

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, November 11, 2014

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC)

PRESENT:

Nicholas Musson, ECWRPC; Holly Keenan, Lutheran Social Services; Sue Pomplun, Advocap; Steve Komp, Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh; Mark Ziemer, Oshkosh Senior Services; Erin Roberts, Public Health Department; Mike Norton, County Board Supervisor; Mark Weisensel and Dorothy De Grace, Winnebago County Department of Human Services

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Nicholas Musson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 12, 2014 MEETING:

Mark Weisensel moved for approval of the minutes of the August 12, 2014 meeting; seconded by Mike Norton and carried.

3. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE STATE ELDERLY & DISABLED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR 2015:

Mark Weisensel opened the Public Hearing at 1:35 p.m.

Mark explained that the Human Service Department's intent is to submit an application to the Department of Transportation for Specialized Transportation Assistance in the amount of \$371,024 for next year. This is a decrease of \$6,435 from our 2014 county allocation. The matching requirement of county dollars in the amount of \$74,205 (or 20%) is included in the department's 2015 approved county budget. The funding will be allocated for the provision of rides to the elderly and/or disabled citizens of Winnebago County by the ADA and para-transit service of Go Transit and Valley Transit. Mark reviewed the current Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Coordination Action Plan. Discussion followed and all questions were answered. Mark closed the Public Hearing at 1:45 p.m.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark Ziemer noted a parallel between this Specialized Transportation Council meeting and the Mobility Advocacy Coalition. Mark Weisensel said this group must meet at least once a year since it must review the 85.21 grant application and other grant requests. Mark said as the Mobility Advocacy Coalition evolves, we could look at the possibility of this group meeting once per year like many other counties do.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

Holly Keenan—Making the Ride Happen

Topic: Section 5310 and Winnebago County Outreach Efforts

Holly Keenan said that Making the Ride Happen has been active since 2005 when it was initially funded through a private donor. The original service area was the Fox Cities; however, in 2010 they were able to expand to the lower part of Winnebago County and expand their client base to include both seniors and disabled adults. Holly received a New Freedom grant in 2010, and it allowed her to bring the mobility management concept tool and expand the program to serve a three-county area—all of Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie counties. The largest portion of their funding is from the New Freedom grant, or 53.10 money. She has two pots of money: she must apply for money for the Appleton and the Fox Cities community which is considered a large urban MPO area; for the Oshkosh and surrounding communities she must apply for a different pot of money. Other funding sources for them are: Outagamie County; client donations; 85.21 grant funding from Outagamie County; and funds from United Way Fox Cities. They provide a call center for people to find out about transportation; they manage a volunteer driver program; and they provide travel training by working with Oshkosh Transit and Valley Transit to make people feel comfortable riding the public bus for transportation. For the 3rd quarter of this year, volunteer drivers provided 1,129 ride—50% were for medical purposes, others were for shopping or social activities; and they received 739 calls at their call center. They currently have approximately 95 volunteer drivers for the Fox Cities and a smaller number in Oshkosh. They are now collaborating with Advocap's volunteer driver program to serve more Winnebago County clients. They have been working on future goals of connecting with rural communities in Winnebago County.

Sue Pomplun—ADVOCAP, Work-N-Wheels Program

Topic: Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Program Changes

Sue Pomplun explained that Advocap's Work-N-Wheels program is a vehicle loan program that helps people that are 200% below the federal poverty level with a 0% interest loan up to \$5,000 to purchase a car when public transportation is not a viable option. The person must pay the tax, title, dealer's fees and a 5% loan origination fee to Advocap for a total of \$700. He must also have auto insurance coverage, and the loan is to be paid back in 2 ½ years. The person must use the vehicle to maintain or increase his employment, must have a valid driver's license and not owe any money to the state, counties or cities. Advocap also administers 0% interest loans for repairs not to exceed \$1,000. They also offer grants for minor car repairs when a loan isn't feasible. The recipients of a loan learn about budgeting; credit; and how to look for a reliable vehicle and the hidden costs of car ownership. Advocap supports the family with case management services throughout the ownership of the car. Since Advocap started the program in 2009, they have provided 150 vehicle purchase loans and had 700 applications for loans. They've given 65 car repair loans and 38 repair grants.

In 2011 the Workforce Development Center pulled their funding and helped people directly with their own transportation assistance program, which left the Work-N-Wheels program with just JARC funding within the WHETAP funding. In October 2012, MAP-21 funding took effect which resulted in several program changes for them, such as JARC funding no longer existing. Any programs that were funded under JARC remained eligible under the federal requirements of 53.11 for urban areas and 53.07 for rural areas. After 2013 there would no longer be voucher or car loan programs, and the funding would go to public transportation instead. Sue and other mobility managers did some advocacy work, and they were informed that car loan programs and other grants that were previously eligible would remain eligible.

6. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:

Steve Komp reported that Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh serves approximately 300 seniors for their transportation needs.

Mark Weisensel will be submitting the grant application for the state's Elderly & Disabled Transportation funding for 2015. Mark said the County Board has approved the transportation funding area of the Human Services budget for 2015. He said we have been working with Go Transit regarding Route 10.

Nicholas Musson said he is working on evaluating Go Transit's bus stops based on accessibility by using a tool that allows them to look at various perspectives. They recently completed a Go Transit rider survey, and he will put together the results to be shared with this group.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE – FEBRUARY 10, 2015:

The date of the next meeting was noted.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Mike Norton moved for adjournment; seconded by Mark Weisensel and carried at approximately 2:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council will be held on August 12, 2014 at the Hooper Community Center at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Dorothy De Grace, Secretary
Human Services Department