

**Champaign County
 Rural Transit Advisory Group**

Thursday, March 3, 2011

5:30pm to 7:00pm

Champaign County Brookens Administrative Center

John Dimit Conference Room

1776 E Washington St

Urbana, IL 61802

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Ms. George called the meeting to order at 5:33pm

II. Roll Call

Attendees introduced themselves and a sign-in sheet was passed around. A quorum was present.

Name (*RTAG Member)	Organization
Chris Bruns*	The Pavilion
Kathy Cooksey	CRIS Rural Mass Transit District
Nicole George	Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
Stan James*	Champaign County Board
Andy Kulczycki*	Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County
Amy Marchant	CRIS Rural Mass Transit District
Rita Morocoima-Black	Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
Martha Paap*	Provena Center for Healthy Aging
Michelle Ramage*	Thomasboro & Rantoul City School Districts
Les Woodrum	CRIS Rural Mass Transit District

III. Approval of Agenda

Mr. James motioned the agenda be approved as provided. Ms. Ramage seconded. Motion passed.

IV. New Business

A. Election of Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary

Ms. George asked if anyone was interested in serving as Chair. Mr. James made a motion for Mr. Kulczycki to serve as Chair. Ms. Ramage seconded. Motion passed. Mr. James motioned Ms. Ramage serve as Vice Chair. Ms. Bruns seconded. Motion passed. Mr. James motioned for Ms. Paap to serve as Secretary. Ms. Bruns seconded. Motion passed.

B. 2011 Meeting Schedule

The group decided meetings should start out as quarterly, with additional meeting only if necessary. Ms. George would get the location and send out meeting materials. An earlier meeting time was better for group. Meetings will be at 4pm on June 2, September 1, and December 1, 2011. Ms. George said we still have a vacancy on the group for a representative of individuals with disabilities. Mr. Weibel, the County Board Chair, had Ms. George speak with someone who had applied for the Developmental Disabilities Board, but Ms. George does not know the status of that person's interest. Ms. James suggested contacting Lyn, a disability advocate.

C. CUMTD Support

Ms. Marchant shared that Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (CUMTD) has been very supportive. CRIS will be renting office and vehicle storage space on their site. The cost of this is \$5 cheaper than the bid they received 10 years ago in Danville. CRIS will also be contracting their vehicle maintenance to CUMTD, which is also cheaper than maintenance services they are currently have done in Vermilion County. CUMTD has also allowed CRIS to use their bus wash and tower for radios. CRIS will also be purchasing diesel fuel from CUMTD at cost.

D. Current Service Status

Ms. Marchant said they currently providing service, but since they just got the space & are waiting on a new phone number, no marketing has been done. They are currently giving 10 rides/day (20 one-way trips), which include employment transportation from Ludlow to Rantoul and for ADC and others into Champaign-Urbana. CRIS is waiting on background and drug checks on applicants for 4 part time drive positions. They recently hired a new dispatcher. Ms. James said CRIS should speak with Rantoul Recreation about their clients utilizing CRIS services.

E. Strategies for Marketing Service

Ms. Marchant wanted to get the group's opinion regarding limited or mass marketing. Mr. James said if they are going to market the service, they should do mass marketing. Ms. Bruns agreed, stating it would make it hard to get riders in the future if only appealing to certain groups now. Mr. Kulczycki said more publicity will allow CRIS to plan future service. Ms. Bruns said she sees Pavilion and Crosspoint clients utilizing the service. Ms. Ramage asked how rides will be decided. Ms. Marchant said it would be first come, first served, however a medical appointment would take priority over ride home from detention. She also sees medical appointments taking up many spots and recurring appointments being booked.

Ms. Marchant asked about the best ways to get the word out. The group suggested articles and advertisements in the Rantoul Press as well as posting flyers around the community. Ms. Marchant passed their current brochure, which will be updated once the new phone number is obtained. She asked if billboards would be a good idea. The group had some concerns with billboard since they are alongside roads, and if people don't have rides, would they see them. However, they did say the billboard locations that were available were all good locations. Ms. Morocoima-Black said she would be able to do translation and distribute at Spanish mass. Mr. Kulczycki said there will be a Latino Harvest Festival on the second Sunday of July from 1-7 pm. This would be a good opportunity to market the service.

Ms. Marchant also said that will be important to continue pursuing service contracts to help pull down the maximum funding available. CRIS is currently working on contracting with Developmental Services Center. Mr. James said they should also look at Prairie Village and the Champaign County Nursing Home. Ms. Marchant said in the future, CRIS would explore a contract to provide CUMTD's paratransit service, something they currently do for Danville Mass Transit. On a side note, Ms. Ramage said she is exploring contracting school bus service, because of the difficulty in hiring drivers.

Ms. Paap asked how long a trip would take. Ms. Marchant said that would vary on the type of trip and the rider's abilities. As the dispatcher develops relationships with riders, it becomes easier to group rides. They are currently doing this with riders who were Rural Rider clients. Ms. Marchant also pointed out that if there is inclement weather and Rantoul Township High School is closed, then there would be no service.

V. Announcements/Audience Participation

Ms. George said CCRPC applied for a National Center on Senior Transportation grant to improve outreach regarding transportation to minority populations. They are currently waiting to hear back regarding the application. Ms. George also said IDOT has some small urban Job Access & Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funding. There is a potential CRIS could apply for a JARC route from Rantoul to CU.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Kulczycki adjourned the meeting at 6:18pm.