

**WAUPACA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Transportation Coordinating Committee Minutes**  
**November 12, 2015**

*This meeting and all other meetings of this committee are open to the public. Proper notice has been posted and given to the press in accordance with Wisconsin statutes so that the citizenry may be aware of the time, place, and agenda of this meeting.*

Meeting called to order by Shannon Kelly Deputy Director at the Waupaca County Courthouse, Waupaca, WI, LL43 at 10:35 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lisa Dowhen, Kim Ebert, Ron Johnston, Carl Kietzmann, Karl Schulte, Bob Thompson, Gene Ruppert, Chad Hoerth, Dave Lowe, Janna Taylor

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Gerald Murphy

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Shannon Kelly, Leah Bjerke

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Jesse Cuff, Waupaca County Veteran Service Officer, came to today's meeting to wish a belated "Happy Veteran's Day" and "thank you" to our veterans and to also assess and update the county on the current issues the veteran's community is experiencing from their perspective in regard to transportation. Also in attendance with Jesse were some of our local veterans and Wisconsin veterans and representatives that are from the Veteran's Housing Committee. Some of the issues our veteran community is faced with are obtaining transportation to the Madison V.A. and other V.A. facilities. Transportation is only eligible for veterans that are in house at King but not eligible for the veteran community that are not housed in King. This is a recent change of enforcement that has occurred. There are an estimated 30 veterans in our local community that have these transportation needs and issues. Another issue is that not all of our veterans receive travel pay to get reimbursement for their transportation. The volunteer drivers in King are hard to keep due to the fact that they don't get paid. Since many of our veterans live in rural areas in Wisconsin this takes a minimum of 45 minutes for many of them to get to a V.A. clinic and facility. The D.A.V. has had a rule change and their vans can't cross borders and are required to stay within their region. There is also no infrastructure to support staff for full transportation to help the vets. Jesse and the veteran community are doing their best to utilize our resources inclusive of the A.D.R.C. and the Volunteer Driver program. An example the Vets are running into is for instance an Iola veteran may go to the Wisconsin Rapids V.A. and sit and wait for an appointment – Rapids may not take new patients. They then would have to look at getting transportation to Appleton or elsewhere and then they run into border issues. Shannon Kelly suggested that the committee propose a continuation for the January committee meeting agenda to allow more time for a bigger more in depth discussion on these issues.

I. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** *Motion by Karl Schulte, seconded by Bob Thompson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.*

I. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES of September 10, 2015:** *Motion made by Bob Thompson, seconded by Carl Kietzmann to accept minutes from September 10, 2015. Motion carried.*

- II. **85.21 GRANT PROPOSAL: Leah Bjerke:** Leah advised the committee that we are looking for funding for the Transportation Coordinator position and for rides for the county's elderly and disabled for the Volunteer Driver program. She is also researching to find a more efficient/cost effective and reliable tool/program for booking/accounting purposes as a replacement for *Trip Scheduler* which is currently being utilized by the county in the A.D.R.C for the Volunteer Driver program. *Trip Scheduler* is not reliable for storing all information and not very cost effective in terms of accounting and labor. She is planning to research and look at what other counties are utilizing for programs and the cost that they incur. We might be able to use some of the 85.21 trust for funding for obtaining this new tool. Leah hopes to have information on the new database by the January meeting for the committee to vote on.
- III. **5310 GRANT PROPOSAL: Leah Bjerke:** Leah stated that she and Nick Musson have spoken about different options for the grant and moving forward. They are also looking into the possibility of having a neutral 3rd party for the ADRC's transportation that would submit a summary of the vehicles and the demands and needs that they are faced with. A draft of the summary would be submitted for the committee to review in regard to the grant.
- IV. **5310 – Maintenance Logs – Gene Ruppert:** The reports were submitted in April for the county's vehicle maintenance logs. Gene worked with King and the City of New London to gather the data for the report. Submissions, maintenance records, schedules, proof of insurance were all required for the maintenance log report. The state lost the first submission so Gene has to resubmit. The Department of Health and Human Service's mission statement was utilized for this report.
- V. **5304 GRANT PROPOSAL: Leah Bjerke:** Leah updated on behalf of Nick Musson. Nick is in the process of setting up an interview with Sawyer County Namekagen Transit to learn more about rural transit. Nick is also following up on the *Origin Destination Survey* to contact those counties who have not submitted data. Nick received the *Central Wisconsin Health and Economic Development Summit Report* which will be incorporated into the *Mobility Management Study Report*. Nick is reaching out to the veterans' community to learn more about their transportation issues in hopes of being able to set up a transportation needs assessment facilitation for all the VSOs within the study area.
- VI. **ADJOURN:** *Motion was made to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. by Karl Schulte and seconded by Gene Ruppert. Motion carried.*

**NEXT MEETING – At the Waupaca County Courthouse, Lower Level Room 43, on January 14, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.**  
Respectfully Submitted By: Janna Taylor