

MINUTES

Senior & Disabled Services
Senior Services Advisory Council
Wells Fargo Building, 99 E. Broadway, Eugene

February 14, 2006

Members Present: Anna May Herbert, Chair; Mae Westfall Cook, Jack Ewing, Mary Johnson, Jane Strasdas, Dianne Burch, Steve Skipton, Joe Xavier, Debbie Olsen, Don Hamton, Marion Esty (by phone during the Action Item).

Members Excused: Andrea Gillispie, Darlene Puls, Jim Patterson, Jane Boren, Jean Jordan, David Quale, Jon Ramey.

CR Member Present: Cathy Steadman-Cox

Staff Members Present: Patti Little, and Kay Metzger.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anna May Herbert called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM. Persons in attendance introduced themselves.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Anna May Herbert asked to have an Action Item added to the agenda. She 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 to include an additional Action Item, #5.b, concerning the holding of a special Council meeting in May.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2005 SSAC MEETING

Diane Burch pointed out that Don Hampton should be included in the list of “Members Excused”, as he had e-mailed Ted Stevens of his inability to attend the

meeting.

Action: Moved by Mary Johnson, and seconded by Jane Strasdas, to approve the Minutes of the December 13, 2005 meeting of the Senior Council, as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

4. LCOG REPORTS

a. LCOG Board of Directors

Kay Metzger reported that the annual LCOG Appreciation Dinner was held on Thursday, January 26, 2006 at Lane Community College. The dinner was well attended. Ted Stevens, recently retired Director of Senior & Disabled Services, received the 2005 Public Employee of the Year award.

b. Disability Services Advisory Council

Kay Metzger reported that, while she was unable to attend the January meeting of the LCOG's Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC), she had recently reviewed the minutes. The DSAC participated in a thorough discussion of the By-Laws of the Disability Services Advisory Council, with several recommendations for changes and amendments. There will be further review at the March meeting. Additionally, the Nominating Committee of the DSAC proposed changes to the Recruitment Procedure, which were amended and accepted by unanimous vote.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Elder Help Program

In the absence of a quorum, Marion Esty was contacted by phone and agreed to participate during the Action Item discussion. Once Marion joined the group a quorum was met. Patti Little reviewed the focus and history of the Elder Help Program. On October 13, 2005 Amy Raven, the Elder Help Coordinator, submitted her letter of resignation. S&DS entered into contract with Sue Maddron for the remainder of the contract period (October 22, 2005 through June 30, 2006). With more than 31 years of experience as a case manager, Sue has the knowledge base and background to effectively oversee the program.

A site review of the Elder Help Program was completed at the Elder Help Holiday Potluck by a member of the Procurement & Monitoring Committee. The site visit

reported that Ms. Maddron was doing an excellent job. Additionally, since December Ms. Maddron has trained five new volunteers for the program and has plans to expand the program to cover the Florence and Oakridge areas in the near future.

Given this good report, along with the fact that the recommended FY 2006-07 Elder Help allocation is well under the State and Federal dollar amount required for a Request for Proposal, the PMC supported the award of the contract to Sue Maddron.

Motion: Moved by Don Hampton, and seconded by Jane Strasdas, to recommend to LCOG that no RFP be conducted for the Elder Help Program and the contract continue to be awarded to Sue Maddron, contingent on the submission of acceptable yearly continuation contract proposals. Motion passed unanimously.

b. May Meeting of the SSAC

Kay Metzger shared that, in the past, a meeting in May has been needed to review contract selection recommendations by the Procurement & Monitoring Committee for the following program year. Additionally, the May meeting has included a report by the Nominating Committee regarding recommendations for appointments of new members to the SSAC. The Council agreed by consensus to hold a special meeting of the SSAC on May 9, 2006 at the Hilyard Center.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

SSAC Chair, Anna May Herbert, stated there was no information to report at this time.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Advocacy Committee

Dianne Burch reported on the Legislative Conversation held at the Boulders Community Room on Friday, January 20, 2006, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM. Senator Vicki Walker, Representatives Debi Farr and Robert Ackerman all attended. Dianne reported that the Legislators offered input on how to enhance our advocacy efforts and be more effective. The Legislators stated that a positive, credible

approach was very helpful. Dianne also stated we should “rehearse our message” in order to have the best impact. During the January Legislative Conversation, Dan Arkin brought up the challenges seniors and people with disabilities face in traveling to Salem to testify on issues that are important to them. He asked the Legislators if it were possible to consider video conferencing. The Legislators were very receptive of this idea and encouraged the Advocacy Committee to pursue this.

The SSAC members followed with a general discussion of various current issues, and their observations from recent experience. Mary Johnson opined that there seems to be some issues that are “shoe-ins”, as Senator Verger pointed out at the December Legislative Conversation in Florence. Perhaps we should work harder at tailoring our ideas to mesh with services that have appeal with the elected officials. Steve Skipton stated that it puzzles him how OPI can be so popular, yet Legislators recently cut services to Medicaid clients in Survival Priority Levels 14-17 (who were primarily in-home clients). Patti Little responded that perhaps the appeal of OPI is that it is seen as a preventative measure to enrollment in Medicaid. Dianne Burch invited others to attend the February 17th meeting, if they are available.

(2) Long Term Care Committee

Steve Skipton reported that the Long Term Care Committee had an interesting presentation and discussion about guardianship issues. Rikki Rainey, Steve, and two S&DS Adult Protective Services staff (Becky Strickland and Alden Jayes) participated in the lively exchange of ideas and information.

(3) Procurement and Monitoring Committee

Anna May Herbert reported on the most recent meeting of the Procurement and Monitoring Committee. She shared that the Committee received good reports from Sandy Karsten on the Food Services contract and Patti Little on the in-home services contract with Addus. The Food Services contract is still in continuation mode and will go out to bid next year. Patti reported that the contracting process had begun for the Tri-Agency In-Home Services contract, with submissions from two agencies in response to the Request for Proposals. A proposer’s conference was held two weeks ago and one agency pulled their application out of the process. Therefore, there a sole source contracting process will now be pursued. Thus, there is no need for those who had volunteered to participate in the selection process (Mary Johnson, Jean Jordan, Kay Metzger and Patti Little) to commit their time to this activity.

There were three site visits completed in December. One was to the Elder Help Program, one to Senior Law and the last to Cascade Health Solutions, the contractor for the Family Caregiver Support group. Cathy Steadman-Cox commented that she enjoys visiting with the recipients of services when she does the site visits. The next PMC meeting is February 28, 2006 from 1:30-3:00.

Joe Xavier stated he had concerns about the coastal residents who receive Meals on Wheels, and what they would do in the event of an emergency. Does the food services contractor provide emergency meals? He stated he would like to see the written guidelines of the Meals Program for emergency preparedness. Kay indicated she would follow up with Sandy Karsten on this issue and respond to Joe's request.

(4) Planning and Budget Committee

Kay Metzger distributed copies of the Area Plan Update for 2006-07. The public hearing will be held next Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. at the Hilyard Center. All are invited to attend.

(5) Nominating Committee

Kay reviewed the Nominating Committee members for 2006 which are, Marion Esty, Joe Xavier, Don Hampton, and Oguilvia Skelton. Cathy Steadman-Cox pointed out that she was inadvertently dropped from the committee. Kay added her to the roster, and informed those present that she would be contacting them in March to begin planning for the recruitment process.

c. Staff Reports

(1) Medicare Part D Implementation Updates

(a) For "Dual Eligibles"

Kay informed the Council that S&DS has successfully completed their effort to contact the 4900 "fully dual eligibles". However, there is still many problems in accessing prescriptions that staff are assisting clients with. Each problem must be handled on a case by case basis. The temporary MMA Choice Counselors have also begun working with clients who only receive assistance with their Medicare premiums (QMB/SMB program clients). These clients have not have prescription coverage through Medicaid, and many have been using the Prescription Assistance

Programs through the pharmaceutical companies. A successful transition to the MMA program is particularly important for these clients.

(b) For other Medicare enrollees

Kay shared that Brent Wood is continuing to do presentations to the general public on MMA. Additionally, AmeriCorps volunteers will be coming to town in late February through March. They will be holding events in the rural areas to assist people with enrollment in a prescription drug plan.

(2) Other Staff Reports

No other reports by staff were presented.

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

a. Network of Care

Patti Little provided the group with a presentation of the Network of Care website. The Network of Care offers easy, internet-based information about the comprehensive services available in Lane County. Patti walked the group through each of the six sections of the website.

- The “Resource Finder” allows a person to search for services in the area.
- The “Library” holds pertinent articles on aging and disability issues.
- The “Assistive Devices” lists equipment, suppliers and the cost of adaptive equipment.
- “Links” directs the user to the websites of local, state and federal agencies.
- “Legislate” allows the person to track a bill or communicate directly with lawmakers.
- “My Record” creates an on-line file of medical and legal information about oneself to share with relatives or friends if you choose.

Cathy Steadman-Cox pointed out the brochure for the Network of Care website should be improved to allow people with macular degeneration to better see the wording.

b. S&DS Website

Patti showcased the newly updated S&DS website for the group.

8. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no other reports or announcements.

9. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN

Anna May Herbert reminded members that the next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2006, 1:30 PM, at the Hilyard Community Center.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 PM.

(Recorded by Kay Metzger)

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