

Dubuque County Transit Action Group (TAG)
Tuesday, August 3, 2021 11am-1pm
ECIA Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Present: Bill Stumpf (ICIE/Parent Advocate), Dan McDonald (GDDC), Ann McDonough (Dbq Count Board of Supervisors), Lori Anderson (Dubuque Schools), Margee Woywood (Goodwill Industries), Michelle Schmitt (Hills & Dales), Russ Stecklein (City of Dbq Jule Transit), Ron Axtell (HACAP), Brenda Klepper (Grand River Medical Group), Kelly Heysinger (Unified Therapy), Ann Pusateri (Unified Therapy), Ann Morris (Crescent Community Health), Kara Huss (Hills & Dales), Amanda Dupont (RTA), Chandra Ravada (RTA), & Tricia Wagner (RTA)

Introductions & Agency updates:

Ann Morris, Crescent Community Health – adding providers, medical and dental. In next two months opening an acute clinic on 1st floor, walk ins and scheduled appts. 15 year ribbon cutting ceremony/grand opening next week Thursday August 12, all are welcome. Continue to grow with Hispanic and Marshallese clients. Getting Marshallese clients set up with passports so they can be set up with Medicaid.

Bill Stumpf, ICIE/Parent Advocate – He and son Kyle recently joined the new Dubuque Disabilities Council, working to transition youth from school to real jobs. Meeting this morning and very excited!

Margee Woywood, Goodwill – they are working with the Jule Transit on services/cost starting August 9. Sign on bonus for new hires of \$100 and \$1000 bonus for staff who refer new hires. If stay and work 20+ hours a week they get \$1000, and if less than 20 hours they will get \$500. Promoting heavily to college students, if social work or education major, also getting work experience. Overnights they can paid and study for school, and includes their 20 hours because usually 12 hours for the overnight.

Ann McDonough, Chair Dbq County Supervisors/ RTA Board – also very excited about the changes coming for youth as part of the Dubuque Disabilities Council.

Lori Anderson, Dubuque Schools – first day of school August 21, professional development the week before. Also on the meeting this morning with Dubuque Disabilities Council and very excited for our youth.

Russ Stecklein, The Jule – still acting Director, the new hire took employment elsewhere, and still trying to fill the operations supervisor position. Also trying to hire more drivers. Once do they plan to go back to regular hours, and run to 9 PM again. Staring fare charge resumption end of August, for both fixed route and minibus. New fare system installed in

all buses and have had some delays in the applications, once done they can start charging. Business shuttle resumed 3-4 weeks ago, mornings and afternoons, not a lot of riders yet. Millwork employers still allowing employees to work from home, so once they go back to office should see more rides. Going to be very liberal with the back to school kids with the resumption of the return to fare charge at the same time.

Ron Axtell, HACAP – continue to assist the Iowa Finance Authority with rent utility assistance program. Continuing to take applications for 3 and 4 year-olds for Headstart classes this fall. Both ongoing and will continue for a little while.

Brenda Klepper, Grand River Medical Group/Tristate Dialysis – just opened new dialysis center in Richland, WI over last couple of weeks. Just waiting for their state surveyor so the can onboard more patients, currently have one so far. Everything in Dubuque is status quo.

Kelly Heysinger, Unified Therapy – also hiring and need more licensed Board therapists and office staff, as well as aid techs which do not require a degree. Planning ribbon cutting for new Elm Street location in October, more information to come. Offer free screenings. Miracle League of Dubuque VP and Chair of Board.... celebration Dedication Day on August 10 at 10 am, all are welcome.

Kara Huss, Hills & Dales – participating in the Dedication Day at Miracle League 8/10, they are planning a baseball game and some other activities, should be an amazing event! Shortage on staff as well, hiring program coordinators.

Agenda item #1: Welcome & Attendance/Agency Updates (Michelle)

a. New Mobility & Outreach Coordinator, Amanda Dupont - Tricia accepted a new position within ECIA as of July 19th, Amanda Dupont will take over Mobility & Outreach position with RTA. Transitioning and both are doing double roles until that is final sometime in the next few weeks.

Agenda item #2: Service Improvement Project aka “Free & Reduced Rates” update (Tricia)

a. Summer camps went well, increased our general public rides for summer:

- i. Y – 80+ children riding to their daily field trips each week
- ii. Y’s Union Park Day Camp – average of 15 children per day riding from the Y to Union Park M-F all summer
- iii. Four Mounds Adventure camp – average of 20 children per day riding from either Allison Henderson or Fulton School to camp M-F all summer
- iv. Grandview CC – average of 10 children riding to field trips on 15 days over the summer

- v. All gen pub rides we didn't have in the past, even pre-COVID
- vi. looking at continuing with Hills & Dales for fall and Y possibly for Hoover and Bryant families (maybe Sageville too)
- vii. discussion about promoting service to the school district, not sure this is allowed, would have to check with IDOT. What we can do is when a school contacts RTA asking about how this works, we can give them the flyer to share with their families which outlines how the family can schedule their child's ride with RTA directly.

Agenda item #3: Iowa Developmental Disabilities Transportation Grant (Tricia & Michelle)

- a. Going well, spending the funding down as planned, so should carry all three agencies through to the end of the grant period on September 30.
- b. Michelle Schmitt – it was perfect timing to receive the funds because it was just when things were calming down with COVID, and so transportation didn't have to be that next barrier to getting back out into the community. There are many activities that they've started to participate in that they want to continue to participate in and they are working on a schedule to continue using RTA services for their individuals beyond the grant.

Agenda item #4: AARP Community Challenge Grant (Tricia) - Not awarded

Agenda item #5: United Way Funded Partner 2021-22 Renewal – IVRS (Tricia) – just provided a trip for a group of teens to clean up the B Branch, and have plans to go to both the Zoo in Madison and Kirkwood CC in CR as well. We are all very excited they are able to use this funding as they had hoped!

Agenda item #6: Adding TAG Members: Dyersville & Cascade (Dan McDonald) – Dan has recruited Jackie Rae from Dyersville ED and Deanna McKusker from City of Cascade. They will begin joining our meetings in December, at the all-county meeting. Dan also has plans to recruit the new Peosta City Manager, Annette Ernst – says she is going to be a great addition to the committee but didn't want to overwhelm her at their first meeting last week. With these three new members we should have Dubuque County represented very well for a pulse on those communities, particularly with regards to employment transportation in those industrial areas.

Bill is going to send an email connecting Amanda and Tricia to Ann Cameron to discuss transitioning young adults and integrated employment. Transportation is always the number one issue for employment for these individuals when surveys are done.

Margee is involved in a re-entry group with Caprice Jones to help the individuals get employment, and there is discussion about transportation being the biggest barrier. Need to

keep the Peosta and 2nd and 3rd shift positions in mind as it continues to be a huge problem due to lack of transportation.

Agenda item #7 Adding TAG Members: consumers/riders & voices of color - discussion about Crescent Community Health to assist. Ann Morris said they have a patient advisory committee that is comprised of all patients that they can look at in identifying a member for our TAG committee. Needs to identify an RTA user and one who will consistently come to the meetings. She has one patient who is now using the UW Vouchers to continue his work outs at Crescent, he would be an excellent candidate although his English is limited.

Ann McDonough suggested asking the RTA drivers, even offered to meet over coffee with them. They would have great ideas!

Kelly said Unified Therapy also has some wonderful candidates as patients and will ask them. Margee reminded everyone that RTA can get them to and from our meetings, so don't let transportation be a barrier.

Margee suggested a Marshallese interpreter. Ann Morris said they have interpreters, as does VNA, she will reach out and also with some of their Marshallese patients who speak fairly fluent English. Most of their Hispanic population is in IL, so don't use RTA services, use Jones County transit.

Ann McDonough suggested RTA Board could put this on their agenda for putting money in the budget to hire an interpreter.

Bill said Ann Cameron provides signs for his son Kyle who is non-verbal to help him communicate, and does a great job with various types of interpretations, so will definitely get Tricia and Amanda introduced to get the conversation going.

Agenda item #8 Coordination Project: Proposals and Presentations (Tricia & Michelle)

- a. Received 4 proposals, ranking committee agreed to have all 4 present
- b. All 4 presented last week, and the ranking committee has selected one to propose to the RTA Board tomorrow. Planteteria is the selected vendor. (Tricia sent out all 4 presentations and recordings of the Q&A sessions to all TAG members)
- c. Once approved, we'll move to the contract negotiations
- d. Final contract ready to go to RTA Board Sept 1 for approval
- e. Michelle Schmitt suggested we have a meeting to give an update before the December all county meeting.

f. Chandra asked if the committee all want to work with the vendor going forward, so all agencies can give input on the scope based on personal requirements. All agreed yes, include all TAG members.

Agenda item #9 Bylaws & new forms for Agenda and Minutes (Tricia) – shared screen and each document

a. Technical Agenda – ready to start using on Feb 1, 2022 – Michelle as chair will call the meeting to order, go through the agenda and ask for motions on action items, etc.

b. Meeting minutes draft – adding titles and proxies – still need a few names, Tricia will email those who are missing proxies.

c. Secretarial notes will be similar to the minutes I've been sending, having the details regarding discussions

d. TAG Action Plan – just a suggestion to help keep everyone on task and at a glance monthly rolling plan for the calendar year for the committee

e. By Laws – will send a draft, Amanda can finalize. Ann suggested keeping them brief and to the point. Include statement of purpose, and don't fill with legalese – keep language easy to understand. And keep quorum to something that can easily be met. Ease of use, and ease of language.

f. Quorum – will need to determine the number, as Ann mentioned, keep realistic.

Next meeting: Combined/All County Meeting with IDOT & FTA –

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11 AM – 1 PM, ECIA Large Conf Room & Zoom option pending pandemic.

Agreed to always offer both going forward, even when 100% in person is safe.

Other Topics for Discussion:

Amanda took lots of notes and offered to attend any meetings anyone may like to have her attend. She will send out her new cell phone number once she has it.