



## Polk County TAG

August 24, 2016

420 Watson Powell Jr. Way

Des Moines, IA

Suite 200 (Mead Conference Room)

“To bring human service agencies and transportation providers together for the common objective of improving mobility options for individuals in need.”

### Agenda and Minutes (Meeting begins 1:03 PM):

#### 1) Introductions

#### 2) Mobility Managers Updates

**Alison Walding** - Transportation Resource Guide – Alison is working on a transportation resource guide that will be given to all human service agencies to use as a resource. Feedback on the information that will be in the guide was given by the TAG.

**Sarah Constable** - HIRTA/DART project – Alison and Sarah will be working together to provide training to people in HIRTA counties that want to learn to ride DART. Sarah reported that HIRTA is sponsoring a Strides for Rides 5k run October 22 at 9:00am to raise money for transportation for shelter services in Central Iowa. Please see the attached flyer for registration details.

#### 3) MPO updates

**Mike Armstrong** – The MPO completed year 1 of the Complete Streets initiative, resulting in 6 new complete streets policies adopted in the region bringing the total to 9. Several communities are currently working on new policies or updating older policies. The MPO has focused on training, best practices, and policy development throughout year 1. Year 2 will focus on implementation actions and training including a menu of presentations available for planning and zoning commissions, city councils, and other interested organizations. The MPO noted there is a new Downtown Navigational working group meeting that is focusing on connectivity issues such as sidewalk closures due to construction. More info will be provided in the future.

#### 4) United Way Opportunity update

**Helene Grossman** – Helene reported on the Central Iowa Opportunity Community Plan. Over the past year community members have come together to develop and refine the plan to take action against poverty in Central Iowa.

The plan's goal is to have a realistic game plan of actions, big and small, that can bring financial stability and prosperity to the 1/3 of central Iowans who live in or near poverty. Here is the link to the plan and the commitment form:

<http://www.unitedwaydm.org/opportunity>

Helene reported on a *Refugee Summit* that will be happening on October 7 & 8 at Plymouth Congregational Church. October 7 is for employers, educators, non-profit staff, service providers, local and state government officials and community members. October 8 is for refugees and refugee community organizations. Please see the attached flyer for details.

5) Goodwill update

**Justin Bogers** – The 501(c) Forum is in place to unite people for progress on the east and south side of Des Moines. The Forum brings together non-profits and organizations working closely with non-profits to share wins, struggles, and ideas for improvement, to better our organizations and our ability to support our community. If you are interested in joining the Forum, please reach out to Justin directly.

Des Moines Career Connection Center move – November 1<sup>st</sup> to 5921 SE14th St., Suite 2300, Des Moines, Iowa 50315.

*Community Engagement Summit* – Uniting for progress in east and south Des Moines, September 21 from 7:30am-Noon, Euclid Room next to East Euclid HyVee. All are welcome. Register here:

<http://www.dsmeastsouthchamber.org/events/details/community-engagement-summit-09-21-2016-2980>.

Changes to routes for trips to HQ for programming will be difficult to make, but the communication is ongoing.

6) Mobility Matters Conference update

- a. The Mobility Matter 8 conference will be September 29, 2016 at Goodwill of Central Iowa. Please see the attached flyer for details.

7) Wrap Up/Final Discussion

- a. The Urbandale food pantry is not on a bus line and that is making it difficult for their clients.
- b. Mainstream Living would like to see the bus route come by 333 SW9th again.
- c. There is a great need in DSM for handicapped accessible cabs and Uber. It would be helpful to have a representative of these agencies at our next TAG meeting. Uber nationally is working on handicap accessibility.
- d. MCO transportation is a problem in rural counties. The lack of payment has created problems for small agencies. Julia Castillo is a board member on the Iowa Public Transit Association and the association met with MCO brokers and

MCO's at their annual conference. Julia welcomes comments to take back to the MCO's and brokers when another meeting is held. Her email is [jcastillo@ridehirta.com](mailto:jcastillo@ridehirta.com). Julia will also work to see if she can get the MCO's and brokers to speak at the Mobility Matters 8 conference.

- e. The Salvation Army can provide DART tokens or passes for people to get to medical appointments, for people looking for work or the newly employed. Please call Jenny Kerger, Director of Family Services at 515-282-3599 with questions.
- f. American Cancer Society in DSM has the most robust volunteer driver program!
- g. The Epilepsy Foundation is offering free seizure recognition and first aid training. Please contact Roxanne Cogil at 515-238-7660 for questions.

Meeting adjourned, 2:30 PM.

**Next Meeting: October 26, 2016 1-2:30pm at the Des Moines Area MPO**