

Procurement and Monitoring Committee
Senior Services Advisory Council
January 25, 2005
Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anna May Herbert Jane Strasdas Cathy Steadman Cox
Jean Jordan

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Debbie Olsen Esther Sloan

STAFF PRESENT

Patti Little Sandy Karsten

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Anna May Herbert.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved as mailed with the addition of: Informational items, Money Management Update and Continuation Contract Timeline; and the placement of the In-home Service Update under Action.
3. **Approval of November 30, 2004:** Approved as mailed.
4. **Information:**

A. November – January Site Visit Summaries

- Food Service Contract (Bateman): Sandy reviewed the site visit summary which was mailed with the agenda. Sandy noted that the minor concerns of each of the member agencies were similar. Most of the concerns noted resulted from the climate of the day and were not pressing. Anna May asked if the diabetic issues had been addressed. Sandy stated that the menus are developed by a dietician and meet diabetic standards. Many of the meal program participants have not had recent diabetic education and thus fail to understand how various carbohydrates can be substituted for others, based on the total carbohydrate intake. Overall, the monitoring visit was good.
- Senior Connections: Anna May reviewed the site visit summary which was mailed with the agenda. She stated that she had a delightful visit. She felt that the split shift

between Veneta and Junction City is difficult for Kim to manage but that he appears to have a good working knowledge of both community resources.

- Senior Mental Health Counseling: Patti reviewed the site visit summary which was mailed with the agenda, noting that the program had finalized the response time policy.

- Senior Law: Jean reviewed the site visit summary which was mailed with the agenda. She stated she was very impressed with the program and how knowledgeable the volunteers were and how efficiently the program was run.

- ElderHelp: Patti reviewed the site visit summary which was mailed with the agenda. She noted that 8 staff, numerous volunteers and the donations of area merchants again helped to make the Elder Help holiday party at Wilamalane a memorable experience. The potluck smorgasbord of food was wonderful and all the seniors received gifts. Each volunteer received a gift certificate. The event was a huge success.

- Addus: Cathy reviewed the site visit summary which was mailed with the agenda. The Addus hospice training was conducted by Mark Newson of Sacred Heart Hospice Program. She stated that training was basic and that Mark did a great job. Mark was good at drawing out the fears of the caregivers concerning death. Cathy suggested that a future training be focused on the difficulties of family dynamics during times of hospice and that it encouraged “caregivers not to be sucked into it”. Anna May suggested that time be afforded to the Addus hospice caregivers during the training which allows them to share their feelings.

- Patti noted that during the first month of the OPI hospice pilot program, the two hospice casemanagers conducted 18 hospice intakes and opened 15 cases. In addition to this, they conducted approximately 8 regular OPI intakes and 2 OPI reassessments.

B. Food Service Consortium Update: Sandy stated that contract renegotiation have begun with Bateman. She noted that the food service meal rate is a large part of the budget and that the partners in the Consortium will declare their meal service levels to Bateman today. Bateman’s response is due by March 5th, just before the Metro Meals on Wheels continuation contract is due to be released.

She noted the following items: 1) Roger Friedman has been promoted to a new position at MWVSS and his replacement, Sandy Cooper, has limited experience

with Food service, but is learning fast; 2) OCW has a budget shortfall and will need to adjust service levels next year; 3) The price of paper products have increased; 4) Bateman indicated that if the mix of units doesn't change, they anticipate requesting a 4% increase in the rate; 5) The LCOG units of service projection for this year was conservative and will be exceeded. This is helpful due to the fact that OCW's number of units will be reduced next year. LCOG will attempt to maintain all service locations in FY 06.

C. Money Management Update: Patti stated that the program currently has 32 matched clients, one who is an OPI client. There are 11 persons on the waiting list, three of whom will be matched by 1/31/05.

D. Continuation Contract Timeline: Patti distributed and reviewed the continuation contract time line, noting that it would need to be altered if the SSAC approves an additional May meeting to handle contract approval. The timeline will affect the following contracts: Senior Mental Health Counseling, Money Management, Senior Law, Elderhelp, and Metro Meals on Wheels. She also noted that the state regulations have changed and now only contracts in excess of 75,000 needs to go out to a Request For Proposal.

5. **Action:**

A. In-home Service Update and Recommendation: Patti shared that the in-home service contract for Lane County will look very different next year. The State of Oregon will be conducting a Request for Applications (RFA) for Medicaid in-home service providers. In past years, the In-home Service Consortium has been responsible for issuing a RFP for one service provider. The new RFA mode of recruitment will allow all qualified providers in a County to be selected as providers. Patti estimates that there are 15 in-home service providers in Lane County, all of whom potentially may be qualified providers.

The responsibility for the OPI in-home services contract will remain with the Consortium. Ideally, the Consortium would be issuing a Request for Proposal for next years' OPI services. However, the Governors' budget proposes cuts to the OPI program, leaving the viability of the program uncertain. For this reason, the Consortium recommends extending the Addus contract another year. Legal counsels and the State of Oregon have given permission for this extension and MWVSS, the lead agency of the Consortium, has sent a letter to Addus asking if they would agree to an extension (letter circulated). She

noted that the Consortium, would like to maintain the existing rates during the extension but has not yet discussed this with Addus. Given the fact that there will be a reduction in the number of units of service authorized by the Consortium, due to the fact that the OPI budget proposal is reduced, and the Medicaid component will not be included, it is possible that Addus may request an increase in the rates.

Motion: Moved by Jane, seconded by Jean and carried unanimously to recommend to the SSAC that the Addus OPI in-home service contract be extended an additional year due to the uncertainty of the OPI budget, and that Consortium staff renegotiate the unit of service rates.

B. Scheduling of February Site Visits:

- Elder Help: PMC decided to waive the site visit. Anna May and Cathy will attend the next Elder Help training. Patti will coordinate the effort.
 - LTC Ombudsman: Debbie will attend the LTC Ombudsman meeting which will be held 2/15/05 from 1:15-2:30 at the S&DS office. Patti will coordinate the visit. Patti indicated that the Planning and Budget Committee will be recommending FY 05-06 budget to the Senior Services Advisory Council in February. One budget, which assumes a reduction in Oregon Project Independence funds for the next biennium, eliminates funding for the LTC Ombudsman program. Patti will share this information with the Chair of the LTC Ombudsman Committee prior to the site visit.
 - Senior Mental Health Counseling: Jean gave a presentation to the Senior Peer Counselors in January and agreed to present a written summary of the presentation to PMC. This will serve as the site visit.
 - Family Caregiver Support Program: Anna May agreed to attend the Senior Law Training on February 4, 2005 and Cathy agreed to attend the Positioning and Helping training on February 11, 2005.
- C. “Caregiver” Discussion: Jean stated that for many professionals and non-professionals, the meaning of “caregiver” is not understood. She stated that to many individuals, “caregiver” is defined as physical care rather than psycho-social care. Many family members provide psycho-social care for their loved ones and therefore do not feel they qualify for caregiver services.

Cathy noted that many individuals believe they are a wife, not a caregiver. Anna May stated it took her several months of caring for her husband before she was willing to accept assistance with her caregiver role. PMC suggested that as a marketing ploy, the Family Caregiver Program could use a variety of words to describe caregiving, such as:

For husbands and wives who are taking on more responsibilities
For the one who used to do the yard work or cooking
Appealing to the children of seniors who are caring for a spouse
Caring for a homebound family member
Families in crisis as a result of aging.

PMC felt that the staff of the Family Caregiver Program should have additional discussion on the meaning of the word of caregiving and should be open to a variety of marketing tools.

6. **Next Meeting:** February 22, 2005 from 1:30 to 3:00 P. M. at the Campbell Senior Center Card Room
7. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m..