

Meeting Minutes

Dubuque Transit Action Group (TAG)

Date: Tuesday May 3, 2022
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Place: ECIA Large Conference Room / Zoom Meeting

TAG Technical Committee Members Present:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Schmitt (Chair)
<i>HCBS Dir., Hills & Dales
 (Kara Huss**)
 (Ashley Robins**)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Stumpf (Vice Chair)
<i>Parent Advocate, ICIE/Gen Pub
 (Proxy Name)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Ann Morris
<i>Special Projects Coordinator,
 Crescent CHC
 (Shawna Domeyer**)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Gebhart
<i>Exec. Dir., Opening Doors
 (Heather LuGrain**)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cris Kirsch (Dani Ettema)
<i>Administrator, Sunnycrest Manor
 (proxy Name)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Dan McDonald
<i>Dir of Existing Business, GDDC
 (Jason White**)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann McDonough
<i>RTA Board Chair, Dbq County
 Board of Supervisors
 (proxy Name)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Heysinger
<i>Co-Owner & Therapist,
 Unified Therapy
 (Ann Pusateri**) (Samantha Jay**)</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Zars
<i>Deputy Director, NEIAAA
 (Stacie Speirs**)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Russ Stecklein
<i>Int. Dir., City of Dbq Jule Transit
 (Jacob Ironside**)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Jenny Schrobilgen
<i>Housing Specialist, EIRHA
 (Michelle Huseman**)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Kelsey Wade
<i>Social Work Supervisor,
 Human Services
 (Traci Gael**)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lori Anderson
<i>Transition Facilitator,
 Dubuque Community Schools
 (no proxy)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margee Woywood
<i>Dir. Of Mission Services
 Goodwill Industries
 (Mary Halfhill)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Paider-Licht
<i>Dir. Comm. Building & Impact,
 United Way Dbq Area Tri-States
 (Danielle Peterson**)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Rachel Naderman
<i>Day Program Coord.,
 Area Residential Care
 (proxy Name)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robin Nims
<i>Voc & Day Services Dir., ER ITP
 (Carolyn Schaefer**)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Axtell
<i>Dbq County Coord., HACAP
 (Beverly Maas**)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Brenda Klepper
<i>Social Worker, Grand River MG
 Tri-State Dialysis
 (Kelly Kass**)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<i>Economic Development
 (Peosta)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jackie Rae
<i>Economic Development
 (Dyersville)
 (proxy, Name)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Deanna McKusker
<i>City Manager
 (Cascade)
 (proxy, Name)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Others Present:

Staff Present:

- Amanda Dupont
 Chandra Ravada
 Dan Fox
 Stacie Scott
 Gail Kuhl
 Chris Wesseln

*Non-Voting Member

**Voting member by Proxy

***Attendance by phone

A quorum was present for RTA’s Policy Board

- Yes No

Call to Order

The Dubuque Transit Action Group meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Michelle Schmitt. Roll call was taken at this time.

Agency Updates

Harley Pothoff, Dubuque County Supervisor – No updates

Ann Pusateri, Unified Therapy – No updates

Kara Huss, Hills & Dales – Working with RTA to support individuals who need rides to and from work.

Bill Stumpf, ICIE/Gen PUB – Dubuque County Disability Council conducted survey and received over 100 responses. May 10th, mental health speaker (Dora Vargas) conducted through DRI.

Margee Woywood, Mission Services Goodwill – No updates

Ashley Robins, Hills & Dales – Working with RTA to help individuals get to program held by Clark College.

Gail Kuhl, RTA – No updates

Ron Axtell, HACAP – No Updates

Marla Loecke, Iowa Works – No Updates

Carol Gebhart, Opening Doors – No Updates

Paula Paidler-Licht, United way - Over the edge fundraiser, NICC fundraiser, and FEMA grants opening.

Shelly Kozak, Unified Therapy Services – No Updates

Stacie Speirs, Area Agency on Aging – No Updates

Grant Updates

a. (Chandra) **Aims Grant** data transfer currently, software to be up and running by end of May. Process to inform agencies will be set up accordingly.

i. (Michelle) asks if aims grant would improve routes and times. Michelle asks about GPS location to improve timing. Chandra points out that this is a privacy issue.

b. (Chandra) **United way** grant, RTA received funding for core programs. 1/3rd of funding received from the disabled grant which RTA asked for \$48,000. Chandra to provider further notification in regards to this issue within 2 weeks.

c. (Chandra) **Senior transportation**, Seniors want to be picked up for morning hospital visits and other destinations; outreach to senior population will be conducted. RTA will be applying for grants and encouraging seniors to use the system. RTA will also identify destinations for seniors. Priorities are seniors and disabled population. Consultant will be utilized for senior outreach.

- i. (Michelle) Hills and Dales can be used for senior outreach regarding DRA grant.
- ii. (Bill) Wait times are an issue with the Disabled population along with the senior population. Some adults with wheelchairs are waiting alone in places that are dangerous. Duride model is an ideal that RTA should consider.

Review/Recommend (Results from Dubuque CO. TAG Survey)

Goals for RTA program includes affordable transportation, nights and weekend as a barrier that RTA must overcome, AIMS grant may improve this. Timeliness is important as well.

Discussion regarding the cost to RTA for a single ride coming from Cascade/Holy Cross area to Dubuque. Chandra mentions that \$3.00 is one way cost and 2 way is \$6.00 and two people are needed to accommodate the trip.

Margee mentions this is a significant barrier to RTA use, as many older individuals do not have support systems or many friends to coordinate rides with. Gail mentions that one day a month, RTA may be able go from Dyersville to Dubuque, and this could be advertised so that vulnerable populations are more likely to be serviced and rides can be better coordinated.

Kara says that local medical providers should know about and advertise rides during these times to serve patients. Margee concurs with Kara, and says that this may help increase services per month. Bill personal contact vs letters will work better for coordinating rides with providers. Bills will send transportation grants from ACL. Harley asks if it be possible for RTA to put in for a purchase of service program funding.

Chandra mentions that RTA struggles with senior housing, and identifying who to reach out to for senior housing. Needs help finding the right people with medical providers/schedulers to help make more efficient service.

Ashley and Kara to help consolidate this information and provide a cloud-based document. Various individuals to be invited to join the TAG group. Disabilities representatives should be encouraged to join TAG. The perspectives of potential users of the system are important to include in the TAG meetings. Margee to make connection with Mary's Inn.

Review/Recommend (Filling in Dubuque CO. TAG Action Plan)

Chandra discussed five goals:

- 1. Improve Senior Transportation programs.**
- 2. Improve service to areas with high barriers of service by implementing bimonthly routes to underserved areas.**
- 3. Coordinate with health sector to make bi-monthly rides feasible, particularly for those who have medical appointments.**
- 4. Service plan to fill the need for single riders**
- 5. Coordinate with TAG agencies to help with United Way grant**

What goals can we set today?

Committee opted to hold off on goal setting session and will instead hold a special session in June. The committee felt that more information should be gathered before goals could be made.

Comments from public on an item that did not appear on the agenda

None

Other Business

None

Adjournment

Michelle Schmitt adjourned the meeting at 12:10 P.M. on May 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Wesseln,
Planner

