

Transportation and Commission on Aging
Public Hearing
Wednesday, October 12, 2005
Medford Multi-Purpose Room

The public hearing for the 2006 85.21 Transportation plan and 2006 Aging Unit plan was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by Diane Niggemann, Director of the Taylor County Commission on Aging. There were 18 residents present for the meeting.

Diane reviewed for the public the 85.21 grant application 'draft'. She explained.

- The proposed mini-bus fare increase of \$1.00 for all trips.
- The review and possible addition of '1 day' mini-bus trips.
- The availability and convenience of using the mini-bus for medical appointments.
- The added record keeping requirements for the Volunteer Escort Driver program.

Diane then reviewed the amendments to the Commission on Aging three year plan:

- The information and Assistance plan requirements
- The SAMS reporting system requirements for gathering of demographic/personal information
- The development of Intake forms.

Diane reported that the COA budget for 2006 totals \$624,679.00. She also reported that the congregate meal count at the sites has decreased in 2005 while the number of meals-on-wheels has risen. Diane stated that there should not be any cuts in services for 2006, however 2007's budget cuts may require cutting back on service days or closing sites all together.

Diane reported that there will be Chronic Disease Management classes offered twice in the coming months. Classes will last 2 ½ hours, one day a week, for 6 weeks. The first class will be held in Medford during January & February and the second class will be held in Rib Lake during March and April.

Diane discussed the modernization of Aging Units and development of Aging & Disability Resource Centers. She reported the creation of a Taylor County Aging Council and stated that they are in the process of developing a mission statement and are discussing prevention issues. She stated that there is a good working relationship with other agencies.

Questions from the public: Will there be flu shots at the site this year? Answer: I don't know yet. Expecting to know more around October 17th.

Diane promoted the Health, Wellness and Safety Fair to be held on Thursday, October 27th at the Medford Senior High School. She described what was being offered and reviewed the speakers and their topics.

There being no more questions from the public and no further business to present, the meeting concluded at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Roush, Transportation Coordinator

Transportation Coordination Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 12, 2005
Multi-Purpose Room

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by acting chairperson, Diane Albrecht, in the absence of Paul Hoffman. Those attending were Diane Albrecht, Dave Bizer, Paul Thornton, Diane Niggemann and Carol Roush.

A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Dave Bizer. Motion seconded by Diane Albrecht. Motion carried. Dave Bizer made a motion to approve Carol's Medical Assistance report and Elderly Transportation report as presented. Diane Albrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried. The committee recommended that in the future the previous year's reports should also be included for comparison purposes.

Diane Niggemann reviewed a draft revenue and expense sheet showing how difficult it will be to keep the volunteer escort driver's mileage reimbursement rate at the IRS rate, currently .485 cents per mile, after the first of the year.

She then reviewed the draft 85.21 grant application with the committee. Paul Thornton noted one change on the vehicle list; Diane proposed a \$1.00 increase in the bus fare for all trips; Diane added the services and requirements for the Volunteer Escort Driver program (noting that partial mileage reimbursement will be funded by 85.21 grant money); Diane explained the budget summary and bid specifications. Dave Bizer made a motion to approve the grant application draft and the required changes. Diane Albrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Thornton reported that BRI would be providing the transportation, once again, for the Octogenarian dinner to be held on Wednesday evening, October 19th. He also reported that he returned one of the vehicles from the last delivery for failing to meet 'spec' requirements. Paul announced that he would be writing a new grant application, asking for 2 new buses, one 8-passenger with one wheelchair slot and one 13-passenger mini-bus. He requested a vote of approval and a letter of support from this committee. Dave Bizer made a motion to approve Paul's grant application request for two (2) new buses. Diane Albrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried. A letter of support will be provided to him by the end of the year.

Then Paul reported that the State Patrol inspection of Black River Industries fleet of vehicles was the best they have ever had. He praised Ron Blackburn for the great job that he did in preparing the vehicles for inspection.

As the date and time for the next meeting will have to be determined at a later date and there being no further business, Diane Albrecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Bizer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Roush, Transportation Coordinator

Taylor County Transportation Coordination Committee
June 1, 2005

The Taylor County Transportation Coordination Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Multi-Purpose room at the fair grounds. Members present were Paul Hoffmann, Dave Bizer, Dave Hemke, Diane Niggemann and Carol Roush.

Dave Bizer made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as presented. Paul Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mileage reimbursement for volunteer escort drivers was then discussed. Carol reported that she wrote a grant for United Way funds and received \$2,500 to help cover an immediate increase in mileage reimbursement for escort drivers. During the discussion it was noted that Commission on Aging nutrition drivers use their own cars and receive .405 per mile. Paul Hoffman made a motion to go before the Finance Committee at their next meeting and request reimbursement, to allow for equity among all the volunteer drivers. Motion was seconded by Dave Bizer. Motion carried.

Diane Niggeman reported that if the state's proposed budget gets approved, an increase in 85,21 transportation funds could amount to an increase of \$10,000 for 2006 and \$20,000 for 2007, for Taylor County.

Dave Hemke, from Human Services, reported that the Medicaid/Badger Care programs will no longer reimburse parking fees for medical appointments.

Paul Thornton, from Black River Industries, reported that bus passengers will be seeing some new faces as he has 2 new drivers – Ken Burisek and Carol Underwood. He also stated that he sits on what's now called the Bus Specification Committee as they will no longer be dealing with van specifications.

There being no further business, Dave Bizer made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:
Carol Roush, Transportation Coordinator

Taylor County Transportation Coordination Committee
March 29, 2005

The Taylor County Transportation Coordination Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Multi-Purpose room at the fair grounds. Members present were Diane Albrecht, acting Chairperson, Dave Bizer, Paul Thornton, Dave Hemke, Diane Niggemann and Carol Roush.

Dave Bizer made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as presented. Diane Albrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Carol reviewed the year-end Senior Transportation (Mini-Bus) and Medicaid reports. Dave Bizer made a motion to approve both reports as presented. Diane Albrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Carol then distributed the authorization form developed for background checks for the volunteer escort drivers. It was suggested that Marie be given a copy of the form for the county's insurance company to review.

Next "no show" fees were discussed. Suggestion included: 1) Clients under the age of 60 be required to pay for transportation costs the day of the appointment. 2) Clients who fail to go when the volunteer driver arrives or fail to cancel their request for a driver be required to pay their bill before future service will be provided. There was also some discussion about the number of trips claimed for mileage reimbursement to a pharmacy to pick up medicine when most pharmacies will/can mail medicine to them with no additional charges.

Diane Niggemann presented the State Budget Update. She also presented a list of one day trips to fill unused hours in Black River Industries' contract. Diane then extended an invitation to the committee to attend the Volunteer Recognition Dinner on April 27th as the volunteer escort drivers and mini-bus volunteers will be recognized for their time and efforts.

Dave Hemke, from Human Services, reported that a joint committee of the State's Assembly and Senate are looking at making cuts and increasing co-payments to the Medicaid/Badger Care/SeniorCare programs. Complete recommendations are not yet known.

Paul Thornton, from Black River Industries, reported that he has 2 wheelchair accessible busses coming this year; no vans. He reported that Catholic Mutual Insurance Co. will no longer insure vans as rollovers are a concern. However, buses are okay. Paul also reported that Randy Oaklief is the new director of Black River Industries.

Next was discussion on increasing the mileage reimbursement rate for the Taylor County volunteer escort drivers to the same rate paid to county employees, presently .40 ½ next agenda for further review and action. The committee's recommendation for a temporary fix was to write grants to the local foundations requesting funds. (i.e. United Way, MWB Foundation, Anne Marie Foundation, Weather Shield Lite Foundation, Aspirus and WalMart Foundations, etc.)

The next meeting date was set for May 18, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the multi-purpose room at the fairgrounds. There being no further business, Dave Bizer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diane Albrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:
Carol Roush, Transportation Coordinator