

## MINUTES

Senior & Disabled Services  
**Advocacy Committee**  
Hilyard Center  
2580 Hilyard Street  
Eugene, OR 97405

March 17, 2006

Members Present: Kathy Jenness, Chair; Tim Baxter, Dianne Burch, Ed Necker, Jim Patterson, Andrea Gillispie, Marion Esty

Members Excused: Jane Boren, Dan Arkin, Leslie Relle

Staff Present: Kay Metzger, Patti Little

**1. Call to Order**

Kathy Jenness called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

**2. Consideration of the meeting agenda**

By consensus, agenda was accepted as written.

**3. Consideration of the February 2006 minutes**

Corrections to the minutes were noted as follows: Andrea Gillispie and Marion Esty should be noted as excused from the February meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes with the corrections noted - moved by Ed Necker, seconded by Marion Esty. Committee approved unanimously.

**4. Committee Business**

**a. Debriefing Legislative Conversations**

Dianne Burch stated she thought the Legislative Conversations went nicely, however it seemed to her that we should make sure we “set the stage” and summarize the agenda for them at the beginning of the meeting. This will remind all participants of the format and goals of the meeting.

The group discussed the pros and cons to scheduling the Advocacy Committee meeting immediately before the Legislative Conversations. This was the first year we attempted this type of scheduling. Overall, this seemed to be a better alternative than after the Legislative Conversation,

since the time after the meeting offers an important opportunity for Advocacy Committee members to informally network with Legislators. As we plan for next year, we will evaluate whether or not to have the Advocacy Committee meeting on a different day.

Overall, the Committee felt the more informal atmosphere was effective and accomplished the goals the Committee had set. The Legislators gave us candid and helpful feedback. Jim Patterson stated that, as a new member, he thought the experience was very educational. While it is hard to tell at this point if the meetings will have a positive impact legislatively, the consensus was that the more familiar the Legislators are with our faces and issues, the better.

Dianne Burch wondered if we should query the Legislators for their feedback. It was determined that staff will check with them by phone. For the next meeting, staff will do a written summary of the comments and feedback received from the Legislators.

**b. Video Conferencing**

Kathy Jenness reported on her recent experience with video conferencing. Kathy is a member of the Disability Advisory Council for the State of Oregon, and their meeting last month was held by video conference. She stated it worked beautifully, much better than a phone conference. The video conference was held at the local DHS office on Chad Drive. Tim Baxter wondered how it was set up and where the originating location in Salem was. Kathy stated someone in Salem arranged all the details. Kay indicated she had participated in a video conference that originated from an agency office building in Salem. The Capitol does not yet have the capability.

As follow-up to the discussion, Kathy and Kay will work together to craft a letter advocating for improved video conferencing ability in the Capitol Building, to be mailed to our local Legislators.

The Committee also engaged in a discussion about the benefits of diversity / sensitivity training. This may be something both Advisory Councils would be interested in. Staff will check on options for free training.

**c. Orientation for Candidates**

Kay distributed a list of local candidates for state office. Marion Esty described the activities the Committee has done in the past. By consensus, the Committee decided to wait until after the primary election to begin contacting candidates. However, the Committee felt it would be beneficial for staff to send a letter to each candidate explaining our

services and inviting them to contact us if they would like more information.

**d. Tax Exemption Paper**

Given the time, the Committee opted to table this item until next meeting. Each Committee member agreed to read the paper prior to the meeting and come prepared for a full discussion.

**5. Announcements**

Members had no additional announcements.

**6. Reminder of next meeting – April 21, Hilyard Center**

**7. Meeting Adjourned**