

MINUTES

Senior & Disabled Services
Disability Services Advisory Council
LCOG's Administrative Office, 4th Floor Large Conf. Room
99 E. Broadway, Eugene

November 4, 2005

Members Present: L.M. Reese, Chair; Dan Arkin, Jeanne Barter, Tim Baxter, Kelly Hodgkinson, Ed Necker, Kevin O'Reilly, Joann Scheck, and Laura Weil.

Members Excused: Luther Beecroft, Jane Boren, Kathy Jenness, Darlene Puls, and Michael Thomas.

C.R. Members Present: James Dean and Maureen Wadst.

Staff Present: Patti Little, Kay Metzger and Ted Stevens.

1. CALL TO ORDER

L.M. Reese, DSAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. At his request, persons in attendance introduced themselves.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Two members requested permission to give reports under Agenda Item #7, Other Reports and Announcements.

Action: Without objection, the Chair ruled that the agenda for the meeting be approved, as presented, with the understanding that reports will be presented under Agenda Item #7.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2005 DSAC MEETING

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the Minutes of the September 2005 DSAC meeting, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

4. LCOG REPORTS

a. Senior Services Advisory Council

Ted Stevens reported on the October Senior Services Advisory Council meeting. He shared that the Council considered and acted on two action items, a proposal to establish a Family Caregiver Program Respite Services Waiting List Policy and a proposed amendment to the current year budget for Oregon Project Independence. In response to questions posed by Ed Necker, Ted explained the Respite Services Waiting List Policy in some detail. Regarding the OPI budget changes, Ted stated the following: (1) the details of the changes will be reviewed later in the meeting under the Planning and Budget Committee report, and (2) that staff decided to move this item directly from the SSAC to the LCOG Board in order to avoid the disruption of services to clients. Concerning the information items considered by the SSAC, Ted shared that they also appear on today's DSAC's meeting agenda and, as a result, will be addressed later in the meeting.

b. LCOG Board of Directors

Ted Stevens informed the Council that it received a report on the Board's September meeting at its meeting the same month. He stated that the next Board meeting will be held on December 8th. He also reported on the Board's October Executive Committee meeting. He shared that the Executive Committee approved the SSAC-recommended revisions to the current year budget for Oregon Project Independence.

5. ACTION ITEMS – None.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

DSAC Chair, L.M. Reese, reported that he attended Shelter Care's 35th anniversary celebration.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Planning and Budget Committee

Ted Stevens reported on the October 11th meeting of the Planning and Budget Committee. First, he addressed the issues involved with the revision of the current year budget for Oregon Project Independence. A memo regarding this matter was included in members' meeting packet. Ted reviewed the contents of this memo in some depth, highlighting the changes to the budget. Second, he reported on the process and timetable to be used by the Planning and Budget Committee in the development of the draft 2006-07 Update to S&DS' 2003-07 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services. The date, time and location of the public hearing on the draft Plan Update – February 21, 2006, 1:30-2:30 PM, Hilyard Community Center – was announced, as well.

(2) Advocacy Committee

Ted Stevens announced the Committee's revised schedule for "conversation" meetings with members of Lane County's legislative delegation. DSAC members who do not routinely attend Advocacy Committee meetings were urged to attend these meetings.

(3) Nominating Committee

Ted Stevens asked if the Nominating Committee wished to hold a meeting in the near future to consider its process and timetable for recruiting new DSAC members and whether it wished to recommend the vacation of selected seats on the Council due to the members' non-participation. The Nominating Committee members present expressed an interest in holding such a meeting. After consulting calendars, it was agreed that the Committee will hold a meeting on Tuesday, November 29, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, at the office of Full Access Brokerage, 1240 Charnelton, Eugene.

(4) Long Term Care Committee

Kay Metzger, S&DS' Program Manager, reported on a recent meeting of the Long Term Care Committee. She shared that the Committee reviewed recently received Customer Service Reports, toured S&DS' Eugene Office, and began its study of how people access and move through the agency's services system.

c. Staff Reports

(1) Medicare Part D Implementation

Ted Stevens reviewed in some detail the contents of a memo describing S&DS' roles regarding the implementation of the new prescription drug benefit authorized by the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. He also distributed a flyer announcing a Medicare Part D kick-off event (11-15-05, 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM, Wheeler Pavilion, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene) and a DHS memo setting forth the process that S&DS must follow in assisting “dual eligibles” select a Part D drug plan. Members had numerous questions and concerns about the design of this new benefit. The issue of co-pays for low income seniors and people with disabilities was discussed. Concern was expressed that individuals may decide to forego needed medications because of their inability to satisfy their co-pays. Ted mentioned that he has advocated twice with the United Way of Lane County, as part of its 100% Health Care Access initiative, that it consider creating a fund to help cover the costs of low income individuals co-pays. Dan Arkin stated that he is also urging the United Way to consider creating two programs that would benefit people with disabilities and seniors - an emergency attendant care program to provide back-up caregivers when regular caregivers quit unexpectedly or are unable to work for whatever reason, and a recycling program for used durable medical equipment. Dan reported that a meeting of a committee looking into disease prevention and chronic care management is being held on 11-8-05. He urged DSAC members to attend to help him push his ideas.

(2) Network of Care Project

Using a laptop computer and an in-focus viewer, Patti Little provided a thorough demonstration of the new Network of Care resource web site for Oregon. Using the sub-site for Lane County during this demonstration, she showed the many features of the site to DSAC members. In addition, she answered members' questions.

(3) DSAC Roster for 2005-06

Patti Little asked members to confirm the accuracy of the information contained in the Council membership roster that was distributed with the meeting materials. Laura Weil provided updated information. Patti stated that a revised roster will be distributed with the notice for the next DSAC meeting.

7. OTHER INFORMATION

a. Information from James Dean

James Dean reported that Eugene's Human Rights Commission partnered with other organizations and agencies on a very successful mental health outreach forum. In addition, he reported that December 10, 2005 is designated as International Human Rights Day and stated that an event will be held at the University of Oregon that day. Its program will include educational programs and an awards ceremony.

b. LIPA Update

Tim Baxter provided a status report on LIPA's delivery of services to people with disabilities and seniors. He stated that LIPA has worked hard during the past year to improve its policies, procedures, and practices. In the response, the group of local advocates that has been working to bring about changes in LIPA's performance issued a public letter of praise, which was published recently in the Register Guard. He reported that LIPA's performance is not perfect, but is vastly improved. He also stated that the local group continues to monitor LIPA's performance, to ensure that there is no back-sliding on its part.

c. Dan Arkin's Requests

Dan Arkin stated that two groups with which he is affiliated are looking for more people to get involved in their respective projects. The first is the group that is working to create a Nobel Peace Prize Monument in Eugene's Alton Baker Park. The second is the University of Oregon's Disability Studies Committee. Regarding the former involvement opportunity, Dan mentioned that the group is looking for volunteers to help promote the idea of the Peace Prize Monument, as well as raise money to make its construction possible. Concerning the second opportunity, Dan indicated that volunteers are needed to help plan and implement the 2006 Arts and Disabilities Festival. Members wishing more information on these opportunities can contact Dan.

8. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN

L.M. Reese reminded members that the next DSAC meeting will be held on Friday, January 13, 2006, 1:30 – 3:00 P.M., at LCOG's Administrative Office, 99 E. Broadway, Eugene. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 P.M.