disabled individuals); the cost for para-transit specialized transportation is \$3.50 per one-way ride. He said he wasn't aware of the additional charge, but he will check into it.

Donna Lohry turned chairmanship of the meeting over to Rob Paterson temporarily. She then suggested we pursue sending a letter to the Transit Advisory Board indicating that we are hearing concerns about the bus route to Lakeside Packaging. The letter would include a copy of the information about bus route concerns that Donna presented on behalf of the ADRC Committee to the Oshkosh City Council at its August 13 meeting. A copy of the letter would also be given to Common Council members and others. Ginger Beuk asked the Committee's permission to talk with Lakeside Packaging to see what their concerns are regarding the bus routes. Rob Paterson moved that Ginger contact them; seconded by Ann Jungwirth. Ginger said many of the individuals that go to Lakeside Packaging have participated in the bus training offered by Go Transit, but it isn't working for all of them. Some individuals have to do four bus transfers to get to Lakeside, and it takes 1 ½ hours one-way. Mike Norton said he was under the impression that Lakeside Packaging was satisfied with the changes because it gives some of the individuals more flexibility. Donna Lohry moved that we send the letter to the Transit Advisory Board as suggested earlier; seconded by Claire Steger and carried. Donna resumed chairmanship for the remainder of the meeting.

7. Reports:

- a. ADRC Manager – Mary Krueger said there was a regional meeting held recently regarding enrollment for the Affordable Care Act. Each county received some “Patient Protection Affordable Care Act” funding, and we have hired two staff members to help with any new individuals applying for Medical Assistance. Additional funds will be used to hire three temporary part-time staff to help individuals coming to the ADRC, Economic Support or Human Services in the application process during the open enrollment period from September to March.

Mary said there is a community effort being organized to coordinate emergency response protocol for individuals seeking assistance in an emergency.

- b. Committee Member Updates – Rob Paterson distributed copies of information that he received at a recent Wisconsin Counties Human Service Association (WCHSA) meeting regarding non-emergency medical transportation and a Forward Health document explaining the new transportation company, Medical Transportation Manager (MTM).
- c. Complaints/Grievances – there were none to report.

8. “Community Beat”: There was no information.

9. Next Meeting: October 14, 2013 at Oshkosh Human Service Building:

With no further business, Ginger Beuk moved for adjournment; seconded by Rob Paterson and carried at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting of the ADRC Committee will be held at 3:30 p.m., Monday, October 14, 2013 at the Oshkosh Human Services Building, Rm. 33.

Respectfully submitted:
Dorothy De Grace, Recorder