

MINUTES

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

February 8, 2005

Members Present: Anna May Herbert, Chair; Jane Boren, Mae Westfall Cook, Mary Johnson, Jean Jordan, Steve Kraus, Debbie Olsen, Darlene Puls, Rikki Rainey, Oguilvia Skelton, Steve Skipton, Jane Strasdass, Joe Xavier.

Member Excused: Earlene Berry, Marion Esty, Jack Ewing.

CR Members Present: Cathy Steadman Cox, Dianne Burch.

Staff Present: Kay Metzger, Ted Stevens.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anna May Herbert called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Persons present introduced themselves.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Ted Stevens asked to have an Action Item added to the agenda. He shared that the Procurement & Monitoring Committee determined that it would be helpful for the Council to hold a special meeting in May to consider contracting issues.

Action: Without objection, Anna May Herbert ruled that the agenda for the meeting be amended with the addition of one Action Item, #5.c, concerning the holding of a special Council meeting on May 10.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2004 SSAC MEETING

Anna May Herbert pointed out an error on Page 4 of the Minutes of the December 14, 2004. In the first sentence of the final paragraph of Item #6.c(2), the word “about” should be changed to “asked.” As amended, the sentence reads as follows:

“Regarding the latter item, Jean Jordan asked if Portland State University already has data concerning the impact of service cuts on frail seniors and people with disabilities?” The Minutes should also reflect that Marion Esty was in attendance.

Action: Without objection, Anna May Herbert ruled that the Minutes of the December 14, 2004 meeting be approved, as amended.

4. REPORTS

a. LCOG Board of Directors

Ted Stevens reported that the LCOG Board held its annual Appreciation Dinner in early January. The next official Board meeting will be held on February 23, 2005.

b. Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)

Darlene Puls reported on the Disability Council’s January meeting. She stated that the Council considered and accepted proposed amendments to the current year Area Plan Budget, discussed the 12-10-04 reception of State Legislators sponsored by S&DS, received reports from its standing committees and S&DS staff, and discussed the outcome of the investigation of LIPA performed by the Department of Human Services.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. One Year Extension of the In-Home Services Contract

Anna May Herbert presented the recommendation from the Procurement & Monitoring Committee regarding this issue. In her presentation she explained the rationale for this recommendation, namely, the uncertainty regarding the availability of Oregon Project Independence funding for FY 2006.

The background information on this topic furnished in the Council’s meeting packet prompted Council members to ask questions about the direction being pursued by DHS for the procurement of Medicaid-funded in-home services in FY 2006. In the discussion which followed, Ted Stevens opined that DHS’ approach will complicate the delivery of in-home services in Lane County; program administration will be more difficult, given the likelihood of multiple providers; the cost for OPI in-home services will be negatively impacted, due to the loss of volume; and there will be a high likelihood that S&DS will lose the ability to

supply agency-provided Medicaid in-home services in the rural areas of Lane County.

At the conclusion of a good discussion of this topic, the Council voted on the recommendation offered by the Procurement & Monitoring Committee.

Motion: Motion was made by Jane Strasdas and seconded by Mae Westfall Cook to recommend to LCOG that the Addus OPI in-home services contract be extended for an additional one year, with the rates of reimbursement to be set through negotiations between Addus and the In-Home Services Consortium, of which LCOG is a member. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Advocacy Position Statement concerning Medicare's 3-Day Prior Hospital Stay Rule

Ted Stevens provided background information on this topic. He also presented the Advocacy Committee's recommendation.

Mary Johnson asked who would make the decision to authorize Medicare payment for skilled nursing home care using the new criterion advocated by the Advocacy Committee. Jane Boren replied that the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has already developed definitions for use in nursing homes that apply the Committee's criterion. She assumed that nursing home staff would be responsible for applying the criterion. In response to a follow-up question, she stated that the application of the Committee's criterion could mean that a recipient's nursing home benefit under Medicare could be accessed without the necessity of a prior stay in a hospital.

Motion: Motion was made by Mary Johnson and seconded by Jane Strasdas to accept the position statement, including the explanation and argument for its adoption, and to recommend it to LCOG for adoption (see reference memo #5.b; 2-2005, in the Council's February meeting packet). Motion passed unanimously.

c. Special Advisory Council Meeting in May 2005

Anna May Herbert explained the Procurement & Monitoring Committee's recommendation that a special meeting be held in May to provide for the Council's timely consideration of contract selection recommendations for Program Year 2006.

Motion: Motion was made by Joe Xavier and seconded by Jane Boren for the

Senior Services Advisory Council to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2005, starting at 1:30 PM, to consider contracting issues for Program Year 2006 and other issues as may come before the Council. Motion passed unanimously.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

Anna May Herbert stated that she has not been able to attend meetings of the Standing Committees during the last two months, but has been able to stay current on the work of the Committees by reviewing their meeting minutes. She commended all of the Committees for their work and dedication.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Long Term Care Committee

Steve Skipton, Long Term Care Committee Chair, reported on the Committee's January meeting. He stated that turnout was low and, as a result, some items were tabled until more members could be present. Steve shared that the Committee received a report from Paul MacLearn on the needs of seniors in the Oakridge and Westfir communities. In this report, the following needs were identified: transportation, housing, prescription drug coverage, home repair, and socialization/recreation services.

Mae Westfall Cook asked Steve if churches are helping to address the needs of seniors in rural areas. He responded in the affirmative, but stated that he did not believe that they could help with all of the needs, such as, housing. Jean Jordan stated that personal support networks in small towns and rural areas are much stronger than in the larger cities, like Eugene and Springfield. Joe Xavier provided an example of Jean's point, sharing his involvement through his church with five families in the Florence area.

Next, the Council discussed the community's desire that a licensed long term care facility to be sited in the Oakridge/Westfir area. Ted Stevens reported that people in Oakridge have tried to attract a nursing home or assisted living facility for the last fifteen or more years. No developer has been willing to make the investment because there is not a large enough population base to assure the long term financial viability of such a facility.

(2) Planning and Budget Committee

Jane Boren, P&B Committee Chair, reported that the Committee finished its preliminary work on the 2005-06 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services at its January 6th meeting. Working from the summary of the draft plan mailed to members, Jane spoke about the Committee's decision to develop two versions of the Area Plan Budget. Next, she reviewed the key features of both versions. Finally, she announced the public hearing on the draft Area Plan, which is scheduled for February 23, 2005, 1:00 PM, at Willamalane Adult Activity Center, Springfield.

(3) Advocacy Committee

Ted Stevens reported on the January 17, 2005 Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. He stated that S&DS fielded a good delegation for the event, and that all members of the county's legislative delegation were visited during the course of the day. He also urged members to attend the first of two Legislative Dialog events scheduled during the 2005 session. This event will be held on Saturday, March 12, 9:00 – 11:00 AM, at Cascade Community Health Solutions' Adult Day Health Center, 1621 Centennial Blvd., Springfield.

(4) Procurement and Monitoring Committee

Procurement and Monitoring Committee Co-Chair, Jane Strasdas, reported on the Committee's recent meeting. She provided information on recent monitoring visits to the Senior Connections Program, the Senior Mental Health Program, the Senior Law Program, the ElderHelp Program, and the In-Home Services Programs. She also reported on the first month of operation of the pilot OPI Hospice Program. Regarding that program, she mentioned that 18 intakes were performed, resulting in 15 people being admitted to services. Finally, Jane reported that re-contracting negotiations are underway for the extension of the Food Services Contract with Bateman Food Services.

d. Medicare Part D

Ted Stevens briefly summarized the implementation information on Part D of Medicare provided to Council members in their meeting packets.

e. Staff Reports

(1) United Way Certification and Funding Request

Ted Stevens announced that LCOG Senior & Disabled Services was invited by United Way of Lane County to seek certification as an agency eligible to receive funds from the annual campaign. He reported that S&DS completed the application process and was found acceptable. Now, S&DS has made application for its first allocation of funds. If this application is approved, funds will be available for the January – December 2006 period.

(2) Change in S&DS' Hospital Case Management Services

Ted Stevens provided background information on S&DS' long-standing arrangement with Sacred Heart Medical Center for the placement of an agency Case Manager in the hospital. He explained Sacred Heart's decision approximately two years ago to drop back to a half-time worker, and S&DS' outreach to McKenzie-Willamette Hospital to secure work for the other half of the position. Next, he reported that Sacred Heart has recently reversed its decision, with the result that S&DS now has 1.5 FTE Case Managers working between the two hospitals, a full-time person at Sacred Heart and a half-time person at McKenzie-Willamette. The names of S&DS' workers were shared, as follows: Sacred Heart – Kelly Lynch and McKenzie-Willamette – Kathy Smith.

(3) Legislative Updates

Ted Stevens drew members' attention to two items contained in their meeting packets: a list of Lane County legislators, including their Capital addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses; and a list of legislators' committee assignments for the 2005 Session of the Legislative Assembly.

7. Other Reports and Announcements

Jane Boren reminded members of the agreement between Oregon's Department of Human Services and LIPA to settle complaints lodged against LIPA by local advocates for seniors and people with disabilities. She reported that LIPA and representatives of Oregon Health Plan Improvement Group (OHPIG) are beginning to hold discussions. She also reported that Senator Bill Morrisette has asked Legislative Counsel to draft a bill calling for the appointment of an ombudsman for enrollees in managed health care plans. When this bill is given a hearing, Jane stated that representatives of OHPIG plan to testify.

8. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN

Anna May Herbert reminded members that the next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2005, 1:30 PM, at Hilyard Community Center.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

(Recorded by Ted Stevens)

LCOG: S:\MANAGEMENT\MINUTES 2005\SSAC.020805.DOC.RTF

Last Saved: February 15, 2005