

# MINUTES

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

June 10, 2005

Members Present: Darlene Puls, Chair; Dan Arkin, Jeanne Barter, Luther Beecroft, Kelly Hodgkinson, Kathy Jenness, Ed Necker, Gene Obersinner, Terry Parker, L.M. Reese, Michael Thomas, Laura Weil, Joe Xavier.

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

Staff Present: Kay Metzger, Ted Stevens.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Darlene Puls, DSAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Persons present introduced themselves.

## 2. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Terry Parker and Kathy Jenness requested permission to give reports under Agenda Item #7, Reports.

*Action:* Without objection, Darlene Puls ruled that the agenda for the meeting be approved, as presented, with the understanding that Terry and Kathy be afforded opportunities to make reports under Item #7.

## 3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH AND MAY 2005 DSAC MEETINGS

*Motion:* Moved by Ed Necker, and seconded by Kelly Hodgkinson, to approve the Minutes of the March and May 2005 DSAC meetings, as mailed. Motion passed unanimously.

## 4. LCOG BOARD REPORT

Ted Stevens reported that the LCOG Board Executive Committee considered the 2005-06 Update to LCOG's 2003-07 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services at its May meeting. In addition to addressing the Plan Update, as recommended by the SSAC and DSAC, it considered minor amendments offered by the SSAC and S&DS staff. Ted explained these minor amendments (which were shared with Council members by memo in advance of the meeting), linking two to PeaceHealth's decision to terminate its contract with S&DS for the provision of Senior Mental Health Counseling Services on June 30, 2005, and the others to the unanticipated availability of additional OPI funds in the amount of \$11,515. Ted reported that the Board Executive Committee approved the Plan Update and the minor amendments, and authorized staff to submit the Plan, including the Option #1 version of the budget, as amended, to DHS for approval.

## **5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2005-06**

Ed Necker, DSAC Nominating Committee Chair, presented the slate placed in nomination by the Committee at the May Council meeting. Nominations from the floor were then solicited. As none were offered, the Council voted unanimously to elect the following officers for Program Year 2005-06: Chair, L.M. Reese; and Vice Chair, Dan Arkin.

## **6. ACTION ITEM -- Membership Appointment Recommendations for 2005-06**

Ted Stevens explained why this matter was being considered a second time by the Council. In brief, he commented on the absence of a quorum at the May DSAC meeting and explained that research following the meeting led him to the conclusion that the Council's Bylaws do not allow voting by proxy, nor do they allow for after-the-fact voting by members not present at the meeting. After this explanation was given, Ed Necker, DSAC Nominating Committee Chair, presented the membership appointment recommendations developed by the Committee.

### ***Motions:***

1. Moved by Ed Necker, and seconded by Gene Obersinner, to recommend to LCOG the re-appointment of the following current DSAC members to two year terms: Kelly Hodgkinson, Kathy Jenness, Darlene Puls, L.M. Reese, and Michael Thomas. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Moved by Ed Necker and seconded by Kathy Jenness to recommend to LCOG the appointment of the following individuals to membership on the DSAC for two year terms: Tim Baxter, Wanda jo Lang, and Kevin

- O'Reilly. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Moved by Ed Necker and seconded by Kathy Jenness to recommend to LCOG 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.

In the discussion of this motion, Dan Arkin spoke about the procedural problem associated with Mathew Hasek's application for membership. He also mentioned that the Nominating Committee acted upon Wanda jo Lang's application on the basis of a telephone interview, rather than a face-to-face interview. To avoid misunderstandings in the future, he advocated that the DSAC develop firm and clear procedures for use by its Nominating Committee during future recruitment and screening work. Terry Parker urged the Council to approve the Committee's recommendations for the appointment of Community Representative Members and encourage others with an interest in its work to attend meetings as visitors. Dan Arkin concurred. He also suggested that S&DS accept membership applications throughout the year, rather than just during the annual membership recruitment period. Ted Stevens commented that these were good suggestions. He proposed that the Council's Nominating Committee meet early in the 2005-06 Program Year to consider these recommendations.

Following an extended discussion of the motion, the Council voted unanimously to approve it, as offered.

## **7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **a. Committee Reports**

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

Laura Weil reported on the recent meeting of the Long Term Care Committee. She shared the results of a recent re-survey of former long term care clients who lost services in 2003 due to State budget cuts. She also reported that these results were copied and distributed to attendees of the May 21<sup>st</sup> S&DS Legislative Dialog and, in an abbreviated form, were mailed to all members of the Lane County legislative delegation. Moving to a different matter, Laura and Kay Metzger reported on the Committee's review of feedback forms from S&DS customers. Kay shared that the Committee asked her to identify the concerns mentioned most often by customers. She determined that the following two concerns were mentioned the

most frequently: (1) the complexity of paperwork required to access public benefits; and (2) the limitations of Oregon's public benefit programs.

## **(2) Advocacy Committee**

Ted Stevens reported on both the May Advocacy Committee meeting and the May Legislative Dialog. Regarding the former, he stated that the Committee spent a significant part of its meeting preparing for the May 21<sup>st</sup> Legislative Dialog. He also shared that the Committee finalized its work priorities for the balance of 2005. Concerning the Legislative Dialog, he mentioned that it was well attended, that it was efficiently and effectively run, and that a good exchange of information and ideas occurred.

Following the presentation of this report, Ted Stevens reported that Representative Debi Farr will attend the Committee's June meeting. Since Rep. Farr has been unable to attend either of S&DS' 2005 legislative dialogs, he urged all DSAC members to attend the June 17<sup>th</sup> Advocacy Committee meeting in order to become better acquainted with Rep. Farr.

### **b. Staff Reports – Legislative Issues**

Ted Stevens provided a status report on the 2005 session of the State Legislature. In addition, he distributed copies of two emails pertaining to the legislative session. The first dealt with Oregon Project Independence and O4AD's efforts to have people with disabilities added as a population eligible for services. The second announced a special public hearing being called by the House Democratic Caucus for Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, to receive input on a number of bills addressing human services issues.

Following Ted's report, Dan Arkin reported on the efforts of the Oregon Health Action Campaign to hold one additional rally at the Capital in support of the Oregon Health Plan. Possible dates at the end of June were discussed.

Finally, Ted circulated an "action alert" regarding an advocacy campaign to get members of Congress to oppose CMS' restrictions on Medicare-funded mobility devices for people with disabilities. Under CMS' rules, a Medicare beneficiary who is able to function at home but needs a mobility device to access services outside his/her home would not be eligible for a wheelchair paid for by Medicare. Dan Arkin commented that many disability rights groups are cooperating on this advocacy campaign.

**c. Other Reports**

**(1) DHS' New Disability Advisory Committee**

Kathy Jenness reported that the Oregon Department of Human Services has organized a state-wide committee to advise it on issues specific to people with disabilities. She reported that its initial membership was drawn from the now defunct Oregon Association of Disability Services Advisory Councils, as well as from Independent Living Centers and the Oregon Disabilities Commission. She shared that there are two Lane County residents on the committee, Susan Grimes and herself.

**(2) LTD's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Full Accessibility**

Terry Parker announced that LTD is celebrating a significant milestone on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM, at Hilyard Community Center, Eugene – 20 years of full accessibility of its fixed route transit fleet. That day, attendees can check out LTD's Bus Rapid Transit (a.k.a. EmX) vehicle model, obtain free securement loops for securing wheelchairs on LTD buses, sign up for LTD's new Honored Rider (70+) pass, compete for door prizes, and try out a wheelchair obstacle course. DSAC members were invited to attend this event.

In response to a question from Laura Weil, Terry stated that LTD will be hosting Honored Rider Pass enrollment events in other locations throughout its service area, including Cottage Grove, later in the summer.

**8. Other Information**

**a. Disability Arts and Film Festival**

Dan Arkin presented information on the University of Oregon's recent disability arts and film festival. As background, he reported that the University is attempting to create a Disability Studies Program. The people working on this project organized the arts and film festival as a way to promote interest in the Disability Studies Program. The event took place over a weekend in April. He opined that it went well. As a result, the University hopes to make this an annual event. At the conclusion of his remarks, Dan urged DSAC members to get involved in the planning for next year's festival.

**b. LIPA Update**

Dan Arkin reported that dialogue is beginning to occur between LIPA officials and local disability advocates. The involvement, as facilitator, of the Administrator of the Oregon Medical Assistance Program (OMAP), Barney Speight, was critical to getting the two parties into the same room. With Mr. Speight's involvement, a couple of meetings have been held, and others are on the schedule. Hopefully, due to these discussions, local advocates' concerns can be addressed.

Dan also mentioned that Mr. Speight is leaving OMAP this month, taking a position in Washington State. How his departure will affect the continuation of these discussions remains to be seen.

**c. LILA Plans for Celebrating the Passage of the ADA**

Ted Stevens reported that LILA (Lane Independent Living Alliance) is planning a celebration in late July honoring the anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Two events are planned, as follows: On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, LILA is sponsoring a mobility fair at the Atrium Building on 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Eugene. This event will run from 11:00 AM-4:00 PM. Then, on July 26<sup>th</sup>, a community celebration is planned. It will be held at the Hult Center, starting at 6:30 PM. The highlight of the event will be the presentation of four one-act plays in the Soreng Theater.

**d. Legislative Hearing on HB 2873**

Dan Arkin announced a legislative hearing on HB 2873 on Monday, June 13, at 8:30 AM in the State Capitol. He stated that this bill was bad for people with disabilities, since it weakens anti-discrimination provisions for working individuals with disabilities. The erosion occurs in two ways: (1) the definition of small employers exempt from anti-discrimination provisions is increased from six to fifteen employees; and (2) the bill locks Oregon's protections for people with disabilities to federal laws, which are more lax than current State laws. Dan urged DSAC members to let Rep. Robert Ackerman know that HB 2873 is bad policy and should be killed.

**9. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN**

Darlene Puls announced that the next DSAC meeting will be held at 1:30 P.M. on Friday, September 23, 2005. The meeting adjourned at 3:07 P.M.

*(Recorded by Ted Stevens)*

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*Last Saved: June 22, 2005*