

# MINUTES

## Senior & Disabled Services Advocacy Committee

September 15, 2006

Members Present: Kathy Jenness, Chair, Jim Patterson, Dennis Shine, Dianne Burch, Mary Johnson, Dan Arkin, Ed Necker, Andrea Gillespie

Members Excused: Jane Boren, Marion Esty, Tim Baxter

Staff Present: Kay Metzger

Guest: Nicole Palmeteer, Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities

### 1. **Call to Order**

Kathy Jenness, Advocacy Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:24 p.m.

### 2. **Consideration of Meeting Agenda**

Ed Necker requested an item be added under "Other Business" regarding the Legislative Priority addressing the Ombudsman for Health Care. It will be added as 4.c.(1).

Mary Johnson stated she has a follow up report on the research she has done about OMAP. It will be added as 4.c.(2).

### 3. **Consideration of the minutes of the August 18th meeting**

*Motion:* Mary Johnson moved the minutes be approved as mailed. Ed Necker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### 4. **Committee Business**

#### a. **Presentation: Effective Advocacy**

#### **Nicole Palmeteer, O4AD**

Nicole Palmeteer led the group in a lively discussion about ways to effectively advocate for our issues. She outlined the current objectives of O4AD and ways that Advocacy members can participate. She described the current issues and strategies that have a positive impact. On certain issues, Nicole has been able to

collaborate with other groups at the Capitol. A summary of the discussion includes:

- The best way to contact Nicole at the Capitol is the message center: 503-378-9800.
- O4AD hosts a breakfast for Legislators at the beginning of the Session. Nicole would like to see us host breakfasts throughout the Session rather than just once.
- Addressing the economic benefits of keeping people independent and part of the community is a critical tool in advocacy.
- The new rules for OPI are still in the process of being written, but they are moving forward.
- Our issues are conceptually supported by all, but not the priority of many. We need to work on communicating the impact that services to seniors and people with disabilities has on the local and state economy.
- Advisory Councils are important, as they are the voice of constituents. Some are not as engaged as others. It would be helpful for active Councils, such as ours, to reach out to those not as active, such as those in Eastern Oregon. Dianne Burch and Jim Patterson both stated they had contacts in Eastern Oregon and were willing to help in this regard.
- Nicole plans to create her own system for contacting advocates. The Committee was interested in having a statewide list of AAA Advisory Council members. Kay will follow up to see if that is possible.

In summary, the meeting was very productive and the group stated they look forward to working closely with Nicole.

#### **b. Fact Sheet on Equity**

Kay briefly directed the Committee's attention to the Fact Sheet on Equity. If Committee members need additional information they should contact Kay.

#### **c. Other Business**

##### **(1) Ombudsman for Health Care**

Ed Necker reported that he had a conversation with Sen. Bill Morrisette and he is very interested in supporting this priority. Sen. Morrisette had also contacted Kay Metzger. Once the Legislative Priorities are officially approved by LCOG, we will begin the collaboration with Sen. Morrisette.

**(2) Report on OMAP**

At the August meeting, Mary Johnson agreed to do research on OMAP, including an internet search about OMAP's mission and values. Mary contacted an OMAP staff person by e-mail, and presented copies of that conversation at the meeting. Additionally, she shared handouts that included statements of the mission, vision, goals and values of OMAP. This is important information to incorporate in our discussions with high-level DHS staff and Legislators.

**5. Announcements**

The Advocacy Committee sub-group charged with planning for the meeting with Bruce Goldberg will be meeting prior to the next Advocacy Meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:00. Lunch will be provided.

**6. Reminder of Next Meeting – October 20, 2006 at  
Senior & Disabled Services  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Large Conference Room  
1015 Willamette Street  
Eugene, OR 97401**