

Transit Action Group (TAG) Agenda  
Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 11am-1pm  
ECIA  
7600 Commerce Park  
Dubuque, IA 52002

Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Debbie Devenuta, Ashley Robins, Kara Huss, Stacey Elliott, Jessica Bleile, Alicia Fleege, Rachel Naderman, Mark Anderson, Phil White, Margee Woywood, Lori McKinley, & Tricia Wagner

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

**RTA update:** Lori provided update on Interstate Travel. To move from Intrastate to Interstate, must have a safety audit done by DOT. They will be contacting Lori soon for this. We also need some drivers certified. Lori will be in touch with Alicia's contact in Galena. Looking to travel to Galena, East Dubuque and Madison as well, possibly Rochester MN and places like that.

Three new busses arrived yesterday. Taller than current busses so will have to check to make sure they fit under all overhangs. Seat 4 wheelchairs, 18 passenger like current busses. Suspension is better, should be much more comfortable so looking for feedback from riders. The lifts are rated at a higher poundage (1,000 versus 800), so the heavier chairs that our current lifts cannot manage should no longer be an issue. Still need to get letters on them, wheelchair straps set up, insurance, registered through DOT, etc. so likely a least a month before they are ready for use.

**Open Walls discussion:** Group homes will need to provide transportation for their consumers.

- Site rates for providers will include the transportation cost which can be done in various ways:
  - Agency can provide transportation themselves
  - Agency can pay the transit provider themselves and consider that as part of the rate
  - Consumer can pay for the transportation themselves

- RTA and other facilities will not be the waiver providers for site based consumers (unsure of effect on hourly consumers)
- Will go into effect December 1
- RTA will discuss at IPTA meeting coming up soon

**Brainstorm transportation situation:** RTA received request to take autistic consumer from Farley to NICC in Peosta, and his times are not in line with our schedule. Needs ride Monday through Thursday and the only day we are even close to his schedule is Tuesday. Taxi too expensive because would need to come from Dubuque. Uses Uber currently, also too pricey.

- Suggestion to check the car pool board postings at NICC. Tricia will suggest this to the boy's mother as an option.

**Agency updates:**

- Stacey Elliot NEIAAA– just returned from Group Respite Conference in Denver. Setting up a dementia specific group respite at the senior center in Manchester in 2018. Starting 1 day per week for 4 hours to provide respite for caregivers and individuals with dementia or Alzheimer's of all different stages to give them a change of scenery. Will work with RTA in some way. Long term can take up to 12 individuals, but start out a little smaller/slower and eventually expand to 2 days per week. Starting with days they don't already provide adult day services. Will train current staff, and eventually add more staff. Received a grant through Brookdale Foundation and if it works out (and should because there's nothing like it in the area) there's a lot of opportunity for future grants so can expand. Stacey met agency at the conference on their 9<sup>th</sup> grant for their 9<sup>th</sup> program. Caregivers are usually their children or spouse and this gives them a break as well. They will likely provide much of the transportation at first, but she can see the RTA becoming very involved. Expect to begin in April.
- Alicia Fleege at ARC – a lot of moving going on and in need of more staff.
- Jess Bleile at United Way – full swing of campaign season, kick offs happening.
  - Board meeting tomorrow (Tuesday) and right before the meeting the Health Funded Partner Pillar representatives are presenting 1-3 slides on their programs (Tricia presenting on Delaware County Connections and Rides to Wellness grant), Education Funded Pillar in December, Income in February, 211 in March. Board of Directors can be more up to date on the programs they are funding.

- Second or third year working with Clarke University and their Social Work department. Students in specific class work with funded partners to review the grant process. Agencies get feedback from students and new ideas and new prospects on grant funding, writing grants, how to come up with outcomes using Logic Model, etc. Good for students because they get grant writing experience plus they present at the end, and get professional experience from meeting with the funded partners.
  - Alicia from ARC mentioned they just received a grant by teaming up with Clarke's Art program. Students are painting 3 murals in the ARC building, and consumers are going to them for integrated art classes for day program. Media Com funded the grant. Using vision boards with the consumers to determine what they want painted.
- Kara Huss at Hills and Dales – contracting with Voc Rehab, successfully billing and getting clients jobs. Attended a meeting at Voc Rehab on Miracle League of Dubuque, which is bringing an all-inclusive baseball field and playground to Dubuque at the Vets Memorial Center. Kara and team provided feedback on what their clients would like to see included. Will start to build in spring 2018.

**RTA Think Tank:** Lori's vision is to develop a 3-5 year plan for the RTA. Lori went through the PTP and survey results she sent out to TAG for this meeting, to determine 6 priorities:

1. Capital Replacement
2. Mobility Coordinator/Outreach
3. Technology
4. Services
5. Partnerships
6. Oversight

Today we focused on Capital Replacement and Partnerships. Email Tricia if you think of another priority that we need to add to the list!

Divided up into 3 groups. Each group looked at the topics from a different perspective than normally do. There was an Agency group, RTA group, and Rider/Consumer group. Ideas were discussed.

Capital Replacement:

- Short term there's a need for both vans and busses: more vans for employment transportation, busses for those needing the lift/multiple wheelchairs. Long term need for more vans/smaller vehicles with wheelchair accessibility.

- Wheelchair accessible vans for 10 people
- Vehicle between bus/van – fit 2 wheel chairs
- Slow down on large busses
- Smaller vehicles – flexibility, fewer runs
- One on one transit
- More satellite garages
- More central location
- More flexibility
- Simpler way to do rides than calling dispatch– real time app on phone/tablet
- Update Mission statement
- All wheel drive vehicles
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Linear approach to routes (not spoke and wheel)
- Maintenance – NICC, interns
- Upgrade on tablets/computer system
- Drivers

#### Partnerships:

- MCO's
- Car dealerships
- Employers
- In Peosta, the Peosta Community Center, NICC & the factories, coordinate partnership agreement between the three entities to offer classes, memberships etc. to accommodate various schedules/take up time
- Senior Living Center activities (agencies with social/recreation activities)- Cozy Corners
- Miracle League
- Veterans, Summit Program
- Education – open house, 1 on 1 outreach, be interactive
- Social media
- Speaker groups
- Childcare centers
- DuRide success – mimic volunteer driver system
- Churches in small communities for volunteer drivers
- School districts (county) – WD, Bellevue, Maquoketa
- School mechanics with maintenance program (NICC) – work experience
- TAG attendance - recruit someone, get more agencies involved
- Expo for education for faculty, school and agencies (transition meetings)

- Coffee shops
- Teach people how to get own ride
- Colleges & agencies – hang out at the stops on those routes
- Radio stations & TV to get word out that it's for everyone, have them ride along
- Church sponsorship – month worth of rides
- Punch card/swipe card – partnership with bank
- Each agency decorate a bus for Christmas, have a little contest, and ride to Dairy Queen

**Next meeting:** will cover last two of the priority topics at next meeting; Services and Oversight.