



1. Call to Order
Ms. Sicks called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. Attendance
Committee Members and Others In Attendance:
Sheila Greuel (East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging) *Virtual*
Darla Heath (Faith in Action) *Virtual*
Betsy Kurtenbach (Homes of Hope) *Virtual*
Laura Dick (SHOW BUS) *Virtual*
Luke Hohulin (McLean County) *in person*
Adeana Fox (Futures Unlimited) *Virtual*
Erin Richey (Good Shepherd Manor) *Virtual*
Ray Lai (MCRPC) *in person*
Jennifer Sicks (MCRPC) *in person*
Francesca Lewis (MCRPC) *in person*

3. Public Comment
Ms. Sicks advised that there have been no requests to provide public comment.

4. Minutes
Ms. Sicks noted that the February and March minutes will be considered during the April meeting.

Discussion of 2023 Region 6 and MPO Plan Goals

5. Potential Goals
Ms. Sicks asked that committee members provide feedback on the goals that the participating agencies

6. Region 6 Priorities
Ms. Sicks asked for comments on priorities for the Region 6 participants.

Items for Discussion

7. IDOT HSTP Program Status Report
 - a. Program Review/Vehicle Inspection Schedule
Ms. Sicks noted that Marcfirst will be reviewed next week. Other agencies will be notified once additional further scheduling is decided.
 - b. Consolidated Vehicle Procurement
Ms. Sicks noted that IDOT is still in the process of finalizing specifications in order to execute new agreements with manufacturers. Zoe Keller of IDOT has reiterated that the final terms of the agreements with manufacturers will determine how many and what type of vehicles will be awarded under the current round of grants.



8. Urban Area Provider Program Status

a. Connect Transit (CT)

Connect Transit did not have a representative present.

b. Marcfirst

Mr. Zdansky was unable to attend.

c. Faith in Action (FiA)

Ms. Heath advised that Faith in Action had a good February, with volunteers driving approximately 5,000 miles for 178 care receivers. Training for new volunteers continues, with five people in training yesterday, and new volunteers joining the program. Qualification for new care receivers is ongoing.

d. Homes of Hope (HOH)

Ms. Kurtenbach noted that not much has changed for Homes of Hope. She noted that it would be helpful to have as much notice as possible of program review and vehicle inspection for Homes of Hope. Ms. Sicks noted that agencies would be informed as soon as dates are determined.

8. Disability/Aging/Rural Transportation Issues

a. LIFE-CIL

Mr. Calhoun was unable to attend.

b. East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging

Ms. Greuel noted that today she visited an Empowerment Opportunities Center in Decatur, and asked if others were aware of the center and the work it does. Ms. Dick asked that Ms. Greuel forward any information she has so that Ms. Dick can follow up.

Ms. Greuel noted that the ECIAAA continues with its projects to reduce social isolation and loneliness. There will be public hearings in each county as the project progresses.

c. SHOW BUS

Ms. Dick advised that the Region 8 HSTP includes a goal to include the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) in the regional committee, in order to solidify relationships with nursing homes and similar agencies that rely on the MCOs for transportation.

For most agencies, survival remains the dominant concern, and there are issues with program capacity. The Department on Aging is trying to get adult day centers reopened, and the Area Agencies on Aging and others are working on partnerships to address emerging needs.

Ms. Dick approached the Illinois Public Transportation Association to assist in partnering with Medicare; the effort faded due to lack of interest from urban systems. The current efforts do not hold the MCOs accountability. Ms. Greuel noted that the MCOs are not responsive, have taken over case managers, and look for aspects of the system to exploit. Ms. Greuel noted that the State Department of Insurance is now working with the Department on Aging to address related issues.



9. Next Meeting – April 12, 2023

10. Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 2: 35 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer A. Sicks".

Jennifer Sicks
Senior Transportation Planner
McLean County Regional Planning Commission