

Transit Action Group (TAG) Agenda
Tuesday April 17th, 2018 11am-1pm
ECIA
7600 Commerce Park
Dubuque, IA 52002

Meeting Minutes

Present: Jess Bleile, Stacey Elliott, Bill Stumpf, Debbie Devenuta, Marla Loecke, Kara Huss & Tricia Wagner

TAG membership list passed around for updates. If you want to add someone let Tricia know and she will contact them.

Carol Edwards will be attending in place of Sue Green from Helping Services.

RTA update:

Discussed need for updated meeting date and time. Tricia will send out a Doodle Poll. Also agreed to make a change to every other month.

Students from a marketing class at Loras College are helping us with our marketing strategies and to develop an overall media campaign, including social media, and rebranding. Tricia met with the class to explain what we are looking for, suggested they do some ride-alongs to meet and interview the drivers and consumers, and come to a TAG meeting. There are four groups, and they will be presenting to the RTA as their final for the course on May 14th at 8:00am in the ECIA Large Conference Room. We'd like the TAG members to be part of our review panel, and help provide the students with questions and feedback. Tricia will send out an Outlook invite.

Tricia is attending the Dyersville Spring Fling Expo next Thursday 11:30-5:30. Tricia passed out the RTA ad that was provided to promote the event. Taking the Group Respite fliers for NEIAAA to hand out.

Search for volunteer drivers continues. Tricia attended the Veteran's Appreciation Dinner and presented to them and had some people sign up as being interested. Also had an individual interested at a meeting with the Ministerial Society. Also would like to find volunteers for Dubuque and Jackson counties to fill in the gaps for riders who don't fit into our current services.

Linnea Berg with United Health Care is coming to meet with Tricia and the RTA Dispatch. Group agreed it would be beneficial to have Linnea come and talk with us at a TAG meeting. Bill suggested also inviting Jeff Lund, the employment specialist. It was also suggested to have representative from Amerigroup (Lauren Renner) come meet with us.

Julia Castillo with HIRTA is representing transit to develop improvements for IME and MCO's along with other healthcare providers around the state.

Agency updates:

- Jessica Bleile, United Way – Applying for grants, also awarding grants soon. Just waiting on Board approval. Wrapping up year end and year end campaign and starting a new one.
- Kara Huss, Hills & Dales – Dayhab and employment survey came through and all went well, moving forward with employment and getting certified in Medicaid.
- Stacey Elliott, NEI3A - Group Respite for Alzheimer's and dementia patients in Delaware County to start May 2, Wednesdays 10-2. First 2-3 weeks will be an open house to show people what is available and provide education for those who don't understand the purpose of respite for a caregiver. Handed out fliers.
- Marla Loecke, Iowa Works – Operations Manager for Dubuque and Decorah. Working to help develop Work Ready program. The idea is to get to the point IW can tell employers who they already have a relationship with, that this particular job seeker is interested in their open position. IW can tell the employer that he/she has the skills and qualifications to meet the job specifications, and work to set up an interview. IW is working with the job seeker to ensure he/she is work-ready; has reliable transportation set up and childcare set up, that they have good work habits (get to work on time for example), good hygiene. And if not, help them by offering interview workshop, resources to find transportation, etc. Goal is to help them find employment, preferably long term but short term as well to help them find a career down the road. Also (along with Voc Rehab), offering Reverse Job Fair next Wednesday 10:30-12:30 at IW in NICC building; job seekers sit at the tables and the employers walk around and the job seekers presenting themselves to the employers. Offering mock-interviews for the job seekers, roughly 20 participating. Many of these job seekers are disabled. Business Workforce Alliance that same morning 8:30-10:30 for the employers. Ermina Soler doing presentation on workforce stability. IW will then stream line the employers to the Reverse Job Fair. STEM festival at Clarke University this weekend 10am-2pm. 40-50 booths, offered every year. The Jule has provided free bus passes for the day which can be emailed out.

- Bill Stumpf, Parent/Guardian & ICIE – Handed out information on Dementia/Alzheimer's. A quiz can be taken to determine what we can do to reduce our risk of dementia: idph.iowa.gov/save-your-brain. May 17 at Downtown Holiday Inn, Bill is sitting on a panel and they will be showing a documentary about employment for people with disabilities "Bottom Dollars Rooted in Rights". This award winning film calls for the phase out of the sub-minimum wages and sheltered workshops, and offers solutions for fair wages and inclusive employment. The documentary features personal stories and expert interviews with advocates that have been working to improve the employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Debbie Devenuta, LSI – LSI is opening host homes, using ID waivers. An individual moves in with the family and do case notes, get paid, and it's a natural support group. Instead of being in a group home the individual is with a family. Mosaic out of Des Moines operates host homes.

Integrated Settings/Open Walls (HCBS Rule) task force team discussion: Pushed back to 2022, but Iowa isn't using the extra time and rule will still take effect in March 2019 – less than a year away. Challenge for transit is the shift to a model of one on one transportation; don't have schedules a month out and not always the same. Need to get a plan in place. Some have already started implementing, how can we work together?

Funding for those in a group home is an issue when the agency vehicle breaks down; how do they use RTA or other public transportation and pay for it with the limited funding?

Timing is a concern for the pickups and drops off, and keeping those needing 24 hour supervision safe if the bus drops them off before the business opens. Maybe add bus buddies to help the consumer feel safe. Need for smaller vehicles to accommodate fewer riders per service area.

Bill suggested he would be happy to be a part of a sub-committee to the TAG group, and have a separate meeting during/before or after the TAG meeting, and report back to the TAG to discuss their ideas further.

Marla suggested working through GDDC; Dubuque Works is a sub group and they have a special projects budget. They offer to help with needs that pertain to employment. Talk with them about helping people with disabilities get to employment in Dubuque. Look at helping get people from Dubuque out to Peosta and Dyersville to work as well. And check in with the Economic Development group (Holly, ECIA) and see if they have veteran funding available for veterans in the integrated settings situation.

TAG Mission Statement Update Activity:

Reviewed the large group mission statement we came up with at the last meeting.
Discussed and revised to:

The TAG's mission is to provide perspectives addressing transportation needs of the communities.

Suggestion to then list the other terms as a list of values; Collaborate, problem solve, diverse, local.

RTA Think Tank Strategic Plan review:

Lori put together a TAG Objectives & Strategies document based on our think tank discussions. Group went through and determined for each topic whether it is a Quick Hit, Short Term or Long Term/Ongoing and who the lead person was for that strategy. Tricia will update the document and put together folders to give to everyone at the next tag meeting.

Next meeting: Will be determined based on responses from Doodle Poll.