

# MINUTES

Senior & Disabled Services  
**Planning & Budget Committee**  
Hilyard Community Center, 2580 Hilyard Street, Eugene

December 13, 2005

Members Present: Jane Boren, Chair; Mae Westfall Cook, James Dean, Kevin O'Reilly, and Joe Xavier.

Members Excused: Dianne Burch, Terry Parker, and L.M. Reese.

Staff Present: Patti Little, Kay Metzger, and Ted Stevens.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Ted Stevens, S&DS Director, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Persons present introduced themselves. Upon her arrival at 10:15 AM, Jane Boren, Committee Chair, assumed the responsibilities of the chair.

## 2. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

**Motion:** Moved by Mae Westfall Cook, and seconded by Joe Xavier to accept the agenda, as printed. Motion passed unanimously.

## 3. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 11, 2005 COMMITTEE MEETING

**Motion:** Moved by Joe Xavier and seconded by Kevin O'Reilly to approve the Minutes of the October 11, 2005 Committee meeting, as printed. Motion passed unanimously.

## 4. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Approval of Amendments to the Current Year Budget for OPI

Ted Stevens announced that LCOG approved the larger of the two recommended versions of the current year budget for Oregon Project Independence. He explained that DHS released to S&DS the full amount of its 2005-07 allotment for OPI and, as a result, LCOG was able to consider and approve the larger version without consideration of the smaller version. Ted reported that the provisions of the approved budget are now in the process of being implemented.

**b. Results of a Survey of Other Area Agencies on Aging Concerning Their Support for Long Term Care Ombudsman Program Services**

For the benefit of new Committee members, Ted Stevens provided background information on this topic, including details of the initial proposed budget for 2005-06 and the unhappiness that the deletion of funds for the support of the work of the local Long Term Care Ombudsman Committee caused for members of that organization. He shared that the Planning & Budget Committee agreed to restore the Older Americans Act III-B funds to the 2005-06 budget, on the condition that S&DS staff survey other Oregon AAAs to determine whether they support the LTC Ombudsman program in their service areas. Following the presentation of this background information, Ted distributed copies of a spreadsheet showing the results of the survey of other AAAs. He stated that 11 of the other 16 AAAs responded and, of these, none allocated OAA III-B to support the work of the local recruitment and screening committee. Instead, he reported that several AAAs budget OAA funds to reimburse LTC Ombudsman volunteers for mileage costs associated with their ombudsman work.

Ted's report prompted a number of questions from Committee members. Kevin O'Reilly asked if the local LTC Ombudsman Program is valuable. Drawing on her experience as a former nursing home administrator, Jane Boren responded that the program is very valuable, both to the residents of the licensed facilities and to the staffs of these facilities. In response to a question about the details of the budget for the local program, Patti Little shared that some of S&DS' money is used to support the work of the Recruitment and Screening Committee, some is used to reimburse volunteer ombudsmen for mileage, and some is used to support a friendly visitor program known as the "Residents Assistance Program" (RAP). The Older Americans Act's "maintenance of effort" provision regarding support for local Long Term Care Ombudsman programs was also reviewed. Jane Boren suggested that S&DS may wish to specify that no more than one-third of its money

be used to support the RAP program. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was determined that S&DS should budget for support for the local Long Term Care Ombudsman Recruitment and Screening Program in its 2006-07 Area Plan Budget, subject to the suggestion offered by Jane Boren (see above).

## **5. New Business**

### **a. Results of Study Regarding Possible Uses for OAA III-D Funds in 2006-07**

Patti Little distributed an amended version of the memo on this topic that was forwarded to Committee members in their meeting packets. She explained the issue and reviewed the contents of the revised memo in considerable detail. Members of the Committee asked a number of questions about the findings of this study. Staff answered them to the best of their abilities. At the conclusion of a free-wheeling discussion, the Committee decided to recommend that available OAA III-D funds be expended on medication assistance services in FY 2006-07, as noted in the following motion:

**Motion:** Moved by James Dean, and seconded by Mae Westfall Cook, to recommend to LCOG that available OAA III-D funds be used in FY 2006-07 to support medication assistance services, including: Medicare Part D education and enrollment assistance, assistance in the enrollment in pharmaceutical manufacturers' prescription drug assistance programs, performance of medication assessments, and management of medication dispensing devices. Motion passed unanimously.

### **b. Preliminary Work on Next Year's Area Plan Budget**

#### **(1) Initial Estimate of Available Revenues**

Ted Stevens directed members' attention to the spreadsheet in their meeting packets with information about anticipated revenues for next fiscal year. He noted that overall funding is up 1.8%. However, when one looks at individual sources, some are up and some are down. Concerning the most flexible sources of funds, Older Americans Act funds will be down about 1%, while OPI funds will be up 18.2%.



## **(2) Issues and Assumptions for Use in the Preparation of Next Year's Budget**

Prior to presenting this topic, Ted Stevens distributed copies of an email received from Terry Parker. He directed members' attention to her comments regarding cost of living (COLA) adjustments. Following this, Ted posed several questions to the Committee, the answers to which will assist staff in the developing of an initial draft of the FY 2006-07 Area Plan Budget. First, he asked whether it wanted staff to budget an across-the-board cost of living increase for all providers. This question prompted considerable discussion. When it became apparent that S&DS could not afford an across-the-board approach, the Committee determined, by consensus, that staff should budget increases on a case-by-case basis within the limits of available funds. Second, Ted asked how the Committee wanted staff to manage the fact that there will be fewer OAA funds than at present. It asked staff to develop two different versions of the budget for its consideration, one that cuts all OAA-funded programs by the same percentage, and another that focuses cuts on select programs. Third, Ted asked how the Committee wished to deal with changes in the funding environment (e.g., drastic reductions in State support for long term care and health services, and loss of locally-matched Medicaid funds for the support of Meals on Wheels and Senior Connections services). Recognizing that the current year Area Plan Budget contains adjustments to address these issues, Committee members favored using it as the starting point for the development of next year's budget, rather than rolling back the clock to FY 2003-04.

### **c. Preliminary Work on Next Year's Area Plan Objectives**

First, the Committee reviewed the list of Objectives which are included in the current year Area Plan. Staff reported on progress to implement them. During two of these reports, Ted Stevens urged members to review the comments offered by Terry Parker in the email distributed earlier in the meeting. Next, Ted distributed a list of staff-proposed Objectives for next year. He asked members to consider these suggestions in advance of its meeting on January 10.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mae Westfall Cook reported on Home Instead's "Be a Santa to a Senior" project. She reported that over 60 agencies and organizations were contacted to help

identify seniors in need of presents during the December holidays. With their help, over 800 seniors were identified to participate in this year's project. Thanks to the organizational and outreach work performed by Home Instead, these seniors will receive presents in the next few days.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Jane Boren reminded members that the next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2006, 10 AM to 12 Noon, at Hilyard Community Center, Eugene. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

*Recorded by Ted Stevens*

*LCOG: S:\MANAGEMENT\MINUTES 2005\PLANNING & BUDGET.121305.DOC*

*Last Saved: December 14, 2005*