

MINUTES

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

January 18, 2008

Members Present: Jessica Harris, L. M. Reese, Kelly Hodgkinson, Dan Arkin, Leslie Gilbert, Trescott Ducker, Ed Necker, Mary Johnson, Scott Whetham, Laura Weil, Tim Baxter, Graham Bailey

Members Excused: Sharon Durham, Terry Parker, Jan Scott, Mary Otten

Staff Present: Kay Metzger, Patti Little, Lenora Crowson

A G E N D A

1. CALL TO ORDER; SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Ed Necker called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

2. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING AGENDA

Addition to agenda: Tim Baxter's report on the maximum payment rate for in-home care was added to the agenda as #8 under Other Reports, and the O4AD quarterly report by L. M. Reese as 5c of LCOG Reports.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE NOVEMBER MINUTES

Motion: Laura Weil moved the minutes be approved. L. M. Reese seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Housing Options for People with Disabilities

St. Vincent de Paul was unable to attend the meeting. Kay Metzger made the announcement about the affordable housing project that St. Vincent de Paul has planned for the Veneta area called Heather Glen on their behalf. An informational handout was given out. Discussion followed about the adaptability of the units for wheelchair access. It was announced that Robert Phillips purchased an apartment complex in the Cottage Grove area. He is becoming licensed as a supportive living provider. He would like to serve

seniors, people with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, and mental health issues.

5. LCOG REPORTS

a. Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)

Mary Johnson reported that the Advisory Council had extensive discussion on the advocacy issues relating to the payments for medical equipment, the accomplishments of S&DS programs as presented in the 2006-2007 Highlights Report, the RideSource Call Center, the transition to digital TV in February 2009, and the Heather Glen housing project in Veneta.

b. LCOG Board of Directors

Kay Metzger reported the Board of Directors met in December. The Highlights of Program Year 2006-07 and the blue informational card that summarizes our priorities for the February 2008 Legislative Session were the two items discussed.

c. O4AD Conference Report (See handout)

L. M. Reese gave a report on the O4AD Conference held in Salem. Mary Gear the Administrator of Licensing and Quality Care spoke on the Medicaid crisis we are having with facilities not wanting to take Medicaid clients. There has been a 20% reduction in foster homes in the last ten years due to providers retiring, the rising costs of construction, and finding suitable facilities. More and more assisted living facilities in Oregon are deciding not to take any more Medicaid clients and are pulling out altogether. Some of the solutions Mary talked about were looking into the possibility of putting a Medicaid bed quota into the licensing agreement, having a campus like setting with houses built in clusters to be licensed as assisted living facilities, and facilities compensated according to the percentage of Medicaid clients they accept. Joe and Pam VanderVeer talked about a program called **Facilitating Political Self Advocacy**. James Toews spoke about three budget concerns needing work: Long Term Care, fixing Medicaid, and quality of care.

6. ACTION ITEMS

a. Oregon Healthcare Survey (Attached)

Kay Metzger presented the Oregon Healthcare Survey. The Oregon Health Fund Board is charged with designing an equitable and fair health care system for all Oregonians and will be proposing a number of items to the 2009 Oregon Legislature. This survey was developed to help the board determine which healthcare priorities to present to the Legislators. They are concerned that all

citizens have their voices heard. Our intentions are to gather input from DSAC to pass on to the Oregon Health Action Campaign (OHAC). Extensive discussion followed. Completed surveys were collected by Kay and will be sent on to OHAC with a cover letter voicing our concerns.

b. Oregon Health Plan Survey (Attached)

The Oregon Health Plan Survey was presented by Kay Metzger. The Oregon Health Plan (OHP) needs personal experience input to find out how well the OHP client rights and consumer protection processes are working. Kay encouraged anyone with personal experience to complete this survey. Completed surveys were given to Kay to forward on to Ellen Pinney, Oregon Health Campaign in Salem. Tim Baxter gave some reasons for the survey. He said the Oregon Health Campaign is looking for specific instances of problems with the current system such as consumer inclusion and lack of consumer advocacy in the state. The Oregon Health Campaign goals are still unclear, but it is leaning toward the support of an OHP Ombudsman. They would like to capture information to be used for proposals to implement improvements into the system. All input received will be invaluable. Distribution is statewide to consumers and can be sent directly to Ellen Pinney. Discussion followed.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

Ed Necker reported that he, Mary Johnson, and Kay Metzger went to a town hall meeting Wednesday night, January 16. Vicki Walker, Nancy Nathanson, and Chris Edwards went over some of the parameters of the February Legislative Supplemental Session.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Long Term Care Committee (LTCC)

Laura Weil reported that David Quale was elected the new chairperson of the Long Term Care Committee at their last meeting. They are planning to write a White Paper on the long-term services that Senior and Disabled Services provide. The White Paper that Developmental Disabilities came up with on issues impacting their system was sent to the members of LTCC. They, also, talked about the staffing changes S&DS made by creating five new positions between Eligibility and Case Management. This is requiring extensive training. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) did an extensive review on the state of Oregon, and as a result, S&DS was reviewed. We are still waiting for the results of that review.

(2.) Advocacy Committee

Mary Johnson reported that Kathy Jenness had a happy ending to her last accident. She was able to get the needed repairs to her wheelchair because of the exceptional advocacy by friends and representatives. The Legislative Dialogue that Senator Bill Morriesette recommended is scheduled for January 26, 2008 at 2-4 p.m. at the Hilyard Center. Ed Necker was chosen to be the moderator. Mary read her list of talking points, and flyers announcing the Legislative Dialogue were handed out.

c. Staff Reports

None

8. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tim Baxter gave a brief report on the maximum payment rate for in-home services. People who get in-home care services as part of the Medicaid waiver are subject to a limit on the amount the state will pay. If you're over that limit, you are subject to a very strict almost impossibly high standard to show that you are entitled to the two exception factors in the table. Tim's office was successful in getting the cap/limit raised for in-home care which could affect in-home plans that are high cost.

9. REMINDER OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, March 14, 2008

12:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

Senior & Disabled Services

1015 Willamette St

Eugene, Or 97401

10. ADJOURN

Ed Necker called the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.