

Walworth County Board of Supervisors
April 1, 2019 Transportation Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114
100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Russell at 1:30 p.m.

Roll call was conducted. Members present included Chair Nancy Russell, Vice Chair Andrew Kerwin, Health and Human Services (HHS) Board Chair Ken Monroe, Health and Human Services (HHS) Administrative Analyst Lisa Kadlec, and Citizen Members Michael McKay and Eric Russow. Citizen Member Jeni Hallatt was absent. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance

County Staff: County Administrator David Bretl; Office Supervisor/Mobility Manager Nicole Hill; Senior Accountant Natasha Evans

Members of the Public: Cynthia Simonsen, Executive Director of VIP Services; Cathy Duesterbeck, Elkhorn; Lisa Amburgey, Delavan; Jeri Bozovsky, Lake Geneva; Marilyn Heiden, Lake Geneva

On motion by Citizen Member Russow, seconded by Citizen Member McKay, the agenda was approved by voice vote.

On motion by Supervisor Monroe, seconded by Citizen Member Russow, the February 4, 2019 meeting minutes were approved by voice vote.

Public Comment

Lisa Amburgey, Delavan, Wisconsin, requested that the Committee consider adding expanded services after 7:00 p.m. on weekday evenings. The Walworth County National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) group meets twice monthly at the Elkhorn library. The second meeting lasts from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., and there are 12 individuals who need transportation to and from the meeting. County Administrator David Bretl thanked Ms. Amburgey for her comments and said the topic is not included on the agenda for discussion today; however, the request could be considered at a future meeting.

Marilyn Heiden, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, thanked the Committee for the expansion of transportation services in Walworth County. Ms. Heiden is legally blind, and the programs have been of great assistance to her. She said VIP drivers and staff are efficient, courteous, friendly and helpful. Previously, she had to rely on friends for transportation, and commented that as people age, their support networks diminish; many of her friends no longer drive and are in need of service themselves. She encouraged the Committee to consider if Sunday transportation is feasible. She said it is important for elderly and disabled individuals to have social interaction and participate in their faith communities.

Unfinished Business

- **Walworth County Churches Transportation Needs Survey Results**
Office Supervisor/Mobility Manager Nicole Hill said surveys were distributed to Walworth County churches at the end of February. The results were included in the agenda packet. Of the 68 churches who received the survey, 26 responded. Eight out of the 26 churches provide their own transportation services for their congregations; 10 out of 26 respondents have a network of volunteers who provide rides; and 19 of the 26 respondents said they lack transportation for those unable to drive themselves to church. Of the 26 respondents, 21 churches said they believe there is a demand for Sunday transportation services. Hill said there is no budget for expanded services in 2019, but the Committee could consider the option for the 2020 budget. VIP Services' contract ends April 30, 2020. Chair Russell stated requests for extended hours on weekdays should also be evaluated. Bretl recommended further investigation into logistics and

financial implications. VIP Services Executive Director Cynthia Simonsen said VIP needs drivers to provide current services and the vehicles have been heavily used. Of the nine vehicles requested through the State grant, only one was approved. Saturday service has increased; eight or nine drivers are dispatched on a typical Saturday. In addition to lack of drivers and vehicles, Sunday transportation could be a problem logistically, as many church services are held at the same time. Hill is attending the Wisconsin Association of Mobility Managers (WAMM) conference next week, and will poll other counties on weekend service. Citizen Member Russow suggested approaching local churches to see if they would be willing to share funding for Sunday transportation. Staff will provide further information at the next meeting.

New Business

- 2019 Public Transit Capital Grant Awards

Hill reported that the County was not awarded the capital grant to purchase the bariatric van. She included with the packet a five-year vehicle replacement schedule which includes mileage and projected replacement cost for the County-owned vans. Per guidelines obtained from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), vehicles used for public transportation should be replaced at a minimum of 100,000 miles or four useful years, and a maximum of 175,000 miles or eight useful years. One of the vans is approaching 100,000 miles. Supervisor Monroe recommended applying for the public transit grant; the vehicle will be over the recommended maximum mileage before the grant is awarded. Simonsen commented that many of VIP's vehicles have over 200,000 miles. Public transit grant awards have decreased over the past couple of years

- Report on Wal-to-Wal DIAL-a-RIDE van accident

Hill said on March 6th a DIAL-a-RIDE van was involved in an accident in Delavan. No one was injured, and the other driver was at fault. The cost to repair the damages was \$6,787, and was paid by the individual's insurer. The van is back in service.

- Transportation Coordination Plan Statewide Summary

Carrie Diamond of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) compiled a report from survey results received from Wisconsin counties concerning public transportation needs and goals. Bretl commented that 100% of the respondents are hoping to expand existing services. He noted that the budget environment is changing, and vehicle replacement funding seems to be diminishing. The paramount priority is to sustain the services already in place.

- Wal-to-Wal DIAL-a-RIDE website analytics

Hill said Walworth County is updating its website, and is projected to go live in September. The IT department provided a report to each department on web activity over the last year. The Wal-to-Wal website gets a lot of visits, especially on Mondays and Fridays. Hill is working with IT to utilize social media to increase awareness of services.

Transportation Financial Summary

Senior Accountant Natasha Evans summarized the financial reports through February. The budget is at 15.3%, lower than the projected 16.7%. The number of trips is 20.6% higher in January and February than those months in 2018, and 119.71% higher than in 2017. Evans said that Health and Human Services (HHS) has received a substance abuse grant which subsidizes transports to and from detox facilities. At the end of February, 15 trips were made to Madison and Milwaukee for services.

Monthly Ridership

Hill stated average weekday demand was 117.9 in January and 144.8 in February. She said the polar vortex in January most likely affected ridership.

VIP Services report of any “turn down” requests for service

Simonsen reported the only trip turn down was a request for a transport out of the County.

Announcements – There were none.

Confirmation of next meeting date and time: The next regular business meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion and second by Citizen Member Russow and Supervisor Monroe, Chair Russell adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.