

MINUTES  
NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 12, 2011  
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
400 Ahnaip Street, Suite 100, Menasha

MEETING ATTENDEES: Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)  
Dennis Bohn (Marquette County Department of Health and Human Services/Commission on Aging)  
Nathanael Brown (Waushara County Dept. of Aging)  
Pam Busch (Door County Transportation Consortium)  
Lisa Conard (Brown County Planning Commission)  
Jill Gretzinger (Easter Seals)  
Linda Grider (Manitowoc County Mobility Manager)  
Rhonda Hannemann (United Way Fox Cities)  
Kathy Johnson (Green Bay Metro)  
Jason Kakatsch (East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission)  
Holly Keenan (Lutheran Social Services/Making the Ride Happen)  
Sandy Martin (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources)  
Dale McAllister (Calumet County Aging and Disability Resource Center)  
Sue Pomplun (Advocap)  
Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living)  
Carrie Porter (Portage County Aging and Disability Resource Center)  
Judy Rank (Manitowoc County Aging and Disability Resource Center)  
Lynnae Sievert (Cerebral Palsy of Mideast Wisconsin)  
Mark Weisensel (Winnebago County Aging and Disability Resource Center)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dale Deterding (Sheboygan County Aging and Disability Resource Center)  
Lynn Gilles (Fond du Lac Area Transit)  
Matt Halada (WisDOT Northeast Region – Green Bay)  
Bishop H. D. Haywood (Bread of Life Church)  
Ron McDonald (Shoreline Metro)  
Valerie Mellon (City of Manitowoc Dept. of Public Works/ Maritime Metro Transit System)  
Derek Muench (City of Manitowoc – Maritime Metro Transit System)

Traci Robinson (Shoreline Metro Connection)  
Ed Schuh (Green Lake County Department of Health and  
Human Services/Fox River Industries)  
Katie Scheffen (NEWTC/NEWCAP)  
Chris Strong (City of Oshkosh/Oshkosh Transit)  
Dave Vickman (Oshkosh Transit)  
Deborah Wetter (Valley Transit)

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg DiMiceli (Wisconsin Department of Health Services)

**1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

Sandy Popp called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Sandy Popp welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made for the benefit of everyone in attendance.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo and others in attendance noted everyone who had asked to be excused from this meeting.

**2. Agenda Review, Repair and Approval**

**Moved** by Lisa Conard and seconded by Mark Weisensel to approve the agenda for the January 12, 2011, meeting. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

**3. Review and Approval of the November 17, 2010, Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Moved** by Kathy Johnson and seconded by Dennis Bohn to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2010, Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee meeting as prepared with no changes. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

**4. Presentation on Medical Assistance (MA) Transportation Management – Greg DiMiceli, Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)**

Greg DiMiceli introduced himself, distributed PowerPoint slides of his presentation to all committee members in attendance, and then reviewed these slides with the committee. *(Note: This handout is attached to the paper copy of the minutes).* Greg DiMiceli commented that all 72 counties as well as 14 tribes coordinate MA transportation in Wisconsin.

Mark Weisensel asked why six counties in southeastern Wisconsin were exempted from the Medicaid Transportation Management Initiative; Greg DiMiceli responded that he opposed this exemption, but indicated that contract negotiations had gone too far to reverse course at such a late stage. Holly Keenan asked why the Family Care program

was exempted from the Medicaid Transportation Management Initiative; Greg DiMiceli responded that he also opposed this exemption.

Kathy Johnson had a question regarding payments that Greg DiMiceli answered. Greg DiMiceli also explained how customer complaint procedures under the new system would work to committee members in attendance. Greg DiMiceli discussed how Logisticare was selected as the transportation manager; Greg DiMiceli stated that Logisticare was the “best” provider (according to DHS), and upon final review, was the lowest bidder.

Greg DiMiceli stated that the reimbursement payment would now be per person (not per mile). Greg DiMiceli also commented that Medicaid-eligible clients are supposed to use other options (besides MA transportation) if they are available to these clients (such as a private car). Greg DiMiceli noted that MA transportation policies are not changing, but the way in which they are implemented may change; one illustrative example that was brought up was that a client might not get cash reimbursement, but might get a prepaid gas card for a trip.

Greg DiMiceli discussed future outreach activities with counties. Judy Rank discussed situations in Family Care counties in which these changes will still take effect. Mark Weisensel stated that volunteer drivers in the counties are concerned about these changes, and Greg DiMiceli responded to these concerns. Greg DiMiceli stated that Logisticare will set up a call center near Madison with around 12 to 15 staff, plus managers. Greg DiMiceli added that quarterly meetings will be set up between Logisticare, DHS staff, and Wisconsin stakeholders during the first two years of implementation.

Greg DiMiceli discussed his involvement in coordinating with WisDOT over the past few months and years. Greg DiMiceli stated that WisDOT wanted a regional approach, while DHS wanted more incrementalism and a statewide approach. Greg DiMiceli added that WisDOT also wanted more categories of passengers included in coordination, while DHS wanted to start with MA transportation only. Greg DiMiceli commented that the reimbursement rate should increase from 50 percent to possibly 62 percent once these changes are fully implemented.

Carrie Porter had a question regarding volunteer drivers going through the process to get reimbursed under the new system that Greg DiMiceli answered. Greg DiMiceli noted that the toll-free phone number for Logisticare’s Wisconsin operations should be functional by mid June. Committee members had a question regarding ride coordination for multiple rides to the same long distance destination (such as to a specialty hospital in Milwaukee); Greg DiMiceli responded that long waits are prohibited in the request for proposals (RFP).

Holly Keenan asked if Logisticare had experience at the state level in administering Medicare transportation; Greg DiMiceli responded that Logisticare had done a lot of this administration in metropolitan areas, but to date, had no experience with such administration at the statewide level. Carrie Porter had a question regarding Logisticare’s

experience in using route matching software that Greg DiMiceli answered. Judy Rank asked how she should conduct outreach to her county's transportation providers regarding how to prepare for this transition, and suggested that DHS prepare a fact sheet (or a list of frequently asked questions along with answers to those questions) educating providers and customers regarding these issues.

Nathanael Brown had a question regarding re-coordinating with volunteer drivers (obtaining their information, etc.). Nathanael Brown and Dennis Bohn thought that Logisticare might utilize the counties' volunteer drivers for MA transportation, leaving veterans and other non-MA passengers without transportation services. Greg DiMiceli responded to these concerns, and Sandy Popp summarized the concerns that various committee members had regarding this issue for Greg DiMiceli. Dennis Bohn also expressed concern that there will be a loss of MA transportation funding for counties, which will likely lead to cuts in services; there was considerable discussion regarding this concern on the part of several committee members.

Dennis Bohn was also concerned about a potential need that many counties may have to purchase route matching software so that subject counties are compatible with the software that Logisticare will be using; Greg DiMiceli responded that this situation probably will not happen.

Sandy Popp encouraged Greg DiMiceli and DHS to include a member of the Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee on the DHS implementation committee; committee members suggested Holly Keenan and Carrie Porter for this role.

Following Greg DiMiceli's presentation and departure, there was continued discussion regarding the transition to Logisticare in coordinating MA transportation and its impacts on counties in northeastern Wisconsin.

## **5. Work Group Reports**

### **A. Marketing and Research (Jason Kakatsch, Chairperson)**

Jason Kakatsch had no new updates, but did indicate that East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) continues to maintain the committee's website ([www.newrat.org](http://www.newrat.org))

### **B. Funding and Policy (Traci Robinson, Chairperson)**

Since Traci Robinson was unable to attend the meeting, no report was given.

### **C. Information and Technology (Lisa Conard, Chairperson)**

Lisa Conard stated that there was no activity in this work group since the previous meeting.

#### **D. Communications and Coordination (Pam Busch, Chairperson)**

Pam Busch stated that Katie Scheffen has staff at NEWCAP translating the *Northeast Wisconsin Transportation Resource Guide* into Hmong, and added that Deborah Wetter has staff at Valley Transit translating this guide into Spanish. Pam Busch noted that there was no other activity in this work group since the previous meeting.

#### **6. Updates on Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Enabling Legislation, Transportation Management Area (TMA) Designation, and How Proposed Census Urban Agglomeration Rules Might Expand TMA Designations in Certain Areas**

Jason Kakatsch stated that there have been no changes to information presented on these topics since the previous meeting. Jason Kakatsch discussed legislative changes that took place in early January. Jason Kakatsch also reviewed the RTAs that were authorized in the last legislative session. Jason Kakatsch commented that the Fox Cities will establish an RTA even if it does not receive funding authority from the state legislature right away.

Jason Kakatsch noted that proposed Census urban agglomeration rule might move the Oshkosh Urbanized Area into the eventual Fox Cities Transportation Management Area (TMA), meaning a possible loss in federal operational funding not just for Valley Transit but also for Oshkosh Transit. Jason Kakatsch added that other urbanized areas in Wisconsin may also be affected negatively by this rule (see the November 17, 2010, minutes for more details). Sandy Popp asked if the new federal legislators (Rep. Ribble and Sen. Johnson) need to be educated regarding these issues; Kathy Johnson supported educating Rep. Ribble and Sen. Johnson regarding these issues. Jason Kakatsch stated that Rep. Petri is well aware of these issues. *The committee recommended outreach to aides of Rep. Ribble and Sen. Johnson in the local area to educate them on these issues.*

Kathy Johnson reminded committee members that cuts in fixed-route transit will also have impacts on ADA paratransit in all of the transit service areas.

#### **7. Committee Member/Program Updates**

Committee members offered updates on programs and activities in which they have been involved. The following updates were offered:

- Lisa Conard stated that she was assisting Green Bay Metro with paratransit service contract solicitations and evaluations.
- Nathanael Brown noted that Waushara County would be receiving Supplemental Transportation Rural Assistance Program (STRAP) funding in the near future.
- Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo indicated that he continued work on a Transit Development Program (TDP) for Shoreline Metro (Sheboygan Transit), with most recent effort focused on an alternatives analysis.

- Sandy Martin discussed changes at the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), and announced that Carrie Porter will become the new transportation coordinator at GWAAR in the near future.
- Linda Grider discussed rural transportation routes operated by volunteer drivers in Manitowoc County.
- Carrie Porter stated that Portage County was opposed to the MA transportation brokerage as proposed by DHS.
- Holly Keenan discussed a volunteer driver program that her organization operates in the Oshkosh area.
- Jason Kakatsch discussed the TDP that he was completing for Oshkosh Transit, and added that Oshkosh Transit was looking at other non-governmental resources to fill temporal and spatial gaps in transit service.

## 8. Other Issues

Sandy Popp asked if committee members had any other issues that they wanted to discuss; no other issues were raised.

## 9. Next Meeting Date and General Location

The next meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday, April 6, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.** This meeting was tentatively scheduled to be held at the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission (First Floor Meeting Room), 439 South Jackson Street, Green Bay.

Kathy Johnson offered the Green Bay Metro conference room on University Avenue if the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission's landlord already has a meeting booked for that morning.

## 10. Adjournment

**Moved** by Lisa Conard and seconded by Mark Weisensel that the meeting of the Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee be adjourned. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Recording secretary,

Jeffrey C. Agee-Aguayo