

Dubuque County Transit Action Group (TAG)
Tuesday, August 4, 2020 11am-1pm
ECIA Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Present: Ann Morris (Crescent Community Healthcare Center), Carol Gebhart (Opening Doors), Cris Kirsch (Sunnycrest), Dan McDonald (GDDC), Dave Baker (Dbq Count Board of Supervisors), Jacob Ironside (City of Dbq Jule Transit), Jenny Schrobilgen (EIRHA), Kara Huss (Hills & Dales), Margee Woywood (Goodwill Industries), Michelle Schmitt (Hills & Dales), Paula Paider-Licht (United Way), Renee Tyler (City of Dbq Jule Transit), Chandra Ravada (ECIA) & Tricia Wagner (RTA)

Introductions & Agency updates: (group requested to continue starting meetings with this)

Jenny Schrobilgen, EIRHA – leasing up in a lot of different programs right now

Paula Paider-Licht, United Way – new Director of Community Building and Impact and this is her first TAG meeting! Promoting 211 and volunteer opportunities. Busy learning her new role.

Michelle Schmitt, Hills & Dales – slowly opening the Dayhab program, in phase 1, not sure when will move to phase 2 now that we are in the red zone. Just looking out for clients' best interests, encouraging walks in the part, etc.

Margee Woywood, Goodwill – slowly starting services back up, July 1 started enclave at the store. August 1 required everyone to wear a mask, customers included. Accreditation survey in Sept. New initiative starting, homeless veterans program to serve families just getting by and need help (one underemployed family) and help them with rent/mortgage and get them into a program at NICC, to upscale their job. Case manager assigned, support for children in the home, and transition them into independent living. Pilot program, hope to expand if goes well.

Dave Baker, Chair Dbq County Supervisors/ RTA Board Member – Dave is happy to be a direct conduit between the TAG and the RTA board, making suggestions.

Carol Gebhart, Opening Doors – they've been slow through COVID, anticipating that will change soon, and trying to figure out how to manage kids going to school two days per week, working moms, daycare, etc.

Kara Huss, Hills & Dales – dayhab slowly opening up, with RTA transportation as well. They’ve implemented a pretty hefty cleaning regiment, and all staff are wearing PPE.

Cris Kirsch, Sunnycrest – in phase 1 of reopening, only outdoor visits otherwise Zoom meetings, facetime, etc.

Ann Morris, Crescent Community Health – majority of behavioral health services are done through telehealth due to small space (but expanding soon). Open for medical and dental so seeing a lot of face to face, telehealth still available as needed. Working on grants to work more with Hispanic population. Willing to have a client join a TAG meeting now and then to give their input.

Jake Ironside, The Jule – still on reduced schedule, 8am to 6 pm, no night rider, no fares since March (free for everyone until Oct). Looking to change middle and high school student bus passes to be free to make more accessible, going to city council for approval. Also implementing new fare box to allow to use cell phones and ap, could offer college kids free ridership through this including NICC. RFP for new fare box system including Ap, Gen Fare (replaced RM) on both fixed and mini bus. Also looking to add a veterans pass \$20 annually.

Dan McDonald, GDDC – overview of what GDDC does; private economic development that works with 100’s of employers in IA, IL and WI, all sizes. Lost 10,000 jobs between March – April, slowly climbing back, still 5,000 short though. Ahead of large metro area, but still not where we need to be. Big concern is that there are no state mandates for masks and kids going back to school, plus issues with daycare, and possibly of another shut down and effect on our economy. They work closely with the city Economic Developments, so Dan is a good go to and suggests 1 or 2 from the small cities. Tricia will circle back with Dan suggestions.

Agenda item #1: TAG structure – missing members: Hospitals & Economic Development

- No updates from group. Tricia will reach out to Dialysis contacts. Asked for thoughts on reaching out to smaller cities in Dbq county, i.e. Peosta, Farley, Dyersville etc. Tricia will reach out to recruit some members to get input from rural Dbq. Their participation will help with things like surveying rural areas for need for Dbq Farmers Market transportation from rural and west end.
- Tricia asked everyone to accept all calendar invites unless there is a known conflict, and to reply to the email sent out the week prior with rsvp only if cannot attend. That way it is on everyone’s calendar (at least accept as tentative) and we avoid a lot of excess emails.

Agenda item #2: Select Chair/VC, Members/Proxies – Tricia shared the new format for meeting minutes (and agendas) and list of members (not complete). Tricia will reach out to individuals about Chair and VC positions, Dave and Tricia both thought of Bill Stumpf. Tricia will write up by-laws and reach out to TAG for input. Agendas will be posted to website week prior to meeting for public to have information to join.

Agenda item #3: Update on Coordination Project – Did not receive Mobility for All FTA grant (HIRTA in Des Moines received for Mobility Coordinator). DRA grant decisions postponed until October. Accelerating Innovative Mobility grant aware announcement in the Fall. Talking to different tech developers, and looking for suggestions, please send your ideas to Tricia.

Agenda item #4: Update on Service Improvement Project (County Funding) – Jackson County has been very successful in getting the word out, taking off. Dubuque will have some families using RTA to take their children to school from their childcare center. Parents schedule on RTA's website through Trip Maker. Daycares are only disseminating the information to the families.

Jeremy Johnson Miller at IDOT has been gathering information from rural transit systems and talking to the FTA and Dept. of Ed. to determine if there are any regulations that might be lifted so we can assist with school transportation where requested. Waiting on more information, Tricia will update TAG on Jeremy's findings.

Tricia shared PPT on the analysis of COVID effects on the RTA and ridership. We always dip slightly in February, that is normal, but March was a huge drop off across all counties and all trip types/funding sources. NEIAAA contract for Meals on Wheels is the only active service, and been steady. Jackson County is seeing an increase in general public rides due to subsidy. July things started to improve.

Agenda item #5: United Way Rides for Wellness Grant – received again for 2020-21, \$3,500 for low income general public rides for wellness activities, and an additional \$4000 for IVRS to bring teenage clients from Manchester to Dubuque for summer camps. Summer camps didn't happen so looking to do similar activities during the school year.

Agenda item #6: Combined/All County Meeting – Wednesday, December 2 right after the RTA Board Meeting. Likely will be Zoom meeting. Hope to get a Chair in place to address the group. Plan to have IDOT present, also looking for suggestions on other special guests to offer testimonials and fresh perspectives. Also asking TAG to come with questions for the IDOT. Feel free to attend other county meetings, and when in person we can offer call-in option

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2020