

MINUTES

Procurement and Monitoring Committee
of the Senior Services Advisory Council
May 17, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anna May Herbert	Jane Strasdas	Cathy Steadman Cox
Debbie Olson	Esther Sloan	Jean Jordan

MEMBERS EXCUSED

STAFF PRESENT

Patti Little

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Anna May Herbert
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** Approved as mailed.
3. **Approval of 4/28/05 Minutes:** Approved as mailed.
4. **Information:**

A. Senior Connection Presentation: Joan Taylor, the Supervisor of the Senior Connection Program, distributed and reviewed a summary of the Family Caregiver Support Program---Respite Services as well as Program brochures. She noted following: The Family Caregiver Support Program is designed to provide supportive services to unpaid family caregivers, who are caring for someone 60 and older or a caregiver 60 and over caring for a related child under the age of 19. The program provides information, assistance, training, respite, and supplemental services. The goal of the program is to establish a caregiver support system that helps families/caregiver to be independent, healthy, and safe.

Respite care is the service most requested by caregivers. To date, 2004/2005, the program has provided respite services to 188 unduplicated

caregivers. The FCGP currently offers temporary, short term respite. A caregiver now receives 8 hours per month of in-home respite, or 16 hours per month respite at an adult day center for a length of three months.

Many caregivers are elderly and suffer from serious chronic health problems of their own, or they are working caregivers who must juggle work, family, and caregiving duties. Taking care of an elderly disabled family member is very stressful, and respite services provide much needed temporary relief to the caregiver. We have found that, while short term respite is certainly helpful it does not affect the long term stress of the caregiver. In some cases it is more disruptive than helpful to the care recipient and the caregiver.

Joan recommended that the Family Caregiver Support Program staff recommends that the program change the respite policy from the current three month eligibility service limitation to permanent status based on individual caregiver needs. PMC concurred with this recommendation.

Joan also shared that the Senior & Disabled Services, Senior Connections Program has been selected as a placement site for a Clara Barton AmericaCorps* VISTA member. The S&DS VISTA member will begin a one year service commitment with Senior Connections on August 29, 2005. The VISTA member will serve as the Senior Connections' Resource Development Coordinator. His or her primary duties will be to assist the Senior Connections' staff and volunteers to design and implement an innovative resource development plan. We hope, with the help of our VISTA, to increase public awareness of senior needs and to expand the Program's economic base.

Recruitment of the VISTA will begin in May. S&DS will recruit nationally through the AmericaCorps Recruitment and Placement system, and locally through the LCOG web site, newspaper, and word of mouth. If you know of anyone who may be interested in applying for the position, please contact Joan Taylor at 682-4374 or email her at jtaylor@lane.cog.or.us. VISTA members receive a small living allowance to cover basic living necessities during service. Affordable housing is always difficult to find. If anyone has any ideas for available housing options, please call Joan Taylor.

S&DS is pleased and excited that we were selected to be a Clara Barton AmeriCorps VISTA site in the coming year. The additional resources will

enable Senior Connection's staff to serve more Lane County seniors in new and better ways.

B. Scheduling of June Visit

Patti noted that there were no site visits to schedule during the month of June.

C. In-home Service Contract Update. Patti updated the Committee concerning the OPI In-home Service Contract. She noted that Addus has agreed to extend the existing contract for 6 months with the option to renegotiate the contract in 3 months should the OPI budget be clear.

D. Caregiver Support Group (III-E) Update: Patti noted that she and Joan Taylor met with Andrea Gillispie and Cheryl Boyum, of Cascade Health Solutions, last week and are scheduled to meet again with them this Friday to discuss the design of the Family Caregiver Support Group and training effort they will undertake next year.

5. **Action:** None at this time.
6. **Next Meeting:** PMC agreed to hold the June 28, 2005 final meeting at Marie Callendar's Restaurant at 1:30. They agreed to skip the July and August, unless staff deems a need to meet. *Patti has reserved the Library room. Please note they require a 15% gratuity for 8 or more.*
7. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.