

MINUTES
Senior & Disabled Services
Advocacy Committee
1015 Willamette St; Eugene, OR 97401

November 12, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Patterson, Chair; Tim Baxter, Dennis Shine, Robert Fritson, Jessica Harris, Janet O'Bryant, Rosemary Foster, Diane Rogers

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Ed Necker, Donna Peterson, and Kathy Jenness

STAFF: Kay Metzger

1. Call to Order / Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2:17 p.m.

2. Consideration of Meeting Agenda

Agenda approved by consensus.

3. Consideration of the minutes of the October meeting

Motion: Dennis Shine moved the minutes be approved. Robert Fritson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Public Comment: Downtown Safety

Item tabled, as expected guest was not present.

5. Committee Business/Updates

A. Roundabout Update

- 1). Kay provided brief update on installation timeline for RRFB at the MLK roundabout, according to City of Springfield officials.
- 2). Rosemary Foster reported that she attended the City of Springfield open house regarding pedestrian safety on Main Street. She spoke with an ODOT official, Sonny Chickering. Rosemary shared there is a public interest group that has organized on this issue. They have a website and a study has been completed addressing specific areas of concern, in particular on Main Street near 51st Street and also between 41st and 43rd Streets. Tim Baxter commented that it appeared this issue already was well represented through the work of the existing group. The group agreed Rosemary's presence and representation of the

needs of seniors and people with disabilities was helpful. Questions arose regarding the existence of cutouts on the median refuge at 51st Street and whether or not it was possible to install an audible signal (i.e. chirping noise or spoken voice) to help those with visual impairments know when the beacons were flashing. Rosemary will contact Mr. Chickering regarding these questions. Dennis Shine thanked Rosemary for her time and good work. Rosemary stated she is willing to track this issue and report back to the group.

3) Robert Fritson gave a presentation to Committee members regarding the information he received in response to our letter of inquiry sent last month to local organizations/facilities/service providers that work with seniors and people with disabilities. He received three responses and provided the Committee with a detailed evaluation of each, including pictures. Several of the respondents are willing to meet with the Advocacy Committee. The three sites are:

- Landsby Place (a blind curb near the Meal Site and housing complex)
- Lone Oak Assisted Living (lack of a painted crosswalk between facility and the Fred Meyer store)
- Willamette Oaks Residents Association (no controlled crossing at bus stop closest to facility)

Committee members engaged in a brief question and answer period.

Motion: Jessica Harris moved the Committee adopt the priority ranking of these sites as presented by Robert F. Dennis Shine seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jim Patterson asked the group to consider what the appropriate next steps would be. Janet O'Bryant commented the City Council may be the best place to start. Jessica Harris stated perhaps we should begin by contacting Landsby Place staff for more information. Robert Fritson volunteered to be the Point of Contact (POC) on this issue and will contact Carlos from Northwest Neighbors and Sandy Karsten, LCOG Meals Program Manager.

B. State Funding of Services through June 2011

Kay shared a letter sent to Lane County state elected officials who are members of the Emergency Board regarding the need for continued funding for in-home care and Oregon Project Independence. Members were encouraged to contact their legislators soon regarding decisions to be made within the next few months.

C. Proposed Service Reductions for 2011-13

A list of the proposed service reductions submitted by the Department of Human Services Seniors and People with Disabilities unit was made available to members. It is also on the internet at www.oregon.gov. The list of potential cuts is very similar to proposals submitted last year and will have a very grim impact on in-home clients. Additionally, there is a very real possibility the reductions will not save money in the long run, as clients will move to more expensive living situations.

Committee members stated that it will be important to personalize these cuts, articulating examples of real people who are impacted by these reductions. As the Legislative Session progresses we will refine our message about these cuts.

D. Working with Legislators

Dennis Shine recognized Lee Beyer, newly elected State Senator, as an important ally. He has publicly stated his support of Oregon Project Independence. Dennis will be contacting him about OPI, thanking him for his support and reiterating the cost benefits of the program.

Kay distributed an updated list of Lane County State Elected officials and offered to work with Advocacy Committee members if they were interested in jointly meet with their particular representative.

E. Other Business

Robert Fritson reported on his work with the Trillium/LIPA DME Committee, describing the issues on which he voted. Committee members recognized Robert's important work on this committee.

6. Date for next meeting: December 10, 2010; 2:15 p.m.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.