

# MINUTES

## Senior & Disabled Services Advocacy Committee

December 8, 2006

Members Present: Kathy Jenness, Chair, Jim Patterson, Dennis Shine, Dianne Burch, Ed Necker, Tim Baxter, Trescott Ducker

Members Excused: Andrea Gillespie, Mary Johnson, Dan Arkin, Jane Boren, Marion Esty, Sharon Durham

Staff Present: Kay Metzger

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Kathy Jenness called the meeting to order at 2:26 p.m.

**2. Consideration of Meeting Agenda**

By consensus, the meeting agenda was approved.

**3. Consideration of the minutes of the November 17th meeting**

*Motion:* Dianne Burch moved the minutes of the November meeting of the Advocacy Committee be approved. Jim Patterson seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

**4. Committee Business**

**a. Report on O4AD Press Conference**

Jim Patterson attended the press conference, along with Kathy Jenness and Kay Metzger. Jim reported that the presenters reported on the issues very clearly, and the message was consistent. The presenters were: Barry Donenfeld, O4AD Chair; Mary Shortall, O4AD Legislative Committee Chair; Jim Davis, Save Our Seniors; Jim Carlson, Oregon Health Care Association; Bob Lawrence, Governor's Commission on Senior Services. The press received the information with interest and a follow up story was printed in the Register Guard featuring Kathy Jenness.

Additionally, Jim reported on the upcoming Legislative Boot Camp, scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>. Several Committee members expressed an interest in attending. The group will coordinate

transportation to the event. Attendees will be: Jim Patterson, Ed Necker, Trescott Ducker, and Dennis Shine.

**b. Continuing Work on 2006-07 Committee Priorities**

(1) Tim Baxter reported on the sub-group meeting working on the Healthcare Ombudsman issue.

(A) Tim distributed a list of potential partners that may be interested in supporting this agenda. The Committee reviewed the list and offered additional suggestions, such as a local residential care facility. Tim agreed to contact the facility owner regarding their experience with DMAP.

(B) The Committee discussed a letter to be sent to Advisory Councils and other potential partners, inquiring about their interest and requesting their support. Kay will make some additions to the letter. The group agreed it is important to find recent examples of problems encountered by DMAP clients. Kay will ask S&DS staff for information regarding their experiences working with DMAP and the Client Advisory Services Unit.

(C) Dennis Shine asked if there was a fiscal impact to the issue. Tim responded in the affirmative, that there is a fiscal benefit to solving problems before legal action is taken, and before the recipient needs more costly care (due to lack of access to necessary equipment/supplies that would allow a person to remain more healthy and independent).

(D) Kay reported on a telephone conversation with Meredith Cote, of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Office. Meredith had specific questions, such as the scope of the population served, is this duplication of services already offered by CASU and the Governor's Advocacy Office, and several other questions. Kay will do some additional research and get back to Meredith.

(E) The group identified preferable dates for a meeting with Don Bishoff and Senator Morrisette. Kay will follow up with Don to coordinate a meeting..

(2) A brief report was given on the other Legislative Priorities.

(A) We are pleased that funding equity for the AAAs is included in the Governor's Recommended Budget. We will continue to work this issue through the Legislative Session.

(B) Due to successful education efforts by advocates, the E-Board approved approximately \$391,000 to fund the reductions in

the Family Caregiver Support Program due to a DHS calculation error. This is certainly evidence that advocates do make a difference.

(C) In the area of funding for OPI and other programs that support in-home care, there is work being completed by O4AD that advances this cause such as the recent press conference.

**c. Work with Legislators**

Kay handed out a list of recently elected State Legislators and a more complete description of S&DS' Legislative Priorities for 2006-07. The group agreed to work individually with Legislators with whom they have connections. More discussion on how to effectively work with Legislators will occur at future meetings.

**5. Announcements**

None recorded.

**6. Reminder of Next Meeting:**

**January 12, 2007, 2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

**Location:**

**Senior & Disabled Services**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Large Conference Room**

**1015 Willamette Street**

**Eugene, OR 97401**