

MINUTES

Senior & Disabled Services
Disability Services Advisory Council
S&DS, 1015 Willamette St, Eugene, OR 97401

November 9, 2007

Members Present: Ed Necker, Kay Metzger, Mary Johnson, Tim Baxter,
Dan Arkin, Trescott Ducker, Scott Whetham, Jessica
Harris, Graham Bailey

Members Excused: Laura Weil, Leslie Gilbert, LM Reese, Sharon Durham,
Kelly Hodgkinson

Guest Present: Pat Arkin

Staff Present: Kay Metzger, Lenora Crowson

A G E N D A

1. CALL TO ORDER; SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Ed Necker called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

2. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING AGENDA

Agenda approved as mailed.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MAY AND SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Motion: Ed Necker moved the minutes be approved. Trescott Ducker seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

4. LCOG REPORTS

a. Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)

Mary Johnson reported on the large number of phone calls received by Seniors and Disabled Services (S&DS) and the hard work being done by the support staff.

b. LCOG Board of Directors

Kay Metzger reported that the LCOG Board of Directors met in Oakridge on September 22, 2007. Kay Metzger gave the board a summary of the legislative's last session as pertaining to what was passed and what wasn't as relating to S&DS budgets. It was exciting to have two new members attend, one member from LTD and the other the Mayor of Cottage Grove. The Mayor was interested in how to advocate for S&DS. He'd like to have a little card to give out. Kay has cards ready to distribute for anyone interested in handing them out. She also reported that the LCOG board approved the purchase of the Park Place Building downtown. The first two floors will be leased out, and S & D S will not move at this time. Among the items discussed for next year's agenda was how to advocate for issues relating to the seniors and disabled of our community.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Standing Committee Assignments

DSAC 2007-08 Committees Appointment Proposal was discussed. (Attachments) Ed Necker noted that LM Reese's name needed to be added to the Long Term Care Committee. Scott Whitham declined the position on the Planning & Budget Committee preferring to be added to the Nominating Committee. Trescott Ducker made the motion to accept the DSAC 2007-08 Committees Appointment Proposal as corrected. Motion carried.

b. Other

Kay Metzger presented the S&DS Disability Services Advisory Council 2007-2008 Membership Roster. (Attachments) Kay Metzger asked for any additions or corrections to be made. Jessica Harris asked that her email address, jharris@sheltercare.org, be included. Jan Scott is interested in becoming a DSAC member. Kay Metzger mentioned that we need to be sensitive to the fact that Jan Scott is hearing impaired. She does read lips; however, an interpreter would be obtained if needed. The 2007-2008 DSAC Membership Roster was approved with the additions.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

b. Committee Reports

(1) Long Term Care Committee (LTC)

(2) Advocacy Committee

Mary Johnson reported that the availability of openings in long term care facilities for low income clients is shrinking. The message the committee wishes to emphasize to the Legislature is the need for programs that are less expensive for people before long term care is needed. Kay Metzger reported that Oregon Project Independence (OPI) is a state funded program not Medicaid. Its goal is to offer a little bit of help to people still living in their own homes. Right now it only serves people sixty and older. There have been rule changes that could allow the program to be expanded to cover people with disabilities, but currently in Oregon, people with disabilities not on Medicaid, are on their own. There are no other programs available. Ed Necker mentioned that OPI was funded entirely by property tax deferrals which are not a stable source of income. Kay Metzger reported that the funding level is currently flat. Expanding the program has been put on hold until proper funding is found. The four priorities for OPI are:

- (1) To work within DMAP to change the culture as well as through legislative means to get a law passed to establish an OPI ombudsman.
- (2) To seek sources of funding and services apart from Medicaid geared toward prevention, getting people off of Medicaid, so they can stay in their own homes, and getting help for all people with disabilities not just seniors.
- (3) To not abandon the basic principles of valuing the person and his/her needs, to help our clients stay in their own homes, and to make that the bottom line instead of money. Oregon stands out in the nation for client choices.
- (4) Our issue as an agency is to contract with DHS to provide Medicaid case management, eligibility, and protective services.

Scott Whitham mentioned an article from the Oregonian as having a negative slant on foster care services. It reported abuses to clients living in the foster care system. Kay Metzger reported that there will be a hearing at the capitol as a result of that article.

(3) Planning and Budget Committee

Kay Metzger reported that the Planning and Budget Committee met for the first time Wednesday, November 7, 2007. It was a basic orientation session. She gave a brief summary of what the Planning and Budget Committee does. They will meet five times between November 2007 and February 2008 to review our budget and to look at the funding streams; so that we have some flexibility in determining what services we can deliver. Medicaid allocations determine what services get delivered. There is no flexibility. We do get a little bit of flexibility from the Older Americans Act (OAA) funding. We will look at the funds, at the programs to be funded, the expenditures, the budget for next year, and how to distribute the money. Since there is a waiting list for respite care for caregivers, we agreed to fund the family care giver program as our first step. We can now serve everybody on the waiting list.

Staff Reports

(1) S&DS Highlights for Program Year 2006-07 (Attachment)

Kay Metzger gave a summary of services provided by LCOG last year 2006-07. (See Attachment) Pertaining to the abuse investigation, it was suggested that we not only list the types and percentages of the investigations (pg 4), but the number of reports substantiated. Kay has asked for a report of that number and will add that information to the S&DS Highlights Program Year 2006-07 report.

(2) Transportation Brokerage in Lane County (Attachment)

Kay Metzger reported that we are in the process of changing the way Medicaid medical transportation is being handled. LTD is in the process of becoming a brokerage and will manage all the calls coming in instead of S&DS. Ed Necker reported that we are already in the first phase with RideSource servicing Oakridge. Florence will be added in 2008. LTD is looking to expand services by combining medical rides with non-medical rides using available transportation services.

7. Other Reports and Announcements

8. REMINDER OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, January 11, 2008

12:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

S&DS

1015 Willamette St,

Eugene, OR 97401

9. ADJOURN

Motion: Dan Arkin moved to adjourn. Kay Metzger seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.