

MINUTES

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

May 13, 2005

Members Present: Darlene Puls, Chair; Dan Arkin (by proxy), Kelly Hodgkinson, Ed Necker, L.M. Reese, Joe Xavier.

Members Excused: Luther Beecroft, Terry Parker.

Guests Present: Mathew Hasek, Mary Otten, Maureen Wadst.

Staff Present: Patti Little, Ted Stevens.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Due to the late arrival of Darlene Puls, DSAC Chair, Ted Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M. Persons present introduced themselves. Darlene Puls arrived to participate in the introductions.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

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

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2005 DSAC MEETING

Due to the lack of a quorum, no action was taken on the Minutes of the March 2005 meeting of the Council.

4. REPORTS

a. LCOG Board of Directors

Ted Stevens reported that the LCOG Board of Directors accepted the recommended advocacy position calling for the modification of Medicare's three-

day prior hospital stay rule. As a result, letters on this matter have been sent to the Administrator of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and to members of Oregon's congressional delegation.

b. Senior Services Advisory Council

Joe Xavier, liaison from the Senior Services Advisory Council, reported on two recent Council meetings. Concerning the April SSAC meeting, he reported that the Council approved 2005-06 rates for the meals to be provided by Bateman to the Senior Meals Programs in Lane County and approved the 2005-06 Area Plan Update, as amended by the Planning and Budget Committee following the February 23rd public hearing on the document. Regarding the May 10th Council meeting, Joe shared that the Council's Nominating Committee placed in nomination the following slate of officers for program year 2005-06: Anna May Herbert, Chair; Jane Boren, First Vice Chair; and Marion Esty, Second Vice Chair. He also reported that the Council accepted a series of recommendations from the Nominating Committee regarding the appointment of members to the Council, including the re-appointment of five members, the promotion of two Community Representative Members, the appointment of one new members (Jim Patterson, Eugene), and the appointment of two Community Representative Members. Finally, Joe reported that the Council considered and accepted several recommendations offered by its Procurement and Monitoring Committee. These recommendations addressed two topics: (1) contracts for senior services during 2005-06, and (2) due to the decision by PeaceHealth to terminate its contract for the provision of Mental Health Counseling services to older people, uses of available Older Americans Act III-D and III-E funds. Regarding this latter item, Joe reported that the Council voted to recommend to LCOG that the III-E funds be contracted to Cascade Health Solutions for the organization and operation of Family Caregiver Support Groups and Caregiver Training, and that the III-D funds be used by S&DS for education and outreach concerning the new prescription drug benefit (Part D) under Medicare, which takes effect on January 1, 2006.

5. PRESENTATION OF THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2005-06

Ed Necker, DSAC Nominating Committee Chair, presented the following slate of DSAC officers for 2005-06:

Chair, L.M. Reese
Vice Chair, Dan Arkin

He reminded members that the election will be held on the next Council meeting, and stated that nominations may be offered from the floor on the day of the election.

6. ACTION ITEMS

a. Membership Appointment Recommendations for 2005-06

Ed Necker provided background information on the processes used by the Nominating Committee to recruit and select new members. Following these remarks, Mathew Hasek stated that he wished to be considered for membership on the Council. He stated that he expressed his interest in membership in an email to Jeanne Barter six or seven weeks ago. Patti Little, the S&DS staffer who provided support to the Nominating Committee, reported that Mathew's membership application was not received by S&DS and, as a result, was not considered by the Nominating Committee. Ted Stevens suggested to the members of the Nominating Committee present that they add Mathew's name to the list of individuals recommended for Community Representative Membership seats. Both Ed Necker and L.M. Reese concurred with this suggestion. Following these deliberations, Ed Necker presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

Motion: Motion made by Ed Necker and seconded by L.M. Reese to recommend to LCOG the appointment/re-appointment of the following individuals to the Disability Services Advisory Council:

1. The re-appointment of the following current DSAC member to two year terms: Kelly Hodgkinson, Kathy Jenness, Darlene Puls, L.M. Reese, and Michael Thomas.
2. The appointment of the following individuals to membership on the DSAC for two year terms: Tim Baxter, Wanda jo Lang, and Kevin O'Reilly.
3. The appointment of the following individuals to Community Representative Membership seats on the DSAC for one year terms: James Dean, Mathew Hasek, Terry Parker, Leslie Relle, and Maureen Wadst.

Subject to Dan Arkin's concurrence on the appointment of Mathew Hasek as a Community Representative Member of the Council, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Dates for DSAC Meetings for the Balance of 2005

Ted Stevens presented background information, explaining that there were problems with each of the remaining three scheduled dates for DSAC meetings

during 2005. He asked the Council to consider each date and to either confirm or amend the date for that meeting. As requested, the Council deliberated on each date. Its actions are set forth below:

Motion: Motion made by Ed Necker and seconded by Kelly Hodgkinson to modify the schedule of DSAC meetings for the balance of 2005, as follows:

1. July 8, 2005 meeting: Move this meeting to Friday, June 10, 2005.
2. September 9, 2005 meeting: Move this meeting to Friday, September 23, 2005.
3. November 11, 2005 meeting: Move this meeting to Friday, November 4, 2005.

With the inclusion of Dan Arkin's proxy, this motion passed unanimously.

Following the vote on this motion, Ted Stevens stated that the June 10th meeting will be held at LCOG's Administrative Office, 99 E. Broadway, 4th Floor Large Conference Room, Eugene, and that the September 23rd and November 4th meetings will be held at S&DS' Eugene Office, 1015 Willamette, Basement Conference Room.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

Darlene Puls shared information on her continuing experiences obtaining medical services from LIPA. She stated that some encounters are positive, while others are negative. Regarding the latter, she shared problems obtaining needed adjustments to her new power wheelchair. She stated that she has had her new chair for over a month, but that it is unusable until the adjustments are made by the wheelchair vendor. Members urged her to be more assertive in pressing for the needed adjustments.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Long Term Care Committee

Ted Stevens reported on behalf of the Long Term Care Committee. He shared that the Committee has completed the process of re-surveying former long term care clients who lost services in 2003 due to State budget cuts. He provided a brief summary of the Committee's findings, and reported that its Chair, Steve Skipton, will present its finding to the Advocacy Committee at its meeting on May 20,

2005. DSAC members with an interest in this topic were urged to attend the upcoming Advocacy Committee meeting.

(2) Advocacy Committee

Ted Stevens reported on the April Advocacy Committee meeting. He stated that the Committee spent a significant part of its meeting preparing for the May 21st Legislative Dialog. He also shared that the Committee is developing its work priorities for the balance of 2005.

Following the presentation of this report, Ted Stevens urged DSAC members to attend the May 21st Legislative Dialog. He reported, to date, that seven legislators have indicated that they will attend the Dialog.

L.M. Reese asked if S&DS could speak to LTD about dispatching a second bus on the 9:00 AM run from the Eugene Station to the Hilyard Community Center. He stated that each transit bus can only accommodate two wheelchairs, and that buses only run hourly on Saturdays. Ted Stevens responded that he would pass this suggestion on to Terry Parker, LTD's Accessible Services Manager. He also urged individuals like L.M. Reese to consider using RideSource to get to the Dialog.

c. Staff Reports

(1) S&DS Supervisory Changes

Ted Stevens announced the resignation of Ken Davis, Program Supervisor for Nursing Home Services and S&DS' Cottage Grove Office. He reported that Glen Phillips, a current Program Supervisor with S&DS, has been assigned to Ken Davis' responsibilities, and that Amy Evenson has been hired away from DHS to fill the position previously held by Glen Phillips. This latter position is as Supervisor of S&DS' Eugene Financial Services Unit. Ted reported that Amy started in her new job on May 2.

(2) Legislative News

Ted Stevens provided a status report on the 2005 session of the State Legislature. He opined that this session may run into the summer, given the decision by the Speaker of the House to withdraw House members from the Joint Ways and Means Committee. On another matter, Ted reported that the latest State revenue forecast, which was announced earlier in the day, was quite positive. Given this fact, he

expressed hope that the Legislature will add more money to the budget for human services.

8. Other Information

a. Disability Arts and Film Festival

Ted Stevens shared that Dan Arkin will present information on the recently held festival at the next DSAC meeting.

b. United Way's 100% Health Care Access Summit

Ted Stevens presented information on the May 2nd summit held at the Lane County Fairgrounds. He stated that approximately 200 people attended the event, which was sponsored by the United Way and LIPA. He shared that five work groups had met for several months to develop ideas for improving access to health care. All ideas were supposed to be “doable” and achievable locally, without the infusion of new public dollars. At the summit, each of the groups presented their ideas for improving access to health care for lower income and uninsured citizens of Lane County. Ted indicated that many of the ideas were good, but expressed some skepticism about the ability of the community to implement them.

c. LIPA Update

Ted Stevens stated that he had little information to offer. He reported that a meeting was held a couple of weeks ago involving LIPA officials, representatives of the Oregon Health Plan Improvement Group, and the administrator of the Office of Medical Assistance Programs. However, he was unable to report on the outcome of this meeting.

9. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN

Darlene Puls announced that the next meeting will be held at 1:30 P.M., on Friday, June 10, 2005. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

(Recorded by Ted Stevens)
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