

Transit Action Group (TAG) Agenda  
Tuesday September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 11am-1pm  
ECIA  
7600 Commerce Park  
Dubuque, IA 52002

Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Jess Bleile, Maddlyn Welty, Jason Duba, Bill Stumpf, Kara Huss, Lori Anderson, Katie Bahl, Rachel Naderman, Genevieve Heinnold & Tricia Wagner

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

**Agency updates:**

- Jessica Bleile, United Way – brought along her intern Maddlyn Welty. Kicked off new year campaign, 90<sup>th</sup> year celebration! Goal to get 90 new and/or improved campaigns this year. Allocation requests coming up soon for funded partners for two year cycle of grant. 2020 they will have a fully competitive grant cycle.
- Rachel Naderman, ARC – oversees dayhab life choices and employment services.
- Genevieve Heinnold, Unified Therapy – added a fulltime therapist to their adult clinic and full time speech therapist to pediatric clinic.
- Kara Huss, Hills & Dales – expanding employment, taking on more clients and finding them jobs and also taking on a couple of new community clients for dayhab.
- Bill Stumpf, Parent/Guardian & ICIE – it's been a tough transition, but starting to see some good success stories; a local man with significant disabilities just started his own business with a product call Fire Starters, going really well, sold nationwide! Thinks people are looking outside the box and for alternatives.
- Jason Duba, The Jule – just announced yesterday they received a \$1.9 million Federal grant, along with the local match by the city of Dubuque this will allow them to purchase 9 new/remanufactured buses to replace some old that are having engine failure. Includes funding for new card readers and fare boxes for boarding the bus, which will allow improve their ability to track ridership and analyze what they are seeing as people get on and off the bus.
- Lori Anderson, DCSD – transition facilitator for the DCSD, have a ton of new stuff going on. Just broke ground adding on to Alta Vista campus, no longer contracting with Four Oaks for services for students with mental health and significant behavior disorders, it will all be in-house through the school district. Need teachers and other

staff, and looking at what need to do for work experience for transition and career development. Scheduled to be ready by August 2019.

- Katie Bahl, Iowa Works – lots of trainings and other events coming up. Business Work Force alliance does two free trainings each year; in honor of Disability Awareness Month in October offering a disability sensitivity training with Voc Rehab. Katie goes into businesses and talks to them about all of the free services available through the State, and many don't think about hiring people with disabilities, so she brings in Voc Rehab second. A local school is getting back into hiring people with disabilities, and just had a successful placement in the kitchen right before school started. Also doing another reverse job fair, had one in the spring and a success, had two people hired through the event, so doing it again this fall.

### **RTA update:**

Dubuque – Peosta Pilot: passed around schedule and information with updated FAQs and information for The Jule. From 4-5 am if someone can't get to the JFK transfer station, we will pick them up at their home before the first departure for Peosta. We've been talking with the businesses in Peosta, and almost all are happy to promote it to their employees, five are very interested in purchasing the first pass and/or possibly offer payroll deduction, and everyone thinks it's a good recruiting tool. Looking at the shift times, some may change their shift times, we may need to adjust our times. Working on an ICAAP grant due October 1, and received letters of support from NICC, Sedona and Express, and 4 Peosta businesses. Would allow us to continue the service for 2 years. Would help us get the service going and grow ridership to a point it could be self-sustaining. Looking at how can accommodate 2<sup>nd</sup> shift times, although most of the businesses didn't see the need so it would be limited. Katie said they are really promoting the service at Iowa Work Force.

Delaware County Connections program: part of the grant funding agreement was to add volunteer drivers to keep the expanded service area/hours sustainable. Have 4 volunteers on board, looking for more. Expanded the United Way grant to provide free rides to wellness activities for low income individuals; additional funding and available to all three counties Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson (not just Delaware). Tricia created an application and punch tickets.

Preschool Transportation: had hoped to be able to get enough 4 year olds to warrant putting a bus out for that service, but not enough of them going to the same schools, so having to tack these on to current services. Hoping to grow it to make it sustainable, and get to a point we can create a new service.

Dream Center: working on a grant to help them pay for transportation for their 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders from schools to Dream Center, and from Dream Center home. Possibly summer activities as well.

Iowa Ideas Conference: Tricia attended and there were a lot interesting and informative sessions, one in particular “What’s next for Iowa’s Medicaid Program”. June 2019 adding 3<sup>rd</sup> MCO. Talk of removing long term care from the privatized management. Highly recommend attending conference!

Loras College RTA Marketing Campaign: Tricia talked about highlights and showed the video and image ideas from their PPT presentations.

RTA Think Tank Strategic Plan: Tricia handed out updated document and binders. Reviewed the changes and quick hits and short term items that have been addressed or started. Some of these were:

- Bill Stumpf, Tricia, Kara Huss, Jess Bleile & Rachel Naderman volunteered to be on the Integrated Settings Committee and will meet prior to November’s TAG meeting. Schedule for 10:30 am.
- Plan to do the Christmas Bus Decorating again.
- Wheelchair securement training completed recently, and also had de-escalation training with local law enforcement and Homeland Security.
- RTA is looking into a grant to help start a van pool for Cascade Lumber to get employees from Maquoketa.
- Tricia is attending the All the Way Home Veterans conference, and recently attended the TH Job Fair for veterans to promote the Homebase Iowa program. Tricia promoted Peosta pilot at a table shared with Dubuque Works.

For next meeting:

- Send out Doodle poll for signing up to sit with dispatch during TAG
- Tricia & all RTA staff finalize the RTA mission statement
- Select new graphic for TAG mission statement

Ideas for upcoming meetings:

- Schedule presentation by Linnea Berg & Jeff Lund (United Healthcare) and Lorin Renner & Denise Juhl (Amerigroup)

**Next meeting:** 11/28 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Schedule of upcoming meetings:

1/23

March, TBD (Tricia is on vacation the week of the 4<sup>th</sup> Wed)

5/22

7/24

9/25