

MINUTES

Senior & Disabled Services
Disability Services Advisory Council
LCOG 4th Floor Large Conference Room - 99 E. Broadway, Eugene

January 14, 2005

Members Present: Darlene Puls, Chair; Dan Arkin, Jeanne Barter, Luther Beecroft, Kelly Hodgkinson, Kathy Jenness, Ed Necker, Gene Obersinner, L.M. Reese, Joann Scheck, Laura Weil, Joe Xavier.

Members Excused: Terry Parker, Michael Thomas.

Guests Present: James Dean, Jeanne-Marie Moore

Staff Present: Ted Stevens.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Darlene Puls called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Persons present introduced themselves.

Ted Stevens explained that the meeting was being held in LCOG's main office in the Wells Fargo Bank Building because the elevator in the Schaefers Building was being repaired and, hence, out of service.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Dan Arkin asked for permission to make two announcements. Darlene Puls stated that he could do so under Item #7.b, Other Reports and Announcements.

Action: Without objection, Darlene Puls ruled that the agenda for the meeting be approved, as presented.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2004 DSAC MEETING

Action: Without objection, Darlene Puls ruled that the minutes of the November meeting be approved, as printed.

4. REPORTS

a. LCOG Board of Directors

Ted Stevens reported on the December LCOG Board meeting. He stated that the Board elected its officers for 2005 (Chair: Gary Williams, Mayor of Cottage Grove; Vice Chair: Patrick Lanning, EWEB Board Member), considered and accepted LCOG's annual audit for fiscal year 2003-04, and hosted a legislative dialogue with members of Lane County's legislative delegation.

b. Senior Services Advisory Council

Ted Stevens also reported on the December Senior Services Advisory Council meeting. At that meeting, the Council considered and approved recommended amendments to the current year Area Plan on Aging and Disabilities budget, received reports from its standing committees, received and discussed information on Medicare Part D, the recently enacted prescription drug benefit, and received reports from S&DS staff and SSAC members.

5. ACTION ITEM – Proposed Amendments to the Current Year Area Plan Budget

The amendment and the Planning and Budget Committee's recommendation regarding it were presented. Ted Stevens explained the rationale for the plan to use available OPI funds for in-home services for enrollees in hospice services, and briefly described the other features of the recommended amendments to the current year Area Plan Budget.

Motion: Motion was made by Jeanne Barter, and seconded by Kelly Hodgkinson, to approve the proposed amendments to the Current Year Area Plan Budget, as recommended by the Planning and Budget Committee (and described in Memo # 5; 1-2005), and recommend them to LCOG for adoption. Motion passed unanimously.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

Darlene Puls, DSAC Chair, reported that she continues to receive very good service from LIPA. (For context, see Item #6.a in the Minutes of the November 20004 meeting of the Disability Services Advisory Council).

b. Committee Report

(1) Long Term Care Committee

Laura Weil reported on behalf of the Long Term Care Committee. She shared that the Committee: (a) reviewed Customer Service Reports for the month of November; (b) finalized its letter to DHS Director Gary Weeks regarding the Committee's recommendation that DHS issue standard insurance identity cards to OHP enrollees rather than the so-called "Oregon Medical Card," which is a simple 8 ½ X 11 inch piece of paper that is issued/re-issued to all recipients on a monthly basis; and (3) discussed the idea of re-surveying former clients who lost long term care services in 2003 to determine the continuing impact of this loss on their lives.

(2) Planning & Budget Committee

Gene Obersinner reported on the recent meetings of the Planning & Budget Committee. Gene shared that the Committee had completed its initial work on the development of the budget and objectives for next year's Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services. He reported that the development of the budget was difficult, due to Oregon's continuing revenue-generating crisis. Given uncertainty regarding the 2005-07 appropriation for Oregon Project Independence, Gene reported that the Committee adopted two proposed budgets for 2005-06, a smaller version based on the Governor's Recommended Budget for 2005-07, and a somewhat larger version based on the assumption that the Legislature will not cut the appropriation for OPI as deeply as proposed by the Governor. He stated that these two versions of the budget, as well as the proposed objectives for 2005-06, will be presented to the public for review and comment at a hearing on February 23, 2005. This hearing, which will be held at Willamalane Adult Activity Center, Springfield, will convene at 1:00 P.M. Following the public hearing, the Planning & Budget Committee will meet again to consider all comments received, modify the proposed Plan, if warranted, and recommend its adoption by the Advisory Councils and LCOG. The recommended Plan will be submitted to the Disability Services Advisory Council for consideration at its March meeting.

(3) Advocacy Committee

It was reported that the Advocacy Committee did not meet in December. Instead, under this agenda item, the March 12, 2005 and May 21, 2005 Legislative Dialogs were announced. Some unhappiness was expressed regarding the location selected for this year's Dialogs – the Cascade Health Solution's Adult Day Health Center, 1621 Centennial Blvd., Springfield. Members expressed concern that the location was far removed from the center of Eugene and, as a result, received limited bus service on Saturday mornings. They asked that staff provide a map to the Center, as well as bus route information. Ted Stevens agreed to include these items in S&DS' publicity for these events.

c. Report on the December 10, 2004 Legislative Reception

Dan Arkin commented that it was disappointing the S&DS attracted only one legislator, Rep. Paul Holvey, and one legislative staffer, Chris Matson, aide to Rep. Bob Ackerman. Notwithstanding the low turnout by legislators, he shared that the dialogue with those in attendance was very positive. Darlene Puls echoed Dan's comments. Laura Weil shared their observations, stating that the issues discussed with thoroughly covered. Ed Necker observed that the turnout provided S&DS Advisory Council members a good opportunity to educate Rep. Holvey about their concerns. Dan Arkin suggested that S&DS consider having more sessions like this one, that is, with fewer legislators present at each session.

d. Staff Reports

(1) Governor's 2005-07 Recommended Budget

Ted Stevens reviewed with Council members two documents distributed in advance of the meeting: an analysis of how S&DS' 2005 Legislative Priorities fared in the Governor's Recommended Budget, and summary information on the Governor's Budget provisions for the Department of Human Services. In his explanations of these items, he observed that programs and services for seniors and people with disabilities fared poorly, with some programs being eliminated and others being severely reduced.

(2) Legislative Information

A one-page document listing the committee assignments of Lane County legislators in the 2005 Legislature was reviewed.

(3) “Long Term Care Oregon’s Way”

Copies of O4AD’s recently published advocacy booklet, “Long Term Care Oregon’s Way,” were provided to members of the Disability Services Advisory Council. Ted Stevens urged members to read it for background information before engaging in advocacy this legislative session.

(4) Walkability/Pedestrian Safety

Ted Stevens reported that long-term Eugene City staffer, Diane Bishop, has retired and that Lee Shoemaker has been hired to work on bicycle and pedestrian safety issues. Ted shared that he met with Lee to acquaint him with S&DS’ continuing pedestrian safety concerns in the downtown core area around its offices, the LTD bus station, and the new public library. Ted reported that Lee told him he would discuss these concerns with other members of the City of Eugene staff and would get back to him in the near future.

(5) Medicare Part D

Ted Stevens mentioned that additional information on Part D was distributed to Council members in their packets.

7. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Update on LIPA Complaint Investigation

Dan Arkin gave background on this matter. Regarding the implementation of the settlement agreement between LIPA and OMAP, Dan reported that the DME Committee, of which he is a member, has met twice, and that the Exceptional Needs Care Coordination Committee is expected to begin meeting soon.

In response to a question about the settlement agreement, Dan opined that OMAP did the least that it could do – no sanctions or penalties – by requiring 18 months of supervision of LIPA’s performance. Notwithstanding this fact, he mentioned that Senator Bill Morrisette has committed to holding at least one Senate Human Services Committee hearing on the LIPA investigation and settlement. Regarding the role of the Seattle regional office of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the investigation, Dan stated his opinion that “...CMS failed to step up to the plate.”

Dan also reported on the public relations campaign being mounted by LIPA to improve its image in the community. He conveyed clearly to members his impression that this campaign is little more than “window dressing.”

Following Dan’s remarks, members asked questions of Dan. He responded that nothing has changed – LIPA’s contract with OMAP remains in place without modifications, no sanctions or penalties have been imposed on LIPA, no rules have changed, and LIPA has not been required to respond to any of the specific problems that were part of OHPIG’s complaint. Given the failure of DHS and CMS to honestly investigate OHPIG’s complaint, Dan opined that the only hope for the future lies in the enactment by the State Legislature of an ombudsman program for recipients of managed health care services in Oregon.

b. Announcements

Dan Arkin announced two upcoming events of possible interest to DSAC members, as follows: (1) Martin Luther King holiday event, “Collaborating Diversity through Shared Humanity,” on Monday, 1-17-05, 6:00 P.M., at the EMU, University of Oregon campus; and (2) a workshop entitled, “Making Sense of the Abuse Reporting System,” on Tuesday, February 1, 10-11:30 A.M., Lane County Mental Health Building, Eugene. Flyers for both events were distributed.

8. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN

Darlene Puls announced that the next meeting will be held at 1:30 P.M., on Friday, March 11, 2005. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

(Recorded by Ted Stevens)

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