

# MINUTES

Senior & Disabled Services  
**Disability Services Advisory Council**  
S&DS' Ed Luczycki Conference Room – 1015 Willamette St., Eugene

March 11, 2005

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

Members Excused: Ed Necker, Terry Parker, Laura Weil.

Guests Present: Celia Barry, Dorcas Beecroft, Mathew Hasek, Mary Otten, Loralyn Osborne.

Staff Present: Patti Little, Kay Metzger, 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 announced that Mary Otten is replacing Jeanne-Marie Moore as the liaison from the Eugene Human Rights Commission. Mary Otten was welcomed to the meeting.

## **2. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING AGENDA**

Dan Arkin asked for permission to add several items to the agenda. Darlene Puls stated that he could add them under Item #7, 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 JANUARY 2005 DSAC MEETING**

**Motion:** Moved by L.M. Reese, and seconded by Gene Obersinner, to approve the Minutes of the January DSAC meeting, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. GUEST PRESENTATION – PROCESS TO UPDATE LANE COUNTY’S PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

Darlene Puls invited Celia Barry and Loralyn Osborne to address the Council. Celia Barry shared that Lane County is engaged in a process to update its parks and open space master plan. The goal of this effort is to identify stable sources of funds for the on-going maintenance of the current parks system. Ms. Barry reported that the master plan was last updated in 1981. The update under development, once adopted by the County Board of Commissioners, will be in place through 2020. Ms. Barry described the scope of the County’s parks system. In this description, she explained that there are 71 park sites comprising 4,600 acres. Of these, the largest is Mount Pisgah, covering approximately 2,300 acres. In all, seven parks charge day use fees, and a few parks offer camping opportunities. Many parks, however, are little more than boat ramps on local lakes and rivers.

Regarding the process for the development of the master plan update, Ms. Barry explained that public comments are being sought through April 8, 2005. To this end, she and other staff members are meeting with local groups. In addition to seeking input from members of LCOG’s DSAC, Ms. Barry noted that staff recently met with representatives of Lane Independent Living Alliance. Public comments are being collected in two forms: verbal input at group meetings and written input via a two-page questionnaire. Ms. Barry distributed copies of the questionnaire and other explanatory materials. Following the conclusion of the initial public comment period, a draft of the updated master plan will be available for a second round of public review and comment. This draft should be available in about three months. It will be posted on the County’s web site, and will be available in hardcopy form from the County Parks Department. Once this review is complete and the plan is in its final form, it will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

After Ms. Barry finished her opening remarks, members of the Council asked questions and made recommendations. Ms. Barry and Ms. Osborne took notes on these recommendations.

Darlene Puls thanked Ms. Barry and Ms. Osborne for seeking input from the DSAC for this planning effort.

## 5. REPORTS

### a. LCOG Board of Directors

Ted Stevens reported that LCOG accepted the amendments to the current year Area Plan on Aging Budget, as recommended by the two Advisory Councils.

### b. Senior Services Advisory Council

Joe Xavier, liaison from the Senior Services Advisory Council, reported on that Council's February meeting. He shared that the Senior Council voted to recommend to LCOG an one-year extension of the In-Home services contract with Addus Health Care, approved the advocacy position statement regarding Medicare's 3-day prior stay rule, and agreed to hold a special meeting in May to consider contract extension and Nominating Committee recommendations. He also announced that the Council learned from Ted Stevens that S&DS has been certified by the United Way of Lane County to receive funds generated through its annual fund raising campaign.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS

### a. Advocacy Position Statement regarding Medicare's 3-Day Prior Hospital Stay Rule

Working from the memo in members' meeting packets, Ted Stevens provided background information on this topic. He also presented the Advocacy Committee's recommendation.

***Motion:*** Motion was made by L.M. Reese and seconded by Kathy Jenness to accept the position statement, including the explanation and argument for its adoption, and to recommend it to LCOG for adoption (see reference memo #6.a; 3-2005, in the Council's March meeting packet). Motion passed unanimously.

### b. Consideration of the Area Plan Update for 2005-06

Ted Stevens presented information on the February 23, 2005 public hearing on the Area Plan Update proposed by the Planning and Budget Committee. He stated that three representatives of the Lane County Long Term Care Ombudsman Recruiting and Screening Committee attended the public hearing and gave testimony against one of the two versions of the Area Plan Budget for 2005-06. Specifically, they

objected to the recommendation that no funds be provided for Ombudsman Support Services in the Option #1 version of the budget and called for the restoration of funds for this program in that version of the budget. Ted urged DSAC members to review the notes of the public hearing (which were distributed to Council members in advance of the meeting) for additional information on the comments received on the draft Plan Update.

Next, Ted reported on the deliberations of the Planning and Budget Committee following the conclusion of the public hearing. He reported that the Committee, after an extensive debate, voted (6 yes; 1 no) to take \$1,254 of OAA Title III-B funds from reserves and budget them for Ombudsman Support Services in the Option #1 version of the Budget. Once this action was taken, Ted reported that the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Advisory Councils the adoption of the Area Plan Update for 2005-06, as revised.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Kathy Jenness and seconded by Gene Obersinner that the DSAC recommend the following to LCOG: (1) the adoption of the 2005-06 Area Plan Update, as amended, and (2) that S&DS staff be authorized to submit it to the Oregon Department of Human Services. Motion passed unanimously.

## **7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **a. Committee Reports**

#### **(1) Long Term Care Committee**

Kay Metzger reported on behalf of the Long Term Care Committee. She shared that the Committee is actively engaged in the process of re-surveying former long term care clients who lost services in 2003 due to State budget cuts. Of the people previously surveyed, twenty-six (26) are still without public services and are in the area. (Note: Some of those who were initially surveyed have died, and others have moved away.) These individuals will be surveyed, using an instrument developed by the Committee. Four Committee members are making the contacts and collecting the information. Results should be available within the next few weeks.

Kay also reported that the Committee is reviewing S&DS' education activities for clients and potential clients.

## **(2) Advocacy Committee**

It was reported that the Advocacy Committee spent most of its February meeting preparing for the March 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative Dialog. The Committee discussed and agreed to a format and ground rules for the event. Other items touched on included the 3-day prior stay rule and the LIPA investigation.

## **(3) Nominating Committee**

Ted Stevens shared that it was time for the Nominating Committee to start its work for the year. He provided a DSAC membership status report, noting that there is one vacancy on the Council, and that seven current members are completing their terms of service on June 30, 2005. Of these, Kathy Jenness, L.M. Reese, and Darlene Puls agreed to consider re-appointment. Gene Obersinner declined re-appointment, and Ted reported that Terry Parker was willing to convert from Full Member to Community Representative Member.

Ted urged the Nominating Committee to meet soon to develop a plan for recruiting and screening candidates to fill the open seats. He also reminded the Committee that it needs to develop a slate of Council officers for presentation at the May Council meeting.

### **b. Other Reports**

#### **(1) LTD Strike**

Kathy Jenness suggested that the DSAC send a letter to Terry Parker for presentation to the LTD Board of Directors. The letter should encourage LTD to mobilize all lift-equipped vehicles in the area to help meet the needs of mobility impaired individuals during the transit operators' strike against LTD. Speaking in support of this idea, Dan Arkin opined that there are many lift-equipped vehicles in the area that are under-utilized. He suggested that school vehicles, as well as vans owned by public and private agencies, could be added to those being operated by RideSource to create a large pool of accessible vehicles. He acknowledged that there will be issues to resolve before an expanded fleet would be available, but opined that they could be resolved. Jeanne Barter lent her support for this idea, suggesting that LTD be urged to subcontract with private operators of lift-equipped vehicles to expand the capacity of RideSource to assist people during the strike.

Ted Stevens indicated that it was not practical for LCOG to undertake this advocacy with LTD, since the next LCOG Board meeting will not be held until the end of April. He urged members, as private citizens, to convey their recommendations directly to Terry Parker and to LTD Board members.

## **(2) Legislative News**

Dan Arkin reported on a bill has been introduced at the request of a disability advocacy group in southern Oregon to require 30-days advance notice of actions by DHS and Area Agencies on Medicaid long-term care cases. This bill will require advance notice of scheduled re-assessments, as well as actions (reductions and terminations) that will negatively affect the client. He also shared that a legislative hearing will be held on SB 776, the managed care ombudsman bill, on Tuesday, March 15, at 3:00 PM in the State Capitol. Concerning this bill, he indicated that its initial draft did not contain the provisions desired in local advocates and, as a result, they have worked to develop amendments to strengthen its provisions.

## **(3) LIPA Investigation Update**

Dan Arkin also reported that the leaders of the Oregon Health Plan Improvement Group had a two hour meeting with the newly appointed head of DHS' Office of Medical Programs. He stated that a frank exchange occurred.

## **(4) Other Information**

Dan Arkin reported that the University of Oregon Disability Studies Advisory Council, of which he is a member, is sponsoring a disability arts and film festival in mid-April. He also commented on his frustration with the planning/decision making process being employed by the United Way's 100% Health Care Access Initiative. He indicated that he would like time on a future DSAC agenda to discuss access to health care issues.

## **8. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN**

Darlene Puls announced that the next meeting will be held at 1:30 P.M., on Friday, May 13, 2005. The meeting adjourned at 3:02 P.M.

*(Recorded by Ted Stevens)*  
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