

Transit Action Group (TAG) Agenda
Thursday, February 28, 2019 11am-1pm
ECIA
7600 Commerce Park
Dubuque, IA 52002

Meeting Minutes

Present: Dave Baker (Dbq County), Sarah Schneider (LSI), Lori Anderson (DCSD), Jason Duba (The Jule), Renee Tyler (Dbq Transit), Bill Stumpf (Parent ICIE), Dan Fox (ECIA), Rachel Naderman (ARC), Genevieve Heinold (Unified Therapy), Deb Devenuta (LSI), Lorin Renner (Amerigroup), Denise Juhl (Amerigroup) & Tricia Wagner (RTA)

Special Guest presentation by:

Lorin Renner, Community Relations Representative
Amerigroup Iowa, Inc.
Lorin.renner@amerigroup.com
515.322.1750

and

Denise Juhl, Program Coordinator-Employment Services
Amerigroup Iowa, Inc.
denise.juhl@amerigroup.com

- Lorin Renner gave an overview of the extra perks/added benefits Amerigroup provides to their members. She is available as a resource to everyone serving their members to answer questions and navigate their system. Most Iowa Health Link Medicaid recipients will be distributed out amongst the 3 MCO's. State will send out letters in March tentatively assigning everyone to one of the 3, and everyone has until mid-June to ask to be switched, effective July 1. Then a second 90 day period to request a change if they missed the first window. Providers have said they will help members through the transition. Amerigroup contracts with Logisticare as their transportation vendor, members can call Logisticare to reserve rides to medical appointments at no cost. Call at least 3 days in advance (no more than a month in advance). Make sure to have exact addresses. Providers can reserve rides on behalf of members on the provider portal on Logisticare's website. Can schedule reoccurring rides. Amerigroup also offers mileage reimbursement for those driving their member to appointments. Offer Healthy Rewards debit card program, all members eligible and by attending certain wellness appointments, they can earn funds on the card to use at Walmart, Dollar General etc. on health and wellness

items. For members on waiver, Amerigroup can pay for other things like self-advocacy groups, etc., all information is in the member handbook. There are perks available to all members. 24 hour nurse line available 7 days a week. Life line phone program (Safe Link). Home delivered meals if family member discharged from the hospital. New MCO is Total Care Iowa (Sentine). They've hired 50 out of 400 employees. No information yet on who they are contracting with for transportation vendor.

- Denise Juhl is all about employment, and shared her background. Decided she wanted to help change Medicaid, through employment. Employment positively affects overall health and wellness. Talked about history of sheltered workshops and movement to community based employment. She is tasked with identifying gaps. Transportation is a big gap. Iowa is very rural, and rural transportation is an issue. Has an idea to create "Guber", an Uber-like system in the rural areas and has tried to get it started at the state level but no movement so far. So looking to start in one region, work with MHDS region with individual placement services and Medicaid services. Or maybe even a smaller area. And eventually grow it out to all of Iowa. Look at the really rural areas without regular service, and nights and weekends. Another idea is Enterprise contracts with Uber, and if the driver leases the car from them and make 72 trips per week, the driver doesn't have to pay that week's lease payment. New Regional Manager for case managers in our area, Cassie Foxen. Contact her with any questions concerning case managers (hand out). Direct employment support like job coaches available for those with brain injury, intellectually disabled or on HAB (others referred to Voc Rehab). Voc Rehab website, Employment First has information that's helpful for guardians who are concerned about their loved one going out into the workforce. Includes videos.

Agency updates:

Dan Fox, ECIA – will start working on Passenger Transportation Plan for the region this summer and into the fall (update every 5 years), next one due in 2020. Will be working with TAG on that.

Dave Baker, Dbq County – RTA board is made up of 9 Board of Supervisors from the three counties (Dubuque, Delaware & Jackson). If things like evening transportation are an issue, we should take it to them and they will be supportive. This is the first he's heard of this so he may bring it up at their next Board meeting.

Sarah Schneider, LSI – April 16th Stop the Stigma mental health event at diamond Joe. 4-8 pm. Speakers, and awards presented. Sarah's new role is Host Home Coordinator over eastern half of Iowa. Much like adult foster care. Looking for mentors and referrals.

Lori Anderson, DCSD – had a whole week of school! YAY!

Jason Duba, The Jule – budget hearing earlier in the month and waiting on some things to come through.

Renee Tyler, Dbq Transit – not approved yet, but requested an additional service to the industrial center on Chavanel for first shift at 6:15am.

Bill Stumpf, Parent ICIE – Transportation summit coming up, suggested carpooling. Let Tricia know if you are interested!

Rachel Naderman, ARC – hired new part time Job Development Coordinator through a grant, taking some things off of Rachel's plate like IVRS. Hired new DayHab supervisor, so can restructure DayHab and get volunteering up and running again.

Genevieve Heinold, Unified Therapy – two therapists finishing certifications this month, so expanding women's wellness offerings.

RTA update:

- Extended Peosta pilot through April.
- Hand out - application for United Way ride voucher
- Bus Buddies – Rachel will help with contact and information for IVRS to help pay the bus buddies as RTA employees and get them trained.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 22, 2019