

Delaware County Transit Action Group (TAG)  
Tuesday, August 11, 2020 8am-10am  
ECIA Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Mike Mellon (ITP), Heather Hansel (Unlimited Services/Public Relations), Michelle Armstrong (Unlimited Services), Shirley Helmrichs (Delaware County Board of Supervisors), Heather Ries (CNO RMC), Dawn Sage (DHS), Mindy Meyers (EIRHA), Peggy Petlon (MHDS) & Tricia Wagner (RTA)

**Introductions & Agency updates:**

Mike Mellon, ITP – trying to figure out return to employment with COVID. Monitoring Dayhab on a weekly basis. Ramping up for CARF survey at end of year.

Heather Hansel, Unlimited Services/Public Relations & Program Supervisor – returned to employment, ADC and Dayhab still closed. Still monitoring cases in IA and CDC guidelines, daily and making sure reopening plan is safe.

Michelle Armstrong, Unlimited Services – Supportive employment going well, not a lot of them, but wanted to make sure they didn't lose their jobs, so went back in June. Following safety guidelines and going well.

Dawn Sage, DHS – started new contracts July 1, implemented a change so they are offering more family friendly services, Federally Mandated. A lot of calls lately, very busy.

Mindy Meyer, EIRHA – working to make sure properties are all safe from the storm. Busy as ever, people are still moving in and out, still leasing up. Trying to use up COVID funding on clients for things like security deposits, rent (not evicting people, working with them), also referring tenants to Resources Unite for rent assistance. Domestic issues increased as suspected and using the money to help people move for that reason. Food. Food pantries have an abundance of food, and looking for ways to get it to more people who really need it.

Shirley Helmrichs, Delaware County Supervisor – already looking at budget amendments, and working closely with Public Health, Mental Health, Public Safety.

Heather Ries, CNO RMC – doing all things COVID. Nothing much has changed since last TAG meeting. Still have some patients afraid to come in for well visits etc. Operating at 80-85% as pre-covid so not 100% yet. Doing all surgeries, those restrictions are lifted. Most of the community COVID cases are not requiring hospitalization. Switching to new computer system Cerner.

**Agenda item #1:** TAG structure – Peggy Petlon Chair, Donna Boss Vice Chair. New Members: Rob Busch, Superintendent/PK-6 Principal Edgewood-Colesburg CSD & Kristen Rickey, Superintendent West Delaware CSD – complete committee!

- a. Group agreed we should get a rep from Maquoketa Valley CSD, new Superintendent, Mr. Hagar. Tricia will reach out.
- b. IDOT talking to dept of ed and FTA re allowing regional transit to assist, lifting restrictions
  1. Families can always call and schedule their child's transportation with us directly
- c. Peggy/Chair will request agenda items from committee and send to Tricia – gaps you see in transportation, and ideas to recommend projects to RTA policy board (local and general/all county) to address transportation gaps.
- d. Reviewed New forms: minutes and agenda
  1. Public meetings, post agenda to website one week prior
  2. Peggy will do a call to order, and more formal format for agenda
  3. More than one agency member in attendance welcome, but only one vote
  4. Need to determine quorum (Tricia will write up by-laws including this)
- e. Accept all calendar requests unless know ahead can't attend. Let me know week before meeting only if you cannot attend by replying to my email reminder, otherwise count on you.

**Agenda item #2:** Select Proxies – Tricia will send list of members, each agency should identify primary member, and proxies

**Agenda item #3:** Update on Coordination Project!

- a. MFA grant, did not get awarded
- b. AIM Challenge Grant announced in Fall 2020
- c. DRA postponed until October
- d. RTA will update website at very least by piggy backing off of ECIA and their new contract with Revise (website designer)

**Agenda item #4:** Update on Service Improvement Project (Subsidized County Funding)

- a. Not getting a lot of requests in town, rides are down in Delaware County (showed Chandra's ppt). Need to get the word out that rates are reduced. A lot of potential with the subsidy program.

- b. Until enough volunteer drivers, rural areas have a minimum of 3 riders to qualify for the subsidized funding for a trip– how coordinate/communicate this? Lost all but one volunteer driver (maybe two), but need more. Suggestion to reach out to local law enforcement to help recruit. Shirley is reaching out to Doug Tuke, he said he may volunteer when retired as Super of Schools, and he just retired. Heather checking to see how they can market at RMC, electronic sign outside perhaps. Peggy said the high school has a new electronic sign we may be able to pay to advertise on. Mindy will spread the word with the flyers for paid and volunteer drivers. Will share the rider flyers with their clients; elderly, public housing, section 8, FSS, whoever they have in Delaware County. They have some good landlords in Manchester she will also talk to. Peggy suggested we add someone from the Ministerial Society to the committee, Pastor Tony Eedy at First Lutheran, Heather will send Tricia his email. Peggy will email Pastor Weber.
- c. Peggy Petlon suggested Farmers Markets; Manchester on Saturday mornings, and Shirley suggested Hopkinton on Thursday afternoons, 3:00-6:30ish. Need to look at securing funding.

**Agenda item #5:** United Way Rides for Wellness Grant

- a. Received \$3500 for GP, \$4000 for IVRS camps; \$4K being reviewed by UW IVRS hoping to use for same population during school year, for similar type of activities.

**Agenda item #6:** Volunteer Drivers Needed (see agenda item 4b for discussion)

- a. One moving to TX, one health issues, and another may not be able to either, leaving us with 1, Tom
- b. Regular too but have one new one and in process of hiring two, but need to obtain CDL (2 paid drivers right now, one will come back on limited basis)

**Agenda item #7:** Combined/All County Meeting

- a. Peggy will address the Board
- b. Questions/requests for IDOT

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020