

MINUTES

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

February 13, 2007

Members Present: Jane Boren, Chair; Steve Skipton, Vice-Chair; Dianne Burch; David Quale, Pat Giles, Marion Esty, Darlene Puls, Jim Patterson, Jean Jordan, Cathy Steadman Cox, Jane Strasdas, Andrea Gillispie, Rikki Rainey, Steve Kraus.

Members Excused: Don Hampton, Dennis Shine, Mae Westfall Cook, Mary Johnson

Staff Members Present: Kay Metzger, Patti Little, Sandy Karsten

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jane Boren, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

2. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING AGENDA

Kay Metzger requested the Staff Report on the 2006 Needs Assessment be moved to an earlier time on the agenda, as Patti Little needed to leave early. The Council concurred that agenda item 6.c(1) be moved to 4.c. Agenda approved with change noted.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE December 2006 MINUTES

Motion: Steve Skipton moved the minutes be accepted as mailed. Jim Patterson seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously with no corrections.

4. LCOG REPORTS

a. LCOG Board of Directors

Kay reported on the January Annual Dinner held by LCOG at the Village Green Inn in Cottage Grove.

b. Disability Services Advisory Council

Darlene Puls reported on the January 2007 DSAC meeting. Committee members were requested to offer input on the expansion of OPI services to people with disabilities. Additionally, O4AD asked for input on how to effectively communicate with the public regarding the needs of people with disabilities.

c. 2006 Needs Assessment

Patti Little presented the recently completed “2006 Needs Assessment of Lane County Seniors and Persons with Disabilities” to the Council. The information contained within the study includes research on current publications, studies, census data and services provided through S&DS. Additionally, seven focus groups were conducted throughout the county to gather public opinion on desired services and unmet needs. Jean Jordan noted that the annual cost of nursing home care was understated in the report. SSAC members also gave suggestions on the distribution of the report, recommending that it be distributed widely to human service organizations, municipalities, and legislators.

5. ACTION ITEM

a. Exploration of Integrated Medicaid Pilot Project

Kay Metzger shared that S&DS staff are beginning to explore a new concept for service delivery in Lane County, which would combine the direct service-delivery funding with case management/eligibility services. Currently case management/eligibility and direct service-delivery are funded separately (S&DS receives funding to do case management/eligibility while the State of Oregon finances direct service-delivery). The pilot project would be a collaboration between three Area Agencies on Aging – LCOG, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments and Northwest Senior & Disability Services. The Council offered the following comments/suggestions:

- There must be safeguards for delivery of quality care to participants.
- Increased flexibility in delivery of services is highly supported.
- Long term care services are more appropriately delivered through public entities (whose primary responsibility is to the public) rather than for-profit organizations (whose primary responsibility is to share-holders).
- Local control and direction is preferred over centralized control. This model moves the decision-making closer to the individual.
- A social model of care, founded in principles of consumer independence and choice, is preferred over a model of care that is medically-oriented and directed.

- The SSAC would like to be kept informed of the progress of this research.

Motion: Jean Jordan moved that S&DS staff continue forward with discussions regarding reconfiguring how long term care services are managed and delivered in Lane County. David Quale seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Nominating Committee Members

Kay reviewed the members of the SSAC Nominating Committee who are: Mae Westfall Cook, Cathy Steadman Cox, Marion Esty and Don Hampton. Kay asked if there were any additional members interested in participating on the Committee. Pat Giles volunteered. Work should begin in March or early April.

c. Other Action Items

Sandy Karsten shared information with the SSAC regarding the impact of the potential loss of revenue from Lane County, due to the Federal termination of timber funds. Sandy asked if any members were interested in connecting with a Lane County Commissioner about the importance of the funding S&DS receives through the County. Both the Senior Meals and the Senior Connections Programs receive funding. Jean Jordan, Andre Gillispie and Marion Esty volunteered.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

No report at this time.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Advocacy Committee

Jim Patterson reported the Advocacy Committee has been very busy this past month. A meeting is scheduled on Thursday with Dr. Douma of DMAP to present concerns about DMAP's policy-making and customer service practices. Additionally, Senator Morrisette has presented SB360 which sets up a Health Care Ombudsman's Office independent of DHS.

(2) Procurement and Monitoring Committee

Jane Strasdas reported the PMC reviewed the Elderhelp Program, Senior Law, Meals on Wheels, Caregiver Training, and Food Services. Jean Jordan reported that all contracts are doing well.

(3) Planning and Budget

Jane Boren reported that the draft Area Plan Budget is complete and there will be a Public Hearing held on Feb. 27th.

(4) Long Term Care Committee

David Quale reported the LTCC has been hearing reports from S&DS staff in order to give them a better understanding of the services, and a good background to provide helpful input. The Committee has been evaluating the challenges within the Home Care Worker program, such as the oversight and monitoring of providers.

c. Staff Reports

(1) 2006 Needs Assessment

Item already discussed.

(2) S&DS Emergency Response Plan

Due to time, this issue was tabled until the next meeting

7. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a presentation by Dr. Kitzhaber tomorrow. Also, the Women's Center at LCC is sponsoring an Open House on Feb. 14th from 4:00-6:00.

8. REMINDER OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

April 10th, 1:30 p.m.
Hilyard Center

9. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.