

MINUTES

Procurement and Monitoring Committee
of the Senior Services Advisory Council
February 19, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pat Giles Mary Johnson Yvaughn Tompkins Jean Jordan

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jane Strasdas Cathy Steadman Cox Melissa Bowers

STAFF PRESENT

Patti Little Sandy Karsten

1. **Call to Order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:34 by Pat Giles, PMC Chair.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** Approved as mailed with the addition of action item: Meal site monitoring.
3. **Approval of the 1/15/08 Minutes:** Mary moved, seconded by Yvaughn and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as mailed.

4. **Information:**

A. Senior Law Site Visit Presentation: After establishing the fact that all PMC members were familiar with the Senior Law Program Jean Beachdel and Steve Skipton shared the below listed information.

1. The program will begin to offer Senior Law services at Viking Sal Senior Center in Junction City effective March 12, 2008. Jean stated she had an attorney volunteer to serve the area once a month and the Center's director was able to recruit to non-attorney to assist with the program in Junction City. An updated brochure reflecting this addition was distributed.

2. Jean distributed several handouts in order to explain existing program trends between participants from 2006 to 2007. The handouts were entitled: “Trends”, “Case Codes”, and “Senior Law Service Case Types”. She noted that the percentage of increase is in part due to an overall increase in the number of cases severed from one year to the next. The top three trends were noted:

- The agency has noted a large increase in consumer related problems between 2005 and 2007. They attribute this to dwindling client resources and an increase with debts which in part are the result of easy credit card approval and the fact that individuals can meet their consumer and medical debt needs using a credit card. Steve stated that historically the agency hasn’t had large number of consumer related cases. Since the trend seems to be on the up rise, Steve has prepared several consumer debt related handouts for program participants including: “Can Debt Collectors Take My Social Security, or SSI, Benefits” and “If I cannot Pay My Bills, What Should I Do”? The program is hoping to expand their presentations along consumer debt.
- Increase in family problems is also seen as a trend. This category also includes protective service case. Fifty-nine percent of the family problems are related to protective service types of cases such as guardianship, power of attorney.
- The third area of increased trends fell under the heading of Health and included issues related to Medicaid, Medicare Health Care Decision etc.

3. Jean noted that it is now more difficult to recruit attorneys for the Senior Law Program than it has been in the past. She stated that this may be due to the fact that attorneys prefer to volunteer for non-attorney activities and because the program asks them to volunteer on Saturday. She shared that the Junction City and Cottage Grove programs serve clients on Fridays. She noted that most of the volunteer attorneys are older or middle age rather than new younger attorneys. This past year she lost 3-4 attorneys to retirement.

4. Jean noted the number of clients served were 1,075 in 2006 and 1,142 in 2007.

5. Jeans distributed the following consumer education handouts for clients:

- “If You Are a Single Person and Need Long Term Care: Some Basic Information on Medicaid”;
- If You Are Married and You Or Your Spouse Needs Long Term Care: Some Basic Information on Medicaid”;
- “If You Need Medicaid Help with Long Term Care Costs: Some Basic Information About Income Cap Trusts:

- 2007 Elder Law in Oregon Handbook.
6. Jean distributed copies of the “Opinion Survey” and “The Intake Interview Sheet”.
 7. Steve reviewed a couple of the cases he is recently worked on including:
 - A Medicaid/Medicare client who’d spent time at The Sacred Heart hospital was not able to be released from the hospital because the nursing facility he’d come from stated they were unable to provide the level of care the gentleman required. After numerous conferences and a Medicaid Administration Hearing, it was determined that the nursing facility could meet the client’s needs and he was returned to the facility from which he came.
 - Steve found a replacement guardian for a client when his/he family wanted to resign. Steve was able to locate a member of the client’s church to serve as the guardian.
 - Steve assisted in the recovery of SSI payment for a woman who moved to this county from Texas and had the payment stopped by SSA.
 - Other assistance: The program also provides these services: Advance Directives, Power of Attorney, referral to adult protective service, and works with Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

B. January and February Site Visits:

- Ombudsman Screening Committee: Jean distributed and reviewed a written summary of the site visit she completed on 2/5/08. She noted the following: The site visit was to the winter recognition for the Ombudsman Program. There were 24 individuals in attendance representing both members of the Ombudsman Program and the Resident Assistance Program (RAP). State staff persons Meredith Cote and Kathy Walters were in attendance and spoke to the group. Moray Provey has been appointed as a member of the Governor’s Advisory Council. She noted that the event was done exceptionally well and that the program costs very little to operate and contributes a great deal to the quality of care for Lane County seniors residing in LTC facilities. The volunteers demonstrate a deep sense of compassion and commitment to their roles advocating for those seniors who may otherwise be without adequate support. Our continued support is well warranted.

- Caregiver Support Group - Mary reviewed the written 1-17-08 site visit summary which was mailed with the agenda. She noted the following: The counseling session is offered by Cascade Health Solutions and the group she attended was on memory loss. She was very impressed with the discussion which took place at the counseling session and feels the program is valuable to seniors in our county.
- Senior Law : The PMC believes the program does a fantastic job.

5. **Action:**

A. Scheduling of March Site Monitoring Visits

- Caregiver Support Group and Training Discussion: The PMC decided another site visit was not necessary this year.

B. Contract Update:

- Food Preparation Discussion: Sandy noted that the Consortium continues to discuss how to adapt the food menu and negotiate costs. They expect to offer a weekly soup, salad, & ½ sandwiches a few times a month which should help reduce costs some. Food inflation is quite high at present and prices are volatile
- Meal Site Monitoring: Sandy noted that the Senior Meals Advisory Committee must make an annual meal site visit and would welcome assistance from PMC. Melissa agreed to complete a site visit. She represents both the Advisory Committee and PMC. Yvaughn offered to complete a site visit also.

6. **Next Meeting:** March 18, 2008 at Campbell Center from 2:30-4:00.

7. **Adjourn at 4:05**