

MINUTES

Senior & Disabled Services Advocacy Committee

October 20, 2006

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

Members Excused: Jane Boren, Marion Esty

Staff Present: Kay Metzger

1. **Call to Order**

In the Chair's absence, Dianne Burch, Advocacy Committee Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.

2. **Consideration of Meeting Agenda**

Dennis Shine requested that an item be added regarding the impact of the Ballot Measures, particularly 41 and 48. This will be added under 4c, Other Business.

3. **Consideration of the minutes of the September 15th meeting**

Dennis Shine reminded the group that, during the presentation on effective advocacy by Nicole Palmeteer, he had asked who our friends in the Legislature were. In response, Nicole mentioned Senator Bill Morrisette and Senator Vickie Walker as two legislators that were supportive of senior and people with disabilities issues. Dennis recommended this comment be added to the minutes.

Action: The minutes of the September 15th meeting were accepted with the recommended changes.

4. **Committee Business**

a. Election of Chair

Mary Johnson nominated Kathy Jenness as Chair for the Program Year 2006-07. Dianne Burch stated the current slate -Kathy Jenness as Chair and Dianne Burch as Vice-Chair – worked well.

Motion: Dianne Burch moved to close the nominations. Jim

Patterson seconded the motion and asked for the question. Kathy Jenness called for a vote on the slate of Kathy Jenness as Chair and Dianne Burch as Vice-Chair. Kay asked for a show of hands. Vote was unanimous in favor of the proposed slate of officers.

b. Report on Legislative Priorities

(1) LCOG Board Approval

Kay reported on that the LCOG Board approved the S&DS 2006-07 Legislative Priorities at their September Board meeting. The Board offered to endorse a letter on the “Equity” issue if needed. Ed Necker asked who the letter would be addressed to. Kay stated it could be addressed to the Governor, or once the 2007 Session begins to elected officials.

(2) Other Activities

A. As the Procurement and Monitoring Committee Chair, Mary Johnson reported that the current Coordinator of the Money Management Program is retiring. Within the next few weeks, the program will be transitioned from Emerald Empire Council on Aging to Senior & Disabled Services.

B. The sub-group of the Advocacy Committee, consisting of Tim Baxter, Dan Arkin, Dianne Burch, Mary Johnson and Jim Patterson, met earlier in the day to strategize on how to move forward on the “Health Care Ombudsman” priority. Follow-up activities were assigned to various members including, contacting the Long Term Care Ombudsman Office Director (Jim Patterson), contacting the LIPA Administrator (Tim Baxter), querying O4AD about potential support (Kay Metzger), draft of brief talking points (Tim Baxter), and drafting a letter to Bruce Goldberg requesting a meeting (Dan Arkin).

C. Senator Morrisette has submitted a pre-session filing of the Ombudsman for Health Care bill. Advocacy members stated it will be important to estimate the fiscal impact of the bill, since this is what killed the issue last session. Jim Patterson agreed to include this topic in his discussion with Meredith Cote, the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program Director.

D. Kay distributed the O4AD Legislative Priorities, which mirror most of the S&DS priorities. Kay will follow up with the Legislative sub-Committee of O4AD to clarify the issues identified as “Special Needs Transportation”.

E. Kay shared that SPD has informed the AAA’s of a miscalculation in the Family Caregiver Program allocation for 2005-07. SPD plans to ask the E-Board on November 30th for enough funds to backfill the problem, which is \$1.6 million. Without this backfill, it is likely the program will have to close for the last six months of the 2006-07 Program Year (January 2007-June 2007). SPD requested a second meeting with the AAA Directors on the issue, scheduled for Friday, October 27, 2006. Kay will update the Committee on the outcome after the meeting. Dianne Burch asked if spectators can attend E-Board meetings. Kay will follow up on this question.

c. Other Business

Dennis Shine is a member of the Budget Committee for Lane Community College. He stated that education on the impact of Ballot Measure 41 and Ballot Measure 48 is critical. Both measures would severely impact education and human services. He urged Committee members to seriously consider the arguments against the ballot measures and to also educate others on the topic. This represents a very serious threat to our community services. Mary Johnson reported that the Senior Services Advisory Council received information about the Oregon Project Independence program, and the need for a waiting list due to limited funding. Dianne Burch urged Committee members to make Legislators aware of the problem.

5. Announcements

Dan Arkin stated a recent article in the Register Guard on accessible design illustrates the progress that has been accomplished on this issue. Ed Necker recalled the difficulty in passing the Visitability Bill initially, but once the Home Builders Association became committed to the concept there was success.

Andrea Gillispie announced that the Cascade Health Services Adult Day Center needs to build a wheelchair ramp for easier access. She

asked the group for ideas on organizations that may be willing to help. The Kiwanis and the Rotary Club were suggested as possibilities. Dennis Shine also recommended they contact the Human Rights Commission.

- 6. Reminder of Next Meeting – November 17, 2006 at Senior & Disabled Services
2nd Floor Large Conference Room
1015 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401**

**Note: Two meetings will occur immediately prior to the next Advocacy Committee meeting. They are:
November 17, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. - The Health Care Ombudsman Sub-Committee will meet, and
November 17, 2006 at 12:30 p.m. – The Disability Services Advisory Council will meet.
All meetings will take place at Senior & Disabled Services.**