

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes from July 19, 2007

Members Present:

Frank Whittle, WILL
Carol Scott, Southwood Health Care
John Wood, Trans Care
Jim Stevens, Putnam Co. Senior Center
Jeff Uhey, CARS
Shannon Cunningham, Hamilton Center
Danny Beamer, WILL
Duke Bennett, Hamilton Center
Pat Macke, WCIEDD
Howard Greninger, Tribune Star

Call to Order:

Pat Macke called the July 19, 2007 meeting of the new Coordinated Public Transit – Human Service Committee to order and members of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Roll call of members present was called and the above members listed were in attendance.

Old Business:

Pat shared with all members that a second survey had been mailed to all identified members of the new Coordinated Public Transit –Human Services Members. Of the 35 or more surveys that were sent out she received back only 10. These surveys were important as one question on the surveys asked the provider or agency if they wanted to be involved with the new Coordinated Plan.

She said these surveys would be submitted along with the New Plan to INDOT in October for final approval. If any agency or provider chooses not to be a member they could lose future funding from the state or federal government because they elected not to be involved with this new program.

Pat shared that there are three (3) grants available for future funding from the state if any of the current members were interested in applying for:

5310 Grant – Capital Grant to support persons with Disabilities and Elderly
Can be used to purchase vehicles and funds are given to private non-profit organizations

New Freedom – this is a new program to support new public transportation services and public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the Americans with disabilities Act.

JARC Grant - this grant refers to development and maintenance of transportation services designed to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment.

The committee took the time to review the *New Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan* and discussed what gaps were identified and they are:

1. Extended bus hours
2. Lack of public awareness
3. Oversized wheelchairs

Once the committee agreed these were gaps they all felt needed addressed, they discussed who or how they wanted to put together a strategy plan to address these issues.

Pat shared that the THTU was planning on providing extended bus service in October of 2007. The city buses were planning to provide more hours from Monday - Saturday for all public transportation. Trans Care was also identified as a 24/7 service that was available for public use at a higher cost than the city buses.

The second issue the committee discussed was lack of public awareness. This is the second time the committee has agreed that more information needs to be published about who, what, where, and how much is transportation going to cost me. After more discussion, Hamilton Center agreed to put together a brochure with the necessary information that can be placed all over the city letting people know who's available, where to call, how much will it cost, and who to contact for more information.

Pat agreed that this is one step in address the strategy of educating the public about transportation. Hamilton agreed to have a draft brochure for the committee to review at the next Coordinated Public Transit –Human Service Plan meeting if Pat can see they get the necessary information to complete the task. Pat has agreed to get this information to them as soon as possible.

The third gap the committee discussed was oversized wheelchairs, not knowing if the manufacture is aware of the problems with the current wheelchair lift, many felt that we should contact them to see if a stronger wheelchair lift can be made to accommodate larger size wheelchairs.

Pat shared that the new *Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Plan* would also have to be approved by the Policy and Technical Committee before the final copy can go to INDOT with the correction from the committee today. Pat will complete the draft and get it to the Policy and Technical committee for review in August.

There was no other old business.

New Business:

As discussed earlier, Hamilton Center will be preparing a brochure of current agencies available for public transportation in Vigo County and will present this at the next TAC meeting.

Other news: CARS will be getting 3 of the 4 new vehicles this year. Jeff Uhey said they also had a very successful training session, which was hosted by RTAP. If you are interested in training you can contact RTAP for more information.

John Wood from Trans Care said they were looking for more drivers. Currently they need both full- and part-time drivers.

All providers reported that they were keeping busy for this time of year. Some providers reported that they were turning some riders down because of either no room or not available services.

Human Service Agencies reported that they had some problems finding transportation for some of their clients. Transportation providers present at the meeting offered several suggestions and plan of action was discussed to address the problem.

There was no other new business.

Pat shared that the next meeting would be on October 18th, at West Central at 1 p.m,

Meeting closed at 3:05.