

# MINUTES

## Senior & Disabled Services Advocacy Committee

November 17, 2006

Members Present: Kathy Jenness, Chair, Jim Patterson, Dennis Shine, Dianne Burch, Dan Arkin, Ed Necker, Jane Boren, Marion Esty, Tim Baxter, Sharon Durham, Trescott Ducker

Members Excused: Andrea Gillespie, Mary Johnson

Staff Present: Kay Metzger

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Kathy Jenness called the meeting to order at 2:22 p.m.

**2. Consideration of Meeting Agenda**

By consensus, the meeting agenda was approved.

**3. Consideration of the minutes of the October 20h meeting**

*Motion:* Ed Necker moved the minutes of the October 20, 2006 meeting of the Advocacy Committee be approved. Dennis Shine seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

**4. Committee Business**

**a. Distribution of Revised Committee Roster**

Kay Metzger distributed the membership roster of the 2006-07 Advocacy Committee.

**b. Continuing Work on 2006-07 Committee Priorities**

(1) Tim Baxter reported on the sub-group meeting working on the Healthcare Ombudsman issue. Jim Patterson, Dan Arkin, Tim Baxter and Kay Metzger met immediately prior to the Advocacy Committee meeting. The group agreed on several action items, including:

(A) Tim Baxter will draft a letter to other AAA Council Chairs regarding the experience of Medicaid recipients in other parts of the state, and to determine their interest in partnering with us.

(B) Tim B. will contact other Legal Aide agencies regarding potential partnership with us.

(C) Jim Patterson reported on his conversation with Meredith Cote, Director of the Statewide Ombudsman Program. She is interested in learning more about the proposal, however her program cannot absorb additional work without commensurate funding. The group agreed that funding for one staff person would be the base (estimated at \$100,000 per year). Kay will contact Meredith to discuss their interest in partnering.

(D) The group should set a meeting with Senator Morrisette and Don Bishoff to determine how we can proceed most effectively. Kay will co-ordinate a meeting.

(E) The group listed other potential allies, such as the Independent Living Council and the Oregon Health Action Committee. Some preliminary contact has been made already. However, the group agreed to wait until after we have laid a firmer foundation before moving forward on these contacts.

After Tim completed his report the Advocacy Committee discussed other potential partners. Kay indicated that the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) is pursuing partnership with several other agencies, such as AARP and the Oregon Health Care Association. Kay will follow up with O4AD's staff contact, Nicole Palmateer, regarding the pros and cons of such action. Additionally, the state-level People with Disabilities Advisory Council (PDAC) may be a good partner. Kathy Jenness agreed to present the idea to them, as she is a member. Jane Boren agreed to create some talking points for Kathy to use.

Committee members also suggested that information from other counties would be helpful. Kay indicated she will request S&DS' Program Manager, Nancy Sargent-Johnson, follow up with other Program Managers for more information.

(2) Kay reported on the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) legislative agenda, which includes the principles of expanded funding for Older Americans Act-type programs, increased funding for OPI, and funding "Equity" for transfer AAA's. The O4AD plans to have a press conference to announce these Legislative Priorities on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Kay

asked for volunteers interested in attending. Several Committee members expressed an interest. Kay will coordinate the trip to Salem for those interested.

**c. Other Business**

Kathy Jenness asked the Committee if they would be willing to change the date of our meeting to coincide with the DSAC meeting. This means the Advocacy Committee will meet on the second Friday of the month, rather than the third. All members agreed to the change.

**5. Announcements**

Dennis Shine reported that no one is representing the disabled community on the Lane County Human Rights Commission. Dennis referred the issue to Kay for follow up.

Dianne Burch reported she attended the holiday bazaar of the Cascade Adult Day Care Center. Andrea Gillispie gave her a tour of the facility, and Dianne recommended that others should see the wonderful services they have to offer.

**6. Reminder of Next Meeting – December 8, 2006 at  
Senior & Disabled Services  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Large Conference Room  
1015 Willamette Street  
Eugene, OR 97401**