

MINUTES
Senior & Disabled Services
Disability Services Advisory Council
1015 Willamette St; Eugene, OR 97401

November 12, 2010

Members Present: L.M. Reese, Dawn Aubrey, Robert Fritson, Jessica Harris, Christine Riley, Tim Baxter, Diane Rodgers, Steven Pickett, Linda Hamilton

Members Excused: Bruce Abel, David Balthrop, Kathy Jenness, Scott Whetham

Staff: Angela Phinney, Kay Metzger, Lenora Crowson

1. Call to Order; self Introduction

L.M. Reese called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m., and he welcomed Christine Riley and Stephen Pickett as new members of DSAC. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Consideration of Meeting Agenda

The Meeting Agenda was accepted by consensus.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the September 2010 DSAC Meeting (Attachment)

Diane Rogers moved that we accept the September Minutes as presented, and it was seconded by Robert Fritson. The motion carried.

4. Action Items

a. Committee Assignments (Attachments)

Christine Riley updated the e-mail address that was listed for her in the DSAC Roster. The new e-mail address is criley@lilaoregon.org. Also, Jessica Harris would like her cell phone number used instead of the home phone number listed in the DSAC Membership Roster. Her cell number is **541-517-5762**. The DSAC Membership Roster will be updated to reflect these two changes.

Diane Rogers moved that we accept the Rosters with the updated information as well as the Committee Assignments. Stephen Pickett seconded the motion. The motion carried.

b. Other

5. Special Discussion

a. State Budget Issues: Implications for Services to People with Disabilities

Kay Metzger handed out informational sheets in regards to the State Budget Issues. The first one was a list of the Lane County State Senators and State Representatives for the 2011 Session to be used as contact information. The next sheet was a summary of the State of Oregon Cuts for Senior & Disabled Services during 2009-11. The Oregon Project Independence Program (OPI) is one of the programs whose cuts have been

postponed until the end of February 2011. The program is now closed to new intakes statewide. The only clients being served are ones that were admitted to the program prior to June 30, 2010. Unless the Legislature authorizes additional funds, the program is slated to close as of February 28, 2011. In Lane County the number of OPI clients has dropped by more than 50% since July 2009. The next major cut is a 75% reduction to In-Home Service Hours for Instrumental Activities of Daily Living. These are such tasks as housekeeping, meal preparation, medication management, etc. These cuts could lead to clients being forced to move out of their home and into more expensive care situations, such as residential care, assisted living or nursing facilities. S&DS has taken a serious reduction to their staffing allocations used to administer the Medicaid and Food Stamp programs (i.e. S&DS staff to do intakes, ongoing eligibility, care planning and casework). The allocation for staffing is more than 15% lower than what it would cost DHS to run the same program without consideration of the caseload growth in recent months. These are serious cuts and could ultimately not only cost the state more in the long run, but have a major impact on the clients. There is limited time to contact State Representatives and Senators since the Emergency Board will meet again December 15, 2010 and the Legislature will be meeting late January 2011. Letters have been sent to Representative Nancy Nathanson and Senator Joanne Verger who are on the E-Board (copies were handed out). DHS 2011-2013 Reduction Options printed off of the WEB was made available to anyone wanting a copy.

b. Questions and Answers

There was extensive discussion with Kay answering questions.

6. LCOG Reports

a. Senior Services Advisory Council

Tim Baxter reported that Kay Metzger gave a Power Point presentation of the Older American Act (OAA). The OAA was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson July 14, 1965 as part of the “Great Society” legislation. This act was considered one of the most important contributions of aging legislation enacted by Congress. It has been updated several times but is still administering the Senior Nutrition Program with congregate dining and home-delivered meals; Health promotion with disease prevention and prescription medication services; Family Caregiver Support Services and Elder abuse prevention services. Authority was provided for states to develop Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) in 2006. The SSAC, along with the DSAC and all Standing Committees serve important functions in the implementation and operation of our local Area Agency on Aging, and the fulfillment of requirements under the Older Americans Act.

b. LCOG Board of Directors

Kay Metzger reported that the LCOG Board of Directors approved a dues structure to raise finances for the support the 211 phone system. The 211 information and referral

system is based in Portland, but since it is telephonic, a person will be able to connect via telephone and receive information in their own local area including Lane County.

7. Information Items

a. Chair's Report

L. M. Reese reported that he will be attending and participating in the Area Agency on Aging Conference the 15th and 16th of November. He plans on attending the E-board meetings in Salem next month as well. He is moving back into Eugene, which will make it easier for him to be involved in the community.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Long Term Care Committee (LTC)

Dawn Aubrey reported that Marie Iverson, S&DS Supervisor of the two-part federal grant projects, reported on the first six months of the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) at the LTC's November 2, 2010 meeting. The Resource Specialists handled about 1000 calls with approximately 57% of the support requests were for the individual calling and the rest were people calling for others. Since the marketing campaign has not been launched, it is a possibility that most of these calls came from people contacting S&DS and being rerouted to the Center. Option Counseling, a one-on-one service with the Center, was provided to about 106 clients. Marie and the two Resource Specialists attended a conference in Portland where they had the opportunity to network with other ADRC representatives from the western states. Some centers are already one-stop-shop Centers. While in Portland, they took the grant required AIRS testing for their certification. The test results have not been released. There is a need for additional funding to have the Center open to the public in the S&DS offices using the Tenth Street location. The money would be used for needed upgrades and on-going staffing. At present, the Center operates as a call center with direct support offered in community member's homes through Option Counseling. The Center now has a basic website. Future goals for the site include regular updates to community services information, an interactive system making it easy to find the particular community resources needed by individuals using the site and a tracking system showing services and supports received by individuals when moving from one county to another so as to avoid repeating services and failing to offer others in the new county. The second half of the grant is the Person Centered Discharge Model, Real Choices. Real Choices is in full operation and involves coordinated efforts by the Hospital Social Worker, Nurse Care Coordinator and Hospital Medicaid Case Manager to effectively help people transition from hospital care into appropriate community care, with a focus on helping people return to their own homes whenever possible. The already low Oregon hospital reentry rate continues to drop. This will best meet public interest while being the most cost effective strategy as well. Stats showing effectiveness of the Real Choices program are still not tallied.

(2) Advocacy Committee

Tim Baxter reported that the Advocacy Committee is assessing which Legislative Action to take. They are continuing to work on pedestrian safety. Springfield has promised to have a HAWK light in place at the Hayden Bridge roundabout by the time the EMX is launched in that area January 1, 2011. Robert Fritson is working on getting the DMV Manual to include roundabouts. The committee is looking for new ways to promote pedestrian safety. Input from several places where people with disabilities live and work was solicited.

c. Staff Reports

Kay Metzger said that there would be a report on the ADRC from our agency's standpoint at our next meeting.

8. Other Reports and Announcements

Christine Riley and Steve Pickitt are looking forward to working with the DSAC. L. M. Reese thanked Kay Metzger for all the tremendous job she does on behalf of seniors and people with disabilities.

9. Reminder of Next Council Meeting

Featured Topic:

Presentation by Lane Independent Living Alliance

Friday, January 14, 2011

12:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

Senior & Disabled Services

1015 Willamette

Eugene, OR 97401

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

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Last Saved: Wednesday, January 05, 2011