

Waushara County Department of Aging Services

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday March 11, 2020
Waushara County Courthouse Room 109

1. **CALL TO ORDER: 3:00p.m. by:** Greg Erickson
2. **ROLL CALL:** Roger Charette, Michelle Draskovich, Greg Erickson, Debbie Paavola, Bill Rosenau, John Jarvis
Also Present: Charmine Norris, Nickolas Musson, Jan Novak
Absent: Brandon Bonfiglio, Mike Davis, Robert Holzman, Eunice Stevens
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per person; 15 minute maximum time period)**
4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion by:** Bill Rosenau **to adopt the agenda; seconded by** John Jarvis **motion carried.**
APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING: Motion by: Roger Charette **to approve the minutes of November 6, 2019; seconded by:** John Jarvis. **Motion carried.**
5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. Input on Community Transportation Needs and Gaps in Service: The largest part of this discussion was about the Wautoma Taxi service closing on March 9, 2020, as it was sold to a new owner. This closure has led to many people worrying about how they will get to work, shopping, or medical appointments. Michelle spoke about the changes she has had to make to her work schedule to utilize the Department of Aging services for transportation. The closing of the taxi service brought conversation about Department of Aging possibly having extended hours for a short-term to fill the gaps. Other ideas were to meet with some of the larger companies offering employment and see if they would be able to help with financial obligation to extend service hours and operation days, or to expand services with a set bus route to pick up and drop off employees from outlying areas to the factories/stores that are in need of help for their employees. Greg stated he would be in touch with the school bus company and find out what the rates would be to possibly utilize their buses for a set route. Greg will then bring those rates back to the committee at a later date for further discussion. When the new taxi owners are announced the transportation coordinating committee would like to invite the owners to a committee meeting.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Review and Discussion on Final 2019 Budget & Transportation Activity: Charmine gave handouts referring to the final 2019 annual financial report and also the 2019 transportation activity. Charmine read through the final budget and pointed out the net expenditures, as well as total funding, and local match amounts. Then on the 2019 transportation activity pointed out there were 78 total new riders for the year, combined rides were lower for 2019 than the previous year by 1,042 rides. Primarily, this is due to having had a taxi cab service. However, there were other factors with riders that accounted for the drop in trips taken. The department had 2 deaths of dialysis patients that both transported three days per week, and a rider that moved from the area that rode 5 days per week.

- B. Discussion/Possible Action to Support Waushara Industries 5310 Application to Purchase Vehicles: Bob Holzman was not present to discuss this topic, but Debbie reported that Waushara Industries will be applying for additional vehicles for their ridership and that this requires the Transportation Coordinating Committee's support. **Bill Rosenau made a motion to support Bob Holzman in his application process to purchase vehicles; Roger Charette seconded. Motion carried.**
- C. Input on Potential Policy to Waive Fees for Transportation to Social/Health Programs and/or Health Screening Events: Charmine explained what the health programs were and proposed the idea for discussion that fees would be waived for riders going to health or social events, and also the possible use of volunteer drivers if the program is on a day/area that isn't serviced by the minibus. Adjustment will be made to the current policy if able, or a new policy will be written. **Bill Rosenau made a motion for a pilot program to be put in place until the end of 2020 for waiver of fees based on individual need, and the use of volunteer drivers to be used for this purpose; motion was seconded by Roger Charette. Motion approved.**
- D. Update on East Central WI Rural Planning Commission Regional Transportation Efforts: Nick gave an update on what projects he has been working on. He spoke about an Easter Seals Grant that was used in Winnebago County where they were able to create a tiered transportation system, utilizing volunteer drivers, the city bus system, and taxi services for individuals to get to work on a short term basis while the rider saves to purchase a vehicle. Nick will be focusing on education, program development, and coordination in the 8 counties he serves. Nick also gave updates on the 53.10 mobility management funding that was to be used for regional connection. Since the counties that would have been participating in this Regional Mobility Management are all at different stages of operation, and the planning grant has expired there will not be movement on this plan at this time.
- E. Presentation and Discussion on a Planning Group Regarding Enhanced Rural Transportation for Waushara County: Jan Novak, representing the Prevention Council through Waushara Vision, had previously invited Nick Musson to speak about rural transportation and how programs can be expanded or enhanced to cover gaps in the community. East Central Planning has a grant allowing Nick to assist counties in this way, with the idea of then applying for additional funds to help meet the identified needs. Nick and Jan would like to utilize the UW Extension office to evaluate the current service and to organize and coordinate specifically what needs there are in the community. Recognizing that Waushara County has a well-established coordinated transportation system, this effort might target transportation needs for individuals under 60 years old, and those in need of transportation for employment. Discussion took place about how this effort fits with goals already established by the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC). It was decided that communication needs to stay open with the TCC about the possible development of an expanded program, and possible subcommittee that would head this expansion and report back to the TCC. At this time there isn't a well-defined direction, but as plans are built and documented, Nick would

then be able to identify potential steady funding. Debbie stated that, with limited availability of enhanced funding, the current transportation program would likely be able to accommodate expanded service more affordably than developing an entirely new system. She also suggested that Jan Novak become a member of the transportation committee. Jan and Nick will organize a facilitation meeting and report back to the committee.

7. REPORTS

- A. Department of Aging Services: Debbie gave the 2020 reimbursement rate for volunteer drivers, she also spoke about upcoming transportation outreach that will take place at Government day and Safety Day. An update was given about COVID-19 and what preventative measures were being taken.
- B. Department of Human Services: Greg spoke about CWHPs (Central Wisconsin Health Partnership) strategic planning in 6 counties for transportation. The constant barriers to treatment for clients due to transportation needs.
- C. Waushara Industries: Absent, no report.
- D. Veterans Department: Bill shared that he will be receiving \$1,000 from HAVA in Hancock for minibus rides. These rides will now have to meet specific criteria for the veteran to receive a “free” bus ride, there will be no wiggle room on the criteria that must be met.
- E. East Central Wisconsin Rural Planning Commission – ECWRPC: Nick gave his update earlier in the meeting.

8. SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING & SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Greg will follow up on the school bus rides, and what that cost would look like. The next meeting is planned for May 6 at the same time.

9. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by: Bill Rosenau to adjourn at 4:42pm; seconded by: John Jarvis; motion carried.

These minutes are subject to amendment or change at subsequent meetings of the Transportation Coordinating Committee.

Recorded by: Charmine Norris