

Transit Action Group (TAG)
Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8am-10am
ECIA Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Present: Delma Hardin (RMC/Public Health), Peggy Petlon (Community Services/MHDS), Mike Mellon (ITP), Heather Hansel (Unlimited Services/Public Relations), Katie Althouse (Abbe Health/Dir Soc Services at Penn Center), Michelle Armstrong (Unlimited Services), Shirley Helmrichs (Delware County Board of Supervisors), Heather Ries (CNO RMC), Angie Gudenkauf (Abbe Health/Penn Center), Donna Boss (Economic Development), Charity Loecke RMC/Public Health), Dawn Sage (DHS), Mindy Meyers (EIRHA) & Tricia Wagner (RTA)

Introductions & Agency updates:

Peggy Petlon, Community Services/MHDS – closed doors and have been serving clients mostly by phone, some onsite visits. Monday they are opening again 100%.

Delma Hardin, RMC/PH – shared the COVID screening questions they use at the hospital. Concerned about peoples’ mental health, physical health, domestic violence and people not seeking services for these things out of fear of COVID. Greatest at risk for COVID death are 80+ followed by 61-80. In Delaware County they’ve had 8 cases of COVID, 7 recovered, no hospitalization and no deaths, despite what has been published. Delma is retiring May 28th. Charity Loecke taking over Public Health.

Charity Loecker, RMC/PH – has worked in PH at RMC with Delma for past seven years and will take over Delma’s position when Delma retires at the end of the month.

Mike Mellon, ITP – discussing how to reopen dayhab and supportive employment services. Monitoring what the Governor is doing in terms of lifting restrictions.

Angie Gudenkauf & Katie Althouse, Abbe Health/Penn Center – at the residential care facility, and clients are very bored, so just trying to find ways to keep them occupied.

Heather Hansel, Unlimited Services/Public Relations & Program Supervisor – small agency spread out between Guttenburg & Manchester. Started a small COVID process team, following guidelines, they have written policies and procedures and risk assessment for each client. Reallocated staff members to homes when dayhab and adult daycare closed. Connecting with guardians regularly to keep them up to date. Working on a plan to get back to dayhab and adult daycare safely when they are told they can reopen.

Michelle Armstrong, Unlimited Services - in their homes they are doing a lot of virtual tours, games with other homes via Zoom to get some interaction to keep them from being to bored, and for their mental health. ITP helped them as well as Public Health to know what to do to get started with the pandemic situation.

Donna Boss, Economic Development – on advisory committee with funding from Foundation of Greater Dubuque/Foundation for Future of Delaware County to review grants for organizations doing things specifically designed for COVID relief. Meet twice a week. Farming community isn't big on asking for help. Program just started to take dinner to farm families...if in a restaurant you can tell them that you want to donate a meal(s) through Pay it Forward, and their volunteers will deliver these to them. 70 farmer families have been nominated for this.

Dawn Sage, DHS – Supervises the case protection workers. Business hasn't changed much, child welfare still ongoing. Still going into the homes, have done some through the screen/storm door. Ongoing treatment appointments are by Zoom. Court is being done by phone and quite tricky.

Mindy Meyer, EIRHA – social work side of Housing, office in Peosta. Manages a tax credit apartment complex in Peosta, and does the family self-sufficiency program for everyone on rental assistance. Concerned with how quiet the residents have been, not sure if that is good or bad. Usually clients are communicating with her regularly, but not since she isn't on site.

Shirley Helmricks, Delaware County Supervisor – trying to keep things as normal as possible. Using safety PPE and social distancing, county departments have freedom to decide what they need to do in their offices. So, county work is being done.

Heather Ries, CNO RMC – works closely with Public Health during COVID. Less patients coming in, except for OB. Starting to encourage patients to come back in for well patient and vaccines, etc. Starting elective surgeries again tomorrow.

RTA update – (Agenda item #7):

- Very little ridership due to COVID, so RTA doing meal deliveries in all three counties in partnership with NEIAAAA. Partnering with Pay it Forward non-profit in Delaware County. They are putting together online grocery orders at Fareway and we are offering to bring those who qualify to come and pick up their order curb side. RTA also offered to deliver groceries if they find they have that need. United Way Rides for Wellness vouchers may be used for these trips. Vouchers available at Chamber of Commerce office and the Pay-it-Forward team has them at the First Lutheran Church. RTA office closed to public, and dispatch hours shortened temporarily to 9am-3pm.

Agenda item #1: TAG structure – reviewed PPT explaining technical committee.

- Missing reps from the Schools, Peggy will send Tricia names to contact.
- Give RTA your feedback on our services, and suggest ways we can improve and be active in designing and implementing projects. Approve and assist with grant applications to fund projects.
- Everyone needs to identify one member and at least one proxy for their organization. Tricia will send out a formal list of members, you may wait to see that list to determine this.
- Need to identify a Chair & Vice Chair (Agenda item #2). Chair to lead the meetings, keep everyone on task, request agenda items from the committee (Tricia will type up agendas and minutes and send out), and take ownership of transit in Delaware county, and orchestrate things. Peggy Petlon will be the Chair, and Donna Boss will be Vice Chair. Thank you!
- Tricia will send out a meeting reminder via Email and updated Calendar invite the week before with minutes, agenda and packet, and another email reminder the day before the meeting.

Agenda item #3: Update on Coordination Project – GPS Ap, Updated Website, Portal. Grants applied for: MFA FTA grant (award announcement spring 2020), DRA grant (on hold due to COVID), and AIM FTA grant due May 18th. Looking for a tech developer for this, let Tricia know if you have any suggestions/contacts.

Agenda item #4: Service Improvement Plan – reviewed free and reduced rates with County funding. Please help get this into the hands of families for their children, and everyone who would be a cash paying rider. Peggy is going to have the childcare directors contact Tricia to review the program for their families.

Agenda item #5: Manchester/Dyersville Area to ADC in Farley (Heather Hansel, Unlimited Services) – looking for ideas on how to get new clients from Manchester to adult daycare. Need to talk separately about cost/billing, and if need creative ideas we will bring it back to the group. Tricia will set up time to talk with Heather and Michelle.

Agenda item #6: TAG schedule of meetings 2020 – all members may attend meetings in other counties. Board approval on 5/12 on combined December meeting date. (enclosure)

Other: We are still looking for volunteer drivers, Tricia will share the flyer that explains what is needed to become a volunteer driver of the DCC van. Requesting help in recruiting drivers. Van and key are kept at Community Services building.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 11, 2020