

Putnam County Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan Annual Update – 2016-2017

Background:

The Putnam County Public Transit – Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan was originally developed in 2008. The most recent update took place in September of 2015. The Putnam County Transportation Committee members have successfully worked together to facilitate and advance local coordination efforts. A number of accomplishments have been completed over the last year. The committee continues to meet to address the on-going goals and strategies outlined in the transportation plan.

Purpose:

This plan update is intended to serve as a measure on the progress made on the goals outlined in Putnam County's Coordinated Transportation Plan. It is also an opportunity to look at and possibly adjust plan priorities and strategies.

2016-2017 Coordination Plan Assessment and Update

Over the last year several community stakeholders have come together to form the Putnam County Transportation Committee. The purpose of the transportation committee is to bring together community stakeholders in order to build a strong network of transportation professionals who work together to address the diverse transportation needs of the community. Targeted efforts for the committee included enhancing partnerships among community stakeholders, increasing public awareness amongst the general public and influencers of public opinion, increasing wheelchair accessible transportation options, providing operational funding, exploring a regional transportation mission, and addressing gaps in service and unmet needs. Below is a summary of the progress made on the 7 goals outlined in the plan, since its approval in September of 2015.

Goal #1: Putnam County will encourage cooperation and communication among stakeholders.

- The Putnam County Transportation Committee has been meeting bi-monthly. Six meetings held since 11-6-15.
- Regional Coordination Coalition established with Hancock, Hardin, Putnam and Wyandot Counties (NW Ohio Transportation Collaboration).
 - Committee meets bi-annually.
- An online network of communication was created for the Putnam County Transportation Committee and for the NW Ohio Transportation Collaboration through the use of yahoo group.

Goal #2: Putnam County will work to increase public knowledge of available transportation.

- Transportation Resource Guide created in August 2016. 500 color copies distributed throughout Putnam County.
- Transportation Resource Guide was added to agency websites (PCCOA, CAC, UW, DD, Veteran Services, etc.).

- Newspaper article and PSA's on Transportation Resource Guide.
- One-page multi-agency transportation sheet created for use at health fairs, county fair, senior expo, community events, etc.
- Nine speaking engagements held on transportation services in Putnam County.

Goal #3: Putnam County will increase issue of awareness and appreciation of community and public transit among influencers of local public opinion.

- Multi-agency transportation report created and submitted to public officials outlining 2015 transportation statistics. The 2016 report will be distributed once 2016 numbers are calculated.
- Client stories were created and will be used to bring awareness about transportation services within the county.

Goal #4: Putnam County will increase wheelchair accessible transportation options.

- The Putnam County Office of Public Safety purchased a wheelchair accessible vehicle to replace an older vehicle.
- The Putnam County Council on Aging applied for wheelchair accessible vehicle to replace an older vehicle.
- Putnam County Department of Developmental Disabilities purchased a wheelchair accessible vehicle to expand their fleet.

Goal #5: Putnam County will work to provide operational funding options for meeting the transportation needs of the target populations.

- Grant received by the Educational Service Center to target the needs of students and employment.

Goal #6: Putnam County will build on the HHWP Community Action Commission's regional mission to explore options for expanding community transportation service within Putnam County.

- No action at this time, but this initiative remains a vital goal of the collaboration.

Goal #7: Putnam County will continue to identify gaps in transportation services and unmet needs.

- Committee is currently working on a survey to obtain input from older adults and individuals with disabilities. The deadline to complete the survey is 1-31-17.

Annual Coordinated Plan Review Process

Over 25 Putnam County community stakeholders were invited by email to attend the Putnam County Transportation Committee meeting on November 9, 2016 at the Council on Aging (PCCOA) office, 1425 E. Fourth Street, Ottawa, OH 45875 in order to review the progress made on the goals outlined in Putnam County's Coordinated Transportation Plan and to have the opportunity to review and possibly adjust plan priorities and strategies. Jodi Warnecke who is with the PCCOA and is the lead agency for the transportation plan reviewed the progress made

on the plan goals thus far. Following the presentation, meeting participants were asked about changes and/or amendments to Putnam County's Coordinated Transportation Plan. All attendees agreed to make no changes to the plan and to continue to work on the goals as outlined in the plan. Director Warnecke distributed the meeting minutes to those who were unable to attend the update meeting. Transportation committee members were given 30 days to provide input on the annual update. No other comments were received during the 30 day time period, which closed on December 15, 2016.

Elderly and Disabled Feedback Meeting

In order to ensure adequate feedback from elderly and disabled individuals, the progress on the goals stated in the Putnam County Coordinated Transportation Plan were presented to Putnam County senior citizens and individuals with disabilities by the PCCOA Director, Jodi Warnecke on December 12, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at the PCCOA office, 1425 E. Fourth Street, Ottawa, OH 45875. The meeting was advertised in the local newspaper and flyers were distributed throughout the county. Twelve Putnam County residents were in attendance at the meeting and one individual, who was unable to attend the meeting, gave input by telephone. Of the 13 participants, 11 identified themselves as being age 60 and older and 1 identified themselves as being disabled.

After reviewing the progress on the goals with the attendees, Director Warnecke opened the floor for comments. The following comments were made:

- Importance of reaching out to the Hispanic population.
- Limited transportation options for those who are underage and do not meet agency criteria.
- If you meet agency criteria, transportation may not be available mid-month due to lack of funding and/or transportation may be limited.
- Can't afford private pay services.
- When holding meeting to obtain feedback, give other options to provide feedback such as by telephone, email, etc.

In closing, participants in attendance signed and dated their approval for Putnam County's Coordinated Transportation Plan's annual update which included continuing to work on the goals as outlined in Putnam County's Coordinated Transportation Plan.

Annual Update Approval Meeting

A Transportation Committee meeting was held on December 29, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. to review the results of the Elderly and Disabled Feedback Meeting and to approve the Annual Update of the Coordinated Transportation Plan. The Putnam County Transportation Committee members voted to make no changes to the plan and to continue to work on the goals as outlined in the plan. Signatures of approval were obtained from committee members.