

Transit Action Group (TAG) Agenda
Wednesday, May 22, 2019 11am-1pm
ECIA
7600 Commerce Park
Dubuque, IA 52002

Meeting Minutes

Present: Dave Baker (Dbq County), Bill Stumpf (Parent ICIE), Dan Fox (ECIA), Rachel Naderman (ARC), Genevieve Heinold (Unified Therapy), Margee Woywood (Goodwill Industries), Katie Bahl (Iowa Works), Anna Roling (GDDC), Jess Bleile (United Way), Maddison Barnhart (United Way), Kara Huss (Hills & Dales), & Tricia Wagner (RTA)

Agency updates:

Jess Bleile, United Way – Over the Edge event Friday June 28th, fundraiser for their Community Impact fund. Several sponsors will be on site, with a tent, ground party, music, food, drinks, games and people can watch the participants repel down the side of Hotel Julien Dubuque. They have a minimum of a \$1000 funds raised to participate; prizes awarded. They will also be signing people up for next year at the event.

Kara Huss, Hills & Dales – growing their employment program, have a couple of individuals now out working competitively, doing transportation for that and always a bit of a challenge. Recently increased staff wages so hopefully can increase staff. Summer Dayhab and summer programs kicking off soon.

Margee Woywood, Goodwill – gearing up for October Disability Employment Awareness Month. Looking at doing something like “Jobtober Fest” done in San Diego. Coming up with creative ways to create awareness and get more people on board with hiring people with disabilities, as an untapped population.

Anna Roling, GDDC – in April launched new marketing campaign, “Big Life, Small City” with variety of stories on why people decided to make Dubuque their home. They’ve created a website, and its on their Facebook page. Goal is to get people to consider that they can have a big life here in a smaller city, especially when coming from bigger areas. Hosted the second Career Summer Services Visit in May. Invited college students from colleges and universities in the region, 42 attended; presented to them information on the community and internship and employment opportunities in Dubuque. Young Professionals also presented to them. Working on a local career fair in Dubuque (Dubuque colleges/universities), open and free to Access Dubuque Jobs investors at no cost, to be held in October.

Katie Bahl, Iowa Works – helped with the Peosta Job Crawl. RTA gave rides to the businesses in Peosta and NICC, could get on and off at the different businesses. Also brought people in from Dubuque. Katie talked to the riders about the different businesses and what they do, so they could determine which ones to visit. Gave us a great idea of how to make it better next time, good turn out for the first time with 13 riders. Also, shared information about Unconscious Bias Trainings they are offering (handouts). State initiative; Future Ready Iowa, go to website futurereadyiowa.gov; sharing educational opportunities and other employment resources like resume builder, etc. Offering Registered Apprenticeship opportunities in all types of areas. Adding a Retail Management registered apprenticeship at a local gas station who will be able to manage the store in two years after going through the program. Some are set up through NICC, some through the businesses themselves.

Dan Fox, ECIA – will start working on Passenger Transportation Plan for the region after July 1st and into the fall (update every 5 years), next one due in June 2020. Will be working with TAG on that. Anything that the RTA or Jule is looking to apply for grant funding for needs to be listed in the plan, so need to identify those. Also working with River Bend Transit on this. Margee brought up a possible hub for cross-county travel, something we may consider adding.

Dave Baker, Dbq County & RTA Board Member – Dave and Tricia called in to the radio station in Maquoketa and plugged RTA services.

Bill Stumpf, Parent ICIE – presented to the Transit Board at the Jule with his disabled son Kyle, good discussions about transportation from a family perspective. ICIE meeting last week, and wanted to share the ALICE presentation put out by United Way, (handout and report is also online). They had another presentation on Future Ready Iowa, meeting the demands of employment and preparing the workforce, people with disabilities are included in that (handout). Kyle, Bill and family took part in the Iowa Family Story project last year, RTA sent a bus out and the family was interviewed and photographed. The display is finally coming here and will be at the Dubuque Public Library the month of August, passed around the booklet.

Rachel Naderman, ARC – getting ready for Community & Corporate Games. Still looking for volunteers.

Genevieve Heinold, Unified Therapy – Autism run last month, but snowed so they didn't actually run but did have a lot of people registered so it was very successful and great feedback. They had their highest census ever for patients at the adult clinic last month, so going well! Looking at ways to expand.

RTA update:

- Extended Peosta pilot through June 30th, offering a focus group with free bus passes, adjusting times as needed/requested, and provided transportation for the Job Crawl.
- Bus Buddies – Rachel and Tricia met with IVRS. IVRS will pay for the training and salary for the bus buddies as RTA employees for the first two months, as long as they are signed up with IVRS. Tricia will apply for a grant to pay for salary beyond that. Also talked about getting a retired teacher to help with putting together a “curriculum” to follow.
- In talks with Dyersville/Farley about transportation for the elderly and employment transportation, working on surveys, possible volunteer driver program
- Also in talks with Jackson County about transportation for low income residents to Farmers Market using a local grant, as well working on surveys for employment transportation

Reviewed strategic plan, made updates on what has been completed, what is not needed anymore, modifications and new ideas. Made it about half way through, will complete at next TAG meeting.

RTA Board is looking to create a committee that would include members of the RTA Board, TAG group and drivers to develop a formal strategic plan. TAG is more rider centric, drivers have a unique perspective, and the Board is focused on operations/finance and broader scope/bigger picture. Jess, Bill & Margee were interested in getting more information to possibly participate.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 24, 2019