

December 29, 2006

TO: Disability Services Advisory Council

FROM: Kay Metzger

SUBJECT: Services for People with Disabilities funded by the  
Oregon Project Independence Program

**Background:**

The Department of Human Services, Seniors and People with Disabilities is currently in the process of creating the Administrative Rules for the implementation of the changes to the Oregon Project Independence Program that were approved during the 2005 Legislative Session. While there is a workgroup addressing this process for statewide application, each Area Agency on Aging has some flexibility in determining which services, amongst those allowed through the Administrative Rules, are delivered locally. S&DS is beginning to gather information on potential services. As a first step, I would like the Disability Services Advisory Council to do some “brainstorming” on the topic at our January 2007 meeting.

One of the goals of the Oregon Project Independence Program is to prevent, or at least postpone, the need for Medicaid assistance with payment for a personal assistant. The target audience is people residing in their own home that need help with activities of daily living such as walking, dressing, bathing, and toileting. Currently the services provided using OPI funding in Lane County are: personal care, housekeeping, home delivered meals, bill payer services, and case management. In your opinion,

1. What are the needs of people with disabilities who are not currently receiving help from Medicaid to pay for their personal assistant?
2. Other than payment for medical care, what specific services would be helpful?
3. Is there any other important information that should be considered?

