

Delaware County Transit Action Group (TAG)
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8am-10am
ECIA Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Present: Mike Mellon (ITP), Shirley Helmricks (Delaware County Board of Supervisors), Donna Boss (Economic Development), Leann Herman (RFH), Mindy Meyers (EIRHA), Charity Locke (RMC) & Tricia Wagner (RTA)

Introductions & Agency updates:

Mike Mellon, ITP – working to get Dayhab fully operational. Staffing shortage in Delaware county.

Mindy Meyers, EIRHA – super busy with family and social work side of things.

Leann Herman, RFH – busy with the vaccine distribution, people can call in now to schedule an appointment. Also dealing a lot with mental health issues with patients. Shortage of counselors and therapists as well, so a lot going on.

Charity Locke, RMC/Public Health – wrapping up 9 community vaccine clinics. Going out to Amish next week to give immunizations.

Donna Boss, Economic Development – need workforce and people getting back to work. They have well over 300 job openings, and need housing for this workforce.

Shirley Helmricks, Delaware County Supervisor – really busy with mental health due to COVID. Packed 2000 bags for transient and homeless in the region.

Agenda item #1: Service Improvement Project aka “Free & Reduced Rates” update

- a. School kiddos in Dbq going well
- b. Providing trips to summer camps again. Donna suggested reaching out to ISU Extension office for their day camps (927-4201)
- b. March 1 - Free rides to COVID clinics – total round-trip rides so far: 32+, in Delaware rural areas 3
- c. KWVL interviewed Tricia last week about free rides to COVID clinics, Tricia sent the link to the video out to all TAG members.

Agenda item #2: Iowa Developmental Disabilities Transportation Grant (Administration for Community Living Grant update), and new AARP Community Challenge Grant

- a. IDD awarded full amount requested \$15K (plus \$10K match), ITP, ARC & Hills & Dales – helping them with their group home transportation and group outings. All are finding this is helping because they are short on staff so this is filling that gap, and this is expanding their transportation opportunities as well. Staff and clients are loving it. Hope is to continue these services beyond the grant funding.
- b. AARP requested \$20K to extend service & include Goodwill (July 28-Nov 10)

Agenda item #3: Mental Health and Disability Services for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Relief

- a. ECR COVID grant funding, contract to provide transportation to outpatient mental health services. \$35K max plus \$5K for marketing – must spend by June 30th. Dubuque and Delaware counties only.
- b. Adding Cedar Rapids & Iowa City access centers to RTA contract with MHDS ECR.

Agenda item #4: United Way Funded Partner 2021-22 Renewal

- a. Awarded full renewal of \$7,500. Continue with the Ride Vouchers, be generous with them!

Agenda item #5: Adding TAG Members update - Pastor Eedy (Tricia will reach out, Donna has contact info), Pastor Weber (Peggy did talk to him and will follow up)

Agenda item #6: Volunteer Driver Recruitment Lunch & Learn Event

- a. Shirley- will talk to Doug Tuken again, he was just getting used to being retired, but we should invite him to the event. Donna has contact info for Sherriff John and Chief Hostchild. Peggy – Jay Saylow (retired school bus driver)
- b. Peggy suggested a lunch and learn to recruit. Invite only event to keep it manageable. Bring Jack in to give testimonial.
- c. Give the TAG members a date to provide names of people to invite, provide names, email, phone and addresses. Set up a meeting with all TAG to discuss.
- d. Get Easter and COVID out of the way, when people are vaccinated, target event for later this spring or summer. Tentatively set it for June 17, lunchtime 11:30-1:00, if it works for those not on the Zoom today...particularly Peggy given it will be at her office. Tricia

will check with Peggy. Leanne put a little blurb on her neighborhood FB page two days ago because there are a lot of retirees, hopefully gets some interest.

Agenda item #7: Coordination Project: AIM Selection Committee & RFP

- a. RFP is done and approved by the RTA Board
- b. 8-9 month contract with the Vendor selected – project completed May 31, 2022

Board approval	May 5th
approval from IADOT	May 21st
Posting RFP	May 17th
Q & A on RFP	June 11th
Receive Proposals	June 25th
First round of Ranking	July 12th to 16th (Meeting for 2hours only)
Second Round	July 19th to 23rd (One day three presentations)
Board approval for consultant	August 4th meeting (move to negotiations)
Negotiations need to be done	August 23rd
Board approval of contract	September 1st

The Ranking Committee consists of five TAG members:

Carolyn Schaeffer, Community Integration Programmer, Imagine the Possibilities (Jackson County)

Michelle Schmitt, HCBS Director, Hills & Dales (Dubuque County)

Ashley Robins, HCBS Program Manager, Hills & Dales (Dubuque County)

Katie Althouse, Abbe Health/Dir Soc Services Penn Center (Delaware County)

Mike Mellon, Associate Regional Executive Director, Imagine the Possibilities (Delaware County)

Shirley Helmricks, Delaware County Supervisor

Agenda item #8: Seniors Survey & Farmers Market: subcommittee update

- a. Committee: Sally Davies, Bill Stumpf (Dbq), Donna Boss & Leann Herman(Delaware)
- b. Decided to combine Seniors/Disabled/Farmers Market into one survey

- c. Format: print with prepaid return envelope
- d. Target:
 - i. Disabled living at home not in group homes, get mailing list from case managers or Denise Juhl/Jeff Lund with MCO's
 - ii. Elderly living at home and assisted living, list from post office website, provide demographics and get a mailing list based on the parameters
 - iii. Will look into the mailing list with Post Office to determine budget

Agenda item #9: Other Topics for Discussion

- a. August meeting - all agreed to stick with Zoom
- b. Plan to finalize the tech committee forms and discuss bylaws & quarum

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8 AM – 10 AM (Zoom)