

MINUTES

Senior & Disabled Services
Senior Services Advisory Council
Hilyard Center, 2580 Hilyard St., Eugene

December 11, 2007

Members Present: Jane Boren, Dianne Burch, Mary Johnson, Jean Jordan,
Betty Jane Shirley, David Quale, Donna Peterson,
Dr. Dwayne Rice, Jim Patterson, Jonathan Ramey,

Community Reps
Present: Melissa Bowers, Megan O'Connor

Guest: Moray Povey

Members Excused: Mae Westfall Cook, Cathy Steadman Cox, Marion Esty,
Patricia Giles, Andrea Gillispie, Rod Holst, Kathy Mann,
Dennis Shine, Steve Skipton, Jane Strasdas

Community Reps
Excused: Susan Busler, Yvaughn Tompkins

Staff Members Present: Kay Metzger, Lenora Crowson, Patti Little

A G E N D A

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Jane Boren called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. All present introduced themselves.

2. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING AGENDA

Agenda accepted by consensus without additions.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE OCTOBER MINUTES

Acceptance of the October 9, 2007 minutes was tabled due to the lack of a quorum.

4. LCOG REPORTS

a. LCOG Board of Directors

No report at this time.

b. Disability Services Advisory Council

Mary Johnson reported that progress is being made on the LTD Brokerage. RideSource is already managing the calls for OHP-Plus clients living in Oakridge and will eventually be handling the contracts with the state for Medicaid medical and non-medical rides within Lane County. Effective December 12th, RideSource will be handling the rides for Florence. The next phase of the rollout will be the Cottage Grove/Creswell rides. LTD contracts with the local taxi and w/c van carriers to provide transports. It will also utilize other cost effective means of transportation like public transportation for clients that are able to use this.

5. ACTION ITEMS

None.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

Steve Skipton reported that Cathy Davenport has resigned from the SSAC, due to personal reasons.

b. Committee Reports

(1.) Advocacy Committee

Mary Johnson summarized the recent work of the Advocacy Committee. There was extensive discussion on the Medicare and Medicaid cuts and how best to advocate for our clients. Some ways discussed were to have work sessions to train ourselves in the best way to represent these needs to our legislative representatives, to choose one problem at a time, and to have a script to follow, so we'd have a solid message when talking with them. It was suggested that the Advocacy Committee discuss ways to present these problems to the legislature in the most effective way.

The Advocacy Committee is organizing a Legislative Dialogue prior to the start of the February Session. All are invited to attend.

Jane Boren commended the group on their advocacy efforts related to the health care ombudsman issue.

Kay Metzger distributed blue informational cards that summarize our priorities for the February 2008 Legislative Session.

(2.) Long Term Care Committee

David Quale reported on some of their activities from the past year. Alica Beymer, the past Quality Assurance Program Supervisor at S&DS, came

to one of the meetings to discuss the intake process, applications, and the risks involved with quality assurance. An innovative computer tracking system, which is a model for the state, is being used to track clients. It seems to be working very well. David, also, reported that the membership on this committee is down, and they could use new members. They meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 2-3:30 p.m. at S&DS, 1015 Willamette Street.

(3.) Procurement and Monitoring Committee

On behalf of Pat Giles, Patti Little gave the report. Patti indicated there would be more to report after their January 10, 2008 meeting. Some of their activities in November and December were site visits to the Family Caregiver Support groups through Cascade Health Solutions, monitoring senior meal sites, and the Money Management Program. The Elder Help Program potluck will include both seniors and volunteers. It will be held December 18, 2008, 2:30-4 p.m. at the Willamalane Adult Activity Center.

(4.) Planning and Budget Committee

Kay Metzger reported that the committee has just begun the process of advising on the FY08-09 Older Americans Act budget. They have met two times since our last meeting in October. So far, they have reviewed principles for decision making and have had a general overview of programs and expenditures. They will be meeting again December 19, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. at S&DS.

c. Staff Reports

(1.) S&DS Highlights of Program Year 2006-2007 (Attachment)

Kay Metzger presented the Highlights of Program Year 2006-2007 Report. It gives a picture of the types of services offered, and where we're headed. There was extensive discussion on the senior meal programs and assuring the safety of the individuals. Melissa Bowers commented that more specific information on rural communities would be helpful.

(2.) The 2009 Digital Television Transition and Seniors (Handout)

On February 17, 2009, the nation's television broadcasters will switch from analog to digital transmission of television signals. Many older adults rely on analog television sets. Kay Metzger reported that the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging is working to raise the

visibility of this issue. A digital converter box will need to be attached to an existing analog television set to keep it from going dark in 2009. To aid the low income seniors, the government will be offering coupons worth \$40 toward a converter.

(3.) St. Vincent de Paul Heather Glen Project in Veneta

Kay Metzger announced that state funding was awarded to St. Vincent de Paul to provide affordable housing in Veneta. (See handout)

(4.) Planning Activities for the Future of Long Term Care

Kay Metzger presented a draft of a bill to be presented to the 2008 State Legislature by Bill Morrisette. (See handout) It is a plan toward funding non-Medicaid services, which are designed to delay and/or prevent entrance into Medicaid and will save the tax payer money in the long run. The bill also addresses the growing disparity between Medicaid and private pay rates to Adult Foster Homes, Assisted Living and Residential Care facilities, and the loss of living options for seniors and people with severe disabilities.

7. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A scam targeting seniors was reported by Kay Metzger. (See handout.) Postcards have been sent to senior citizens stating that whatever the government does not pay toward funeral expenses, they will cover up to \$15,000. People are asked to supply personal information on the card which can then be used for fraudulent purposes. Committee members were advised to warn their clients/friends of this scam.

8. REMINDER OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m. at the Hilyard Community Center, 2580 Hilyard St., Eugene.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p. m.