

KANKAKEE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 27, 2011

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee Members: Mike Butler, Chairman, Good Shepherd Manor; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Roger Hess, Vice-Chairman, Kankakee County Board Member; Steve Mitchell, Kankakee County Training Center

Others Present: Richard Nolan, McLean County Regional Planning Commission, and Co-coordinator Region 6 HSTP; Brandy Ross and Amy Cassata, Manor Care; Debra Wood, Bourbonnais Terrace; Pat McCarthy, Illinois Central School Bus; Cheryl Lockwood, North East Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Lisa Siemsen, Heritage Woods of Manteno; Jeannette Tetreault, Thresholds; Cassandra Nordyke and Cheryl Chamberland, KC-CASA; Kyle McHaney, Traci Power, Keyoma Jamerson and Madonna Cherry, Kankakee Terrace ; Mike Lammey, and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County Planning Department

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public comment.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Amy Cassata of Manor Care, Debra Wood of Bourbonnais Terrace, Lisa Siemsen of Heritage Woods of Manteno and Kyle McHaney of Kankakee Terrace represented their respective agencies on a panel to discuss their present transportation uses and needs.

Ms. Cassata explained their facility utilizes Blessed Hope as their primary provider for medical transportation when needed and use Riverside Care Van as an emergency back-up. Their residents also make use of River Valley METRO routinely. They need another provider like Blessed Hope to supplement their service, due to them not always being available. Many of their patients are there for short term rehabilitation, so it was suggested they consider utilizing the METRO Plus service for the clients who need that service.

Ms. Wood explained their facility is a residential facility. They have a van which they use for client activity trips. Medical need trips are handled by Star Car Medical out of Chicago and the METRO Plus service.

Ms. Siemsen described her facility as a supportive living site with 95 residents. Some still drive their own cars. They have a 15 passenger wheelchair lift shuttle bus they use for planned trips within a 15 mile radius for medical visits or social trips. Their residents make good use of the METRO bus service with a bus stop in front of their facility. Some

use the METRO Plus service and some use SHOW BUS. The residents all schedule their transportation themselves. Their residents are from age 65 to age 102.

Mr. McHaney reported his facility has 146 people. Their transportation is handled by a 15 passenger regular van for medical and social trips, plus SHOW BUS transporting groups to Thresholds and other trips, and METRO. They transport clients to off-site therapy programs. A problem has been in getting an eligibility determination from First Transit for some clients for the bus system. He stated they need a wheelchair accessible van at their facility.

METRO and METRO Plus services were generously applauded by their users. General discussion was had concerning greater use of METRO Plus and SHOW BUS as appropriate for client needs for all four facilities. Ms. Lockwood cited METRO as being very good for the urbanized area. She stated that like everywhere else in the state, problems arise, such as the free rides for seniors implementation problems caused by the state, but effecting METRO and other transit services, but we work through the problems.

Ms. Dick, Ms. Lockwood and Ms. Tetreault discussed future effects of the “Managed Care” as it is being implemented with Kankakee County being one of the pilot site counties for the program. Provena St. Mary’s network of facilities is not participating and Riverside Medical Center is participating. Mr. Mitchell stated his facility will not be brought into the Managed Care program until it reaches phase three.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the July 26, 2011 meeting were submitted for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Hess and seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

- a. Accessibility Issues: Mr. Lammey reported the new Kankakee CBOC Veterans clinic in Bourbonnais will be administered by the Hines Hospital, as the Manteno clinic is now. They do not expect any immediate jump in clients, but are working toward growing the number of registered veterans for the facility. They will be providing some increased services that previously were only available at Hines.
- b. State Budget Issues: Ms. Dick reported the veto session is coming up and it is unknown what may be cut from the state budget. Federal transportation funding may also get cut.

DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

- a. Social Service provider comments – No report
 - b. Medical Service Provider comments – No report
 - c. Government Agency comments – No report
- A question was raised about talk of a road being built between the Options CIL facility and the new Kankakee CBOC Veterans clinic in Bourbonnais for the METRO bus to be able to pick up and drop off closer to the VA clinic. Is there

any possibility of that being done? Mr. Lammey stated there was speculation about doing it but nothing firm.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

- a. River Valley METRO: Mr. Lammey reported METRO had another record year ending June 30 with 935,000 rides provided. Ms. Tetreault stated the program has been a huge help to their clients.
- b. SHOW BUS: Ms. Dick reported she is in the process of adding another bus to the Momence area to take part of the Pembroke Township area load. SHOW BUS will be getting bigger busses by recently state approved piggyback on another state's purchase contract, since Illinois had no approved bus that size to purchase under contracts they approved for providers.

With the new Momence – Kankakee bus, they have been getting more riders going from Momence to Kankakee and back than the Kankakee to Momence ridership. The last bus leaves Baker & Taylor about 5:45 PM.

SHOW BUS has a service contract with Good Shepherd and has had inquiries about additional service contracts for the Momence area.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA

No media present.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nolan made available to the members three sets of documents:

1. Draft Project Proposal for Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative
2. 2011 IPTA Conference IDOT Updates
3. The Illinois Clean Diesel Grant Program

Ms. Lockwood reported discussing the need for financial assistance for transportation needs in Kankakee County with the transportation staff in the North Eastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging. The NEIAAA receives only a small allotment for transportation, and it is all committed in the other counties. Ms. Dick stated that SHOW BUS has established service under a donation basis with a \$1.00 per year contract with another Illinois Area Agency on Aging in another county.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Region 6 HSTP Meeting – October 17, 2011 @ 10:00 AM –in Pontiac, IL
County Transportation Committee – November 29, 2011 @ 9:30 AM - METRO
CENTRE

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hess. Motion carried.
Chairman Butler adjourned the meeting at 10:40 AM.