

MINUTES

Senior & Disabled Services Advocacy Committee

August 18, 2006

Members Present: Kathy Jenness, Chair, Jim patterson, Dennis Shine, Jane Boren, Dianne Burch, Mary Johnson, Dan Arkin, Ed Necker, Marion Esty, Tim Baxter

Members Excused: Andrea Gillespie, Maureen Wadst

Staff Present: Kay Metzger

1. **Call to Order**

Kathy Jenness, Advocacy Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

2. **Consideration of Meeting Agenda**

Kathy asked all present to introduce themselves. The Committee welcomed Dennis Shine into the group. Ed Necker asked about the date for the next meeting, as noted on the agenda. The correct date for the next meeting is September 15th, not September 18th. Jane Boren indicated she will be unable to attend the September meeting.

3. **Consideration of the minutes of the July 21st meeting**

Motion: Ed Necker moved the minutes be approved as mailed. Dianne Burch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Committee Business**

a. Planning for Meeting with OMAP

The Committee moved through an interactive and lively discussion about the problems both providers and clients have encountered when working with the Office of Medical Assistance Programs. Several committee members described the history of the problem and their personal experiences. Issues expressed by committee members included:

- OMAP does not include stakeholders in a meaningful way at the policy-making level. Inclusion of stakeholders is

limited and seems to be window-dressing rather than substantive.

- There should be a complaint process that is clear, easy to access, and holds OMAP personnel accountable. The Long Term Care Ombudsman program has a process and structure in place that is effective and could be used as a model.
- The Committee hopes to initiate change within OMAP through a meeting with DHS leadership, primarily Bruce Goldberg (DHS Director) and Alan Douma (OMAP Director). However, regardless of the outcome of the meeting, the “Ombudsman for Health Care” concept should be pursued through Legislative means.
- A sub-committee should meet to compose a letter to be sent to Drs. Goldberg and Douma, in preparation for our meeting. The letter will describe the role of the Advocacy Committee within the Senior and Disability Services Advisory Councils, outline the issues and articulate the desired outcome of the meeting.

The Committee concluded their discussion with the following action plan:

- (1) Dan Arkin is the point person to contact Bruce Goldberg and Alan Douma to request a meeting. He will request a meeting for mid to late October.
- (2) A sub-committee consisting of Jane Boren, Tim Baxter, Jim Patterson, Mary Johnson, Kathy Jeness, Dianne Burch and Dan Arkin will meet to draft a letter to Drs. Goldberg and Douma as described above.
- (3) Mary Johnson will do internet research on OMAP’s mission and focus.

b. Report on Meeting with Rep. Roblan

Dianne Burch reported that she and Bill Fleenor met with Rep. Roblan earlier this month. During the meeting, Rep. Roblan inquired regarding the paper, “An Analysis of Tax Exemptions in Oregon” and LCOG’s response. Dianne explained that LCOG chose not to endorse the paper. Rep. Roblan expressed support for the issue and was interested in seeing the paper. Dianne delivered

it to him, with the explanation that the position described in the paper was not LCOG's position.

Similarly, Ed Necker stated he shared the paper with Senator Walker, with a cover letter that clearly stated the position was not endorsed by LCOG.

In summary, there continues to be interest expressed by several Legislators about the issue of evaluating tax exemptions.

c. Fact Sheet on "Equity"

Kay reported the Fact Sheet will be distributed at the next meeting.

d. Working with Legislators

Kay distributed several handouts on current advocacy issues related to seniors and people with disabilities.

Kay also asked for direction from the Committee regarding whether or not to hold a "Candidates Forum" this year. The Committee determined it was a little late in the season to be organizing such a venture. They recommended a "Congratulatory Session" for Legislators be scheduled after the November election.

5. Announcements

Kay announced that she has invited Nicole Palmeteer, O4AD Director, to come to a future meeting to talk about effective advocacy. The date has yet to be determined.

- 6. Reminder of Next Meeting – September 15, 2006 at
Senior & Disabled Services
2nd Floor Large Conference Room
1015 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401**