

MINUTES

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

May 9th, 2008

Members Present: Ed Necker, Chair; Sharon Durham, Graham Bailey, Mary Johnson, Dan Arkin, Tim Baxter, Jessica Harris, LM Reese

Guests: Bethany Johnson, Larissa Varela, Tim Brass, Linda Keene, Mary Bailey

Members Excused: Kelly Hodgkinson, Leslie Gilbert, Trescott Ducker

Staff Members Present: Kay Metzger, Lorilee Davis

1. CALL TO ORDER; SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Ed Necker, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM. All present introduced themselves.

2. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING AGENDA

Agenda accepted by consensus without additions.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE APRIL MINUTES

Minutes not reviewed as there were not enough members present for a quorum.

4. LCOG REPORTS

a. LCOG Board of Directors

Kay Metzger reported that at the last Board of Directors meeting on April 25th. At the meeting, the Area Plan for Services to Seniors and People with Disabilities in Lane County was approved. The Area Plan will now be forwarded to the State Office and S&DS will move forward to implement it effective July 1, 2008. The primary discussion item of the April LCOG Board meeting was the County's funding crisis. While there are no easy

answers, the presentation and following discussion amongst local elected officials was beneficial.

b. Senior Services Advisory Council

Mary Johnson reported on the most recent meeting of the Senior Services Advisory Council. The SSAC approved the 2008-09 Area Plan and also heard a report on transportation from Terry Parker of the Lane Transit District. Dan Arkin asked the potential for Lane Transit District (LTD) to offer shuttle service during the Olympic Trials. According to Ed Necker, LTD received a waiver and will be providing services for this.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Confirmation of Nominating Committee Members

Kay stated the Nominating Committee will be gearing up soon and wanted to confirm its members. The 2008 Nominating Committee members are: Dan Arkin, Ed Necker, LM Reese, and Laura Weil. Given the resignation of Laura Weil, Tim Baxter volunteered to take her spot.

Mary Bailey, Program Manager from Douglas County, inquired regarding how the DSAC recruits for new members. Dan Arkin offered to send her our recruitment materials. Dan explained that we shoot for a balance of diversity and a balance of representation of experience. Regarding recruitment strategies, word of mouth is an effective tool to get people involved. Dan Arkin stated we try to avoid the domination of a “clique” atmosphere. Kay Metzger explained we have a procedure and offered to email it to Mary Bailey.

Mary Bailey asked how does our recruitment plan function? Kay Metzger explained that our key to success is to involve our participants. Ed Necker said that it is important that not just one type of disability be represented. Mary Johnson offered the perspective that combining membership from the two Councils (Senior Services and Disability Services) on our Standing Committees has been very successful, as it offers a variety of experience and expertise. Dan Arkin explained that the needs of seniors and people with disabilities overlap on many levels, and the Advocacy Committee is an example of how the two groups have successfully meshed for greater impact.

b. Survey for City of Eugene Diversity and Equity Strategic Plan

Tim Brass from the City of Eugene gave a presentation. The University of Oregon Planning, Public Policy and Management Program (3PM) is working with Eugene to create an Equity and Diversity Strategic Plan. They are interested in gathering input from community members and groups such as the DSAC. Ed Necker asked if they were going to senior centers and Tim Brass said they went to a Senior Meal site. Dan Arkin encouraged them to look on a broader scope for the senior populations.

Tim posed the question, "How can the City of Eugene better meet your needs?" Dan Arkin responded by identifying the ADA coordinator as a weak spot in the city. What does get identified and brought back to human rights commission is hit and miss. Dan doesn't see enforcement of affirmative action issues. Mary Johnson said many people move to this area and don't know what is available to them, and it is difficult to access information. Jessica Harris presented the perspective of those with mental illness, that there should be greater community and law enforcement tolerance for them. The city needs education and awareness on mental health issues, and needs to provide communication and solution forums. Existing groups could provide educational presentations. Dan Arkin says there needs to be genuine and true representation of all diverse groups, instead of token representation. People need to be involved in the process of the group/council they are in from the beginning to be effective as a representative. Tim Baxter suggested video conferencing and technology in order to have more genuine representation.

Tim Brass asked for suggestions on how the city could demonstrate its commitment to serving citizens' needs. Sharon Durham suggested more bathrooms for homeless people. LM Reese suggested more audible crosswalks for the blind. Mary Johnson suggested a place where people could connect with the workforce. Dan Arkin said a disability film and cultural festival put on as a joint effort by city and county could be a part of the diversity celebration and artistic endeavors. This would be a clever way for people to learn something new and bring them together. Demonstrating respect should not be limited to a one time event, but should be the fabric of an organization. Tim Baxter suggested that, in an effort to create culture change, there should be one person from the "dis-enfranchised community" on the interviewing panel for every position hired by the city. Graham Bailey reminded the group not to forget the needs of those with acquired brain injuries, stating that disability is often overlooked.

The 3PM representatives thanked the DSAC for their input and reiterated the City of Eugene's interest in creating a citywide strategic plan for diversity and equity. The City wants to become more accessible in all ways. Regarding the ADA Coordinator position, it is currently vacant and the City of Eugene plans to wait to fill it until after they finish their analysis.

6. SPECIAL DISCUSSION

a. The Home Care Worker Registry

Given the time, the presentation on the Home Care Worker Registry was postponed until the July meeting. Kay will also seek a presentation from LILA on the STEPS program, a state-funded educational program for Medicaid clients who are employers of Home Care Workers.

b. Special Project: Personal Assistants Task Force

Dan Arkin gave a brief overview of the project. More information will be shared at the July meeting.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

Ed Necker has no report today as he doesn't have time for it.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Advocacy Committee

Mary Johnson reported she will be giving testimony at a hearing scheduled of the Interim Services to Seniors and People with Disabilities Senate Committee. She attended the human services budget session and thought it was a good meeting. SSAC is particularly interested in more money for Oregon Project Independence (OPI) and the equity issue.

(2) Long Term Care Committee

There is no representative here, so there is no report.

c. Staff Report

Kay reported that she and Graham Bailey went to U of O for the "Call to Action" day. The event was geared towards helping students learn more about community involvement. Kay also reported that the S&DS office has had several staff changes recently, and training is in progress for new staff.

8. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Arkin reported that the Spinal Injury Support group which Tim Shear started will be meeting on May 22nd. Tim Baxter reminded the group of the June 4th Health Fund Board where there will be an opportunity for achieving comprehensive health care in the state. Tim is hoping for more attendance and representation from Lane County.

9. REMINDER OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

July 25th, 12:30 to 2:00, 1025 Willamette St., Eugene, OR.

10. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.