



1. Call to Order
Ms. Sicks called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

2. Attendance
Committee Members and Others In Attendance:

Conan Cahoun (LIFE-CIL) *Virtual*
Sheila Greuel (East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging) *Virtual*
Betsy Kurtenbach (Homes of Hope) *Virtual*
Laura Dick (SHOW BUS) *Virtual*
Erin Richey (Good Shepherd Manor) *Virtual*
Blaine Gilbert (MCRPC) *Virtual*
Ray Lai (MCRPC) *in person*
Jennifer Sicks (MCRPC) *in person*
Luke Talavera (MCRPC) *in person*

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

4. Minutes
Ms. Richey moved approval of the minutes of the May 10 2023 meeting, and was seconded by Ms. Kurtenbach; the Committee approved the minutes.

Items for Discussion

5. IDOT Program Status

a) Consolidated Vehicle Procurement
Ms. Sicks advised that there have been no substantive updates on the status of the CVP process. She continues working on the Region 6 plan draft.

Ms. Sicks noted that she is seeking a central location for Region 6 meetings, and is requesting guidance from IDOT regarding the use of hybrid meetings when agendas do not include action items relating to CVP or other IDOT issues.

6. Urban Area Provider Program Status

a) Connect Transit (CT)
Connect Transit did not have a representative present, but will be designating a staff member to represent the transit system at future meetings.

b) Marcfirst (Mf)
Mr. Zdansky was unable to attend.



c) Faith in Action (FIA)

Ms. Heath was unable to attend.

d) Homes of Hope (HOH)

Ms. Kurtenbach advised that one of the two potential residents will not be joining Homes of Hope. The other potential resident is in the intake process. Otherwise, there have been no significant program changes. The vehicle fleet is in adequate condition, although one vehicle is approaching 100,000 miles of service.

7. Disability/Aging/Rural Transportation Issues

a) LIFE-CIL (LC)

Mr. Calhoun noted that there are increasing requests for the installation of hand controls in vehicles, including four calls in the last month. Such installations are very expensive, ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,500, and currently no one in McLean County who does these installations. Mr. Calhoun has had to look for companies who provide this service in Peoria, Champaign, Springfield and as far away as Rockford. Any assistance in supporting a local company in doing hand control installations would be very welcome. Mr. Calhoun noted that there may be liability issues affecting willingness to install vehicle hand controls.

Statewide, the Centers for Independent Living will be receiving a state allocation of \$7.5 million to fund home modifications, cut from the initially requested \$15 million. There is a considerable gap in the supply of accessible housing units nationwide. Each CIL will start with \$105,000, with provisions to access additional funds once the initial grant is spent. Funding that CILs are unable to use will be reallocated later in the program. In McLean County, funding will include CDBG funds in Bloomington and Normal.

LIFE-CIL is expanding program activities for youth transition options, and looking for additional funding to support this element of the program.

Mr. Calhoun noted that ADA infrastructure issues have reemerged with the reopening outside dining options using sidewalk space. He asked that when obstructions are noted, that observers take direct action to address the issue with business owners in the moment.

b) East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging (ECIAAA)

Ms. Greuel referenced the recent ECIAAA report regarding unmet needs for the quarter ended on March 31st. She noted that transportation requests in Livingston and McLean Counties have increased, with recent requests totaling 16 in Livingston County and 13 in McLean County.

Ms. Greuel advised that ECIAAA Executive Director Susan Real is continuing to pursue of adult day care services in McLean County, including discussions with hospitals. Recent data indicate that there are currently 412 requests for adult day services in the county, including some paired with requests for transportation to adult day programs. She is currently reviewing the data to eliminate possible duplicate requests, but noted that there is clearly an unmet need for these services. She also noted that issues have arisen from adopting a medical model for adult day services through hospitals.



Ms. Dick noted that in advance of the pandemic restrictions, the Advocate BroMenn adult day program had a census of between 120 to 150 persons. She is uncertain as to a waitlist for the program, but noted that during the BroMenn ownership transition between Advocate and Carle, there were concerns about staffing and increased requirements for nursing staff in the adult day program, but there was clearly demand. She also advised that there were preparations under way before the pandemic to create satellite locations in Clinton (Dewitt County) and Farmer City (Piatt County) to reduce trip lengths for clients in more remote locations.

Ms. Dick noted that SHOW BUS has signed a contract continuing its transportation services for the BroMenn program, but was later informed that Carle had put service contracts in abeyance. SHOW BUS still has possession of the vehicles used for the BroMenn program.

Ms. Greuel noted that the BroMenn program census were consistent with her expectations, further noting that increased demand was likely at this point, given the pandemic period in which demand would have grown, and the increasing need for adult day options for dementia care. However, she does not anticipate that demand would have more than doubled.

c) SHOW BUS (SB)

Ms. Dick advised that SHOW BUS is working with a lift repair service in Champaign called Personal Mobility, which has provided very good service in doing lift repairs, including careful attention to safety compliance and ensuring that proper repairs are confirmed before lift-equipped vehicles are returned to service. She noted that this is particularly useful given that lift manufacturers are no longer doing training and certification of repair workers. SHOW BUS had obtained vehicles through interagency exchanges that had not been properly maintained, but that Personal Mobility had brought them into compliance.

Ms. Dick noted that hiring has improved a bit, but there continue to be supply chain and other issues limiting access to parts. To some degree, SHOW BUS is able to use parts from vehicles that are no longer in service. She noted that possible internal staff issues at IDOT may be impacting the CVP program. Ms. Sicks noted that the IDOT contract review process for vehicle manufacturing had been extended, and that that made it impossible for IDOT to specify the number of vehicles that could be provided in response to the 2022 applications. Ms. Dick noted that she is seeing erosion in transportation services provided by nursing homes, although they may be contractually obligated to offer transportation to residents. SHOW BUS is picking up for some services in that category.

Ms. Dick noted concern regarding the pending urban transit microtransit service, in which it seems that service expansion through non-accessible microtransit vehicles will not benefit riders with accessibility needs. Among the concerns is that mobility service is difficult to expand, and microtransit service is overall less expensive, and feeds into the fixed route system.

d) Good Shepherd Manor (GSM)

Ms. Richey noted that Good Shepherd Manor serves men with developmental or intellectual disabilities. The current program census is 107 men, and there is a waiting list for placements. There are thirteen group homes, and the grant vehicles are used to transport residents to the main GSM facility for services, as well as for trips to shopping, recreation, community activities,



medical services and to the Kankakee County Training Center. GSM is located in Momence, a predominantly rural area in eastern Kankakee County, so transportation is essential to access most resources. Ms. Richey noted that the GSM staff work around any issues arising from vehicle limitations that may arise ahead of new vehicle availability through the CVP.

Ms. Sicks noted that she will be in touch with GSM staff regarding scheduling for a program review.

8. Next Meeting – July 12, 2023 (Note – the July meeting was canceled.)
9. Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 2: 47 p.m.

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

Jennifer Sicks
Senior Transportation Planner
McLean County Regional Planning Commission