

MINUTES

Senior & Disabled Services Advocacy Committee

June 13, 2008

Members Present: Mary Johnson, Chair; , Ed Necker, Megan O'Connor, Jim Patterson, Tim Baxter, Dan Arkin, Dennis Shine, Trescott Ducker

Members Excused: Marion Esty, Susan Busler, Graham Bailey, Dianne Burch

Staff Present: Kay Metzger

1. **Call to Order / Introductions**

Mary Johnson, Advocacy Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:21 p.m. All present introduced themselves.

2. **Consideration of Meeting Agenda**

Agenda accepted with additions to Item 4.C Other Business.

3. **Consideration of the minutes of the May meeting**

The need for a spelling correction was noted in item 3, "En Necker" should read "Ed Necker".

Motion: Tim Baxter moved the minutes be approved with noted correction. Jim Patterson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Committee Business**

a. **2009-11 Legislative Priorities**

Committee members engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding priorities for 2009-11. The group unanimously supported prioritizing work on the following issue:

- Creating a consumer-oriented culture within the Department of Medical Assistance Programs. This includes the ongoing work towards the creation of a Healthcare Ombudsman Office, and assumes the consumer involvement is meaningful as opposed to tokenism.

The group then proceeded to use a voting process (with three votes each) to identify the issues the group felt could be influenced most effectively through advocacy and legislative work. There were two issues that the group overwhelmingly supported:

- The expansion of the Oregon Project Independence Program to include people with disabilities (9 votes)
- Parity / Equitable funding for Transfer Area Agencies on Aging (8 votes).

Other issues receiving votes included:

- Services to under-represented communities (3 votes)
- Increased awareness / enforcement of the ADA (1 vote)
- Maintain focus on quality of life as a foundational belief (1 vote)

After some discussion, the group felt the last three issues could be integrated into other activities, rather than as a specific Legislative item. Additionally, as part of the scope of its work as an Area Agency on Aging, S&DS commits staff time for outreach to under-represented groups.

Advocacy Committee members determined they would review and refine the priorities at the July meeting.

b. Planning for Candidates Forum

O4AD would like to have a few questions asked consistently across the state at the Candidates Forums. Input on proposed questions was requested.

Advocacy members responded with comments. Kay will forward comments to Nicole Armstrong, O4AD.

c. Other Business

Mary and Dan Arkin reported that a meeting was held with Rhonda Busek, Lipa, regarding their involvement on the Lipa DME committee. The discussion was profitable and they both plan to continue on the committee.

5. Announcements

Dennis Shine reported that the Senior Connections and Senior Meals Program will continue to receive funding through Lane County. This was great news, and many thanks were offered to Dennis for his tenacity and commitment to these programs.

Dan Arkin announced the Tibetan community will be holding vigils and peace marches at the Olympic Trials. This is an opportunity for public education regarding the plight of Tibetans and not a suggestion of boycott.

**Reminder of Next Meeting –
Friday, July 25th
Senior & Disabled Services
2nd Floor Large Conference Room
1015 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401**

