

MINUTES
Senior & Disabled Services
Disability Services Advisory Council
1025 Willamette St, Eugene, OR 97401

May 15, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Baxter, Kelly Hodgkinson, Robert Fritson,
Ed Necker, Tim Baxter, Mary Johnson, Melissa Mona
Diane Rogers

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Bruce Abel, Dawn Aubrey, Barbara Mickelson,
Trescott Ducker, Scott Whetham, Jessica Harris

STAFF PRESENT: Kay Metzger, Lenora Crowson, Iona Hernandez

1. CALL TO ORDER; SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Ed Necker called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. Everyone present introduced themselves.

2. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING AGENDA

Tim Baxter asked to provide information about housing under; 8. Other Reports and Announcements. The amended Agenda was accepted by consensus.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2009 DSAC MEETING (ATTACHMENT)

The minutes will be considered at the next meeting, since we didn't have a quorum.

4. LCOG REPORTS

a. SSAC

Kay Metzger reported that the main business conducted at the SSAC Meeting was the acceptance of the FY 2009-10 contracts for Legal Services, the Long Term Care Ombudsman Screening and Recruitment Program, the ElderHelp Volunteer Program, the Caregiver Support Group and Training, the Money Management Program, and the approval of extending the FY 09 contract for Metro Meals on wheels, and In-Home Services with Addus.

b. LCOG Board of Directors

Kay Metzger reported that the LCOG Board of Directors met April 23, 2009. They approved the 2009-10 Area Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities. They requested that Kay create Talking-point Cards that could

be carried in the wallet and used to advocate for seniors and people with disabilities. The board discussed safety issues as well.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Confirmation of Nominating Committee Members

Kay Metzger reported that the main concern of the Nominating Committee is to recruit new DSAC members for 2009-10. Jessica Harris, Ed Necker, and Scott Whetham are the existing members of the Nominating Committee. Dr. Diane Rogers volunteered to participate with them on the Nominating Committee as well. New members will be confirmed in September 2009 and will begin their terms October 1, 2009.

b. Request for Input on the Aging and Disability Resource Center

Kay Metzger reported on the implementation of the Real Choices Systems Change Grant. Over the next three years 1.6 million dollars will be used to promote the development and implementation of enhanced hospital discharge planning models and the development of new single entry points to provide links to available long-term services. The Project's goal is to empower individuals and their caregivers to make informed choices and streamline access to long term care services and supports. It establishes a follow up process so that the discharge plan is better understood by the patient. Someone from the hospital will call the patient; and if there is a need for a home visit, a person from S&DS will be contacted to make that visit. Another piece to the Grant is to develop a statewide, interactive online database of resources to be utilized by Information and Assistance programs in Oregon's 17 Area Agencies on Aging. Local Aging and Disability Assistance Centers will be developed in both urban and rural communities in Lane County. Options Counselors will be available to refer patients needing assistance to available services and to assure that the patient's preferences for long-term services and supports are met. An Advisory Council will be engaged to steer this grant proposal and to be instrumental in the establishment of measurable performance goals for the project and evaluate outcome data to determine progress toward meeting those goals. The targeted groups to benefit from this program are Medicaid-eligible individuals of any age with physical disabilities and seniors aged 60 and older regardless of income. The Aging and Disabilities Assistance Center is not a building but services. This program is designed for short term assistance and will allow for additional staffing for S&DS. Kay invited the Council's input. Extensive discussion followed with Kay answering questions. Some of the input given was to survey existing services to avoid duplication, to have a good marketing plan, to make sure that materials are accessible for everyone, and the people answering phones to be very well trained in knowing available resources. The Council agreed that having web

based materials and information will be invaluable. Information Kiosks located in various places would be helpful for those folks that don't use computers.

c. Other

6. STATUS REPORT ON THE STATE'S BUDGET-MAKING PROCESS

Kay Metzger reported that the State Budget's deficit was less than originally expected. However, there is still a shortfall of funds. Proposed cuts in human services includes a reduction in the HomeCare Worker (HCW) health insurance, a reduction of HCW training; a cap on nursing home costs, no cost of living adjustments, a hiring freeze for our agency (which means that we will get less than 90% of the equity), a reduction in dental and vision coverage for our clients. It will be several months before we will know the final results of the State Budget. Kay explained that Oregon Project Independence (OPI) is a state funded program created to help people who don't qualify for Medicaid. It allows them to help people 60 years or older who need personal or home care to stay in their own homes. They can receive up to twenty hours per month and the cost to the state is very inexpensive, less than \$300 a month. It's been funded through the Tax-Deferred Trust Fund. This fund is nearly depleted and without another funding stream, OPI will not be able to continue. Rep. Jean Cowan has proposed HB 2391 that supports OPI with Rep. Phil Barnhart's HB 2069 and HB 2471 which would provide a funding stream for OPI.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

Ed Necker reported that LTD's 14.3% service reduction has been mitigated by ARRA (Stimulus) Funds down to 2.7%. This means that most routes will stay in tact and fewer will be eliminated. This may change in the future.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Long Term Care Committee

No report was given.

(2) Advocacy Committee

Mary Johnson reported that Dennis Shine had his picture in The Register Guard in regard to the Springfield roundabouts. A meeting with the Springfield Council is set up for June 8, 2009. Tim Baxter sent out an email about an AARP strategy for safer streets for the aging population. The information came from Terry Parker at LTD. Mary attended the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) Advocacy Day in Salem on April 30, 2009. Dennis Shine and Mary went to the U of O for the Oregon Ways and Means Committee Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Budget. Mary spoke about Jean Cowan's

HB 2391 which provides for the establishment of prevention and intervention services and support for Oregon's long term care system, which includes funding for the Oregon Project Independence Program (OPI); and Phil Barnhart's companion bills HB 2069 and HB 2471 which would provide a funding stream for HB 2391 by limiting the State of Oregon's medical deduction for people over age 62. They estimate that \$50 million dollars would be generated per year by the passage of HB 2069 and HB 2471. All of the money has to go to seniors and people with disabilities with an \$11 million going directly into OPI.

c. Staff Reports

Kay Metzger reported that S&DS is tightening its belt to absorb the budget shortfall for this biennium. They've had to take some cuts and have not been able to fill some positions. Right now they are waiting to see how the next biennium plays out. However, the Real Choices Systems Change Grant will allow for five staff to be hired; three in April 2010 and two several months later.

8. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tim Baxter reported on the shortage of short-term housing for homeless people with disabilities. The Mission is unable to accommodate people with special needs, and there is no other available housing at this time. Tim met with people from the city, county, and ShelterCare and was informed by Richie Weinman from the city that there was some stimulus money that could be used for short-term housing for the disabled if a proposal was drawn up by their deadline. Tim is going to pursue a follow up meeting about this issue.

9. REMINDER OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, July 24, 2009

12:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

Senior & Disabled Services

1015 Willamette

Eugene OR 97401

10. ADJOURN

Ed Necker adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

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