

**SENIOR SERVICES GRANT COMMISSION (SSGC)  
McHenry County Administration Building  
667 Ware Road, Conference Room B  
Woodstock IL 60098**

MINUTES OF MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009

Chairman Salgado called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The following Commission Members were present: Sandra Salgado, Chairman; Mary McCann; Randy Donley; Catherine Nash; Susan Ritzert; William Markison; Mary Reid; Don Kopsell; Ed Beckstrom. Tamara Valentine-Garza and Don Larson arrived at 10:30 a.m. Staff present: John W. Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; and Linda McMahon, Administrative Analyst.

Sandra Salgado, Chairman	
Don Larson	Ed Beckstrom
Suzanne Hoban	Randy Donley
Don Kopsell	Mary McCann
Mary Donner	Anna May Miller
Catherine Nash	William Markison
Virginia Peschke	Mary Reid
Susan Ritzert	Lyn Orphal
Vacant	Tamara Valentine-Garza

MINUTES

Mary Reid motioned to approve the minutes of September 19, 2008, seconded by Mary McCann, on a voice vote the minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

*Discussion on Meeting Times and Tentative Meeting Schedule for 2009:* Chairman Salgado started the meeting with a discussion on meeting dates and times to review proposals for FY 2010 funding. After discussion, it was decided to schedule agency interviews for August 14<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If additional time is need to review proposals, the date of August 28<sup>th</sup> would be so designated. The SSGC will meet on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. to make recommendations on program funding for FY 2010.

*Update of 2008 Projects:* Mr. Labaj reviewed reported accomplishment for the 2008 program year. There had been 257,776 unduplicated service units and 23,776 clients assisted during 2008. Commissioner Nash noted that roughly each service unit cost \$6.00 and that given the number of unduplicated clients this was cost effective. Mr. Labaj noted that all but \$181,214 of the grant dollars had been spent by agencies and the \$180,000 of that was attributable to the Coordinate Senior Services Transportation program which would be discussed later in the agenda. The numbers still need to be finalized to balance between quarterly numbers and year end finals. Ms. McMahon will provide grantees with an updated reporting form which will address this issue.

*Update Strategic Plan for 2009:*

Mr. Labaj reviewed the Strategic Planning objectives that were developed by the SSGC in 2007. The major goals remain the same: transportation services, increased public awareness of services and the SSGC, identification of gaps in service, home health care. Chairman Salgado and Committee member Larson discussed expanded information on senior services to be provided on the internet. Committee members discussed the need to assess current conditions of service providers as well as gaps in service. It was decided that the Commission will meet on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. to meet with service providers and other interested parties to update the strategic plan.

OLD BUSINESS

*Update on Coordinated Senior Transportation Pilot Project:* Wally Ditrich and Jason Osborn from the Division of Transportation joined committee members to provide an update on the Coordinated Senior Transportation Pilot Project. Committee members were informed that both Woodstock and McHenry opted out of the program. \$180,000 was allocated as part of the Senior Services Transportation program. Once the two municipalities opted out, the program fell apart. A new approach has been developed by (McHenry County Division of Transportation) McDOT to get transit providers re-interested in participating. Mr. Osborn described the proposal contained in Commissioner's packets. A percentage of the RTA sales tax would be used to fund separate pool

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of funds that transit providers could apply from for either their own programs or in collaboration with other agencies. A separate as yet undefined body would make decisions based on funding requests. One of the primary objectives of funding will be for providers to provide hard data on trips generated by whom and to where. Commission members voiced concerns on how this new fund would work with Senior Services funds. It was stated that additional dialogue would be needed based upon data collected, but the assumption is that seniors would use a large percent of the services offered. Mr. Osborn also noted that McHenry Township had forgone direct funding in 2008 due to the pilot project and that some of the Townships cost should be provided out of the \$180,000 set aside.

It was noted that there would be two funding sources available for transit services in the future and that coordination between the SSGC and the new body would be needed. Commission members questioned if the pilot funds should be pulled and set aside until there are some guarantees that these funds would be used for seniors. It was stated that the applications for grants would address what the funds would be used for. Commission members questioned that, if Dial a Ride is already offering services within an area, and if the service area shows they will need additional funds to expand services outside their area, would they therefore qualify for additional grant funding. Commissioner Markison noted that a taxi voucher program would be of great benefit for seniors and staff responded that such an initiative could be funded with these dollars. Staff estimated that up to \$500,000 may be available from the RTA sales tax for coordinated demand services and that all questions on process and the programs to be funded cannot be answered at this early date. In response from a question from Commissioner Valentine-Garza it was stated the decision making process to use RTA sales tax funds would be through a recommendation by the Transportation Committee with final approval by the County Board. Commission members noted that they want to insure that SSGC funds are utilized to get seniors where they need to go especially if that means going beyond dial a ride village or municipality boundaries.

Commission members were reminded that the next commission meeting will be on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business Ms. Reid made a motion, seconded by Ms. McCann to adjourn the meeting at 11:08a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of all members present.

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