

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
December 18, 2012

MINUTES

PRESENT: Coatney, Long, Tranter, Wiggins; Public Health Administrator Kent Tarro, Jeanette Baker-County Board Office

AGENDA:

1. Public Transportation Operating Procedures

Raymond Coatney called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and turned the meeting over to Kent Tarro.

Kent Tarro explained that the Macoupin County Public Transportation program is a federally certified program (which in most cases are run by community based agencies) – in this case, the local health department runs the program. The county board has the authority for the area which the service is being provided. All ordinances, procedures, budgets have to go through the County board.

Tarro explained that we have to get as many service contracts as we can, to try to help everybody with transportation needs. Tarro explained that Maple Street Clinic pays for rides for anybody from Macoupin County who wants to get to the Maple Street Clinic, regardless of income.

Tarro explained that this program is called Section 5311 Federal Department Transportation Program. The policies and procedures which govern this program must be approved by the county board each year. Tarro stated that he will run the policies and procedures by the Board of Health also as a courtesy but their approval is not necessary or binding.

A question was asked if this federal money for transportation covers maintenance, fuel and drivers. Tarro said yes, all are covered. Tranter asked if the committee needed to give approval so that the federal government will keep this funding available for the Department. Tarro said yes. Tarro went on to explain that the federal government pays for half of the program. Tarro stated that he has matching funding which is not county money but comes from other grant dollars that he applies for and receives. Tarro noted to the committee several of the service contracts currently in place: Safe Schools, Wound Care Center at the Staunton Hospital, clinic in Belleville, might be working with the disability program in the future.

Tarro stated again that nothing comes from his original budget. The feds are pushing for him to get more vans and would like for him to do 50,000 trips a year. They would like to see a ratio of 1 – 2 rides per person in the county.

According to Tarro, seniors get a break on any trips taken in Macoupin County for medical reasons; such are “donation only” trips. Tarro stated that the rides are very cheap in county, \$2.00 round trip in town, \$3.00 to the next town and back regardless of how many stops.

Tarro stated that they are looking into adding a new service to potentially take people to three local colleges; Lewis and Clark, SIU-E and Blackburn. A later possibility would be to add routes to get people within Macoupin County to their places of employment.

MOTION: Motion made by Tranter and seconded by Coatney to present the operating procedures discussed to the full board for approval. Motion carried.

MOTION: Motion made by Wiggins and seconded by Tranter to adjourn at 10:35 a.m.

Prepared by Jeanette Baker