

MINUTES

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

February 12, 2008

Members Present: Dianne Burch, David Quale, Rod Holst, Steve Skipton,
Jane Strasdas, Jim Patterson, Dennis Shine, Donna Peterson,
Betty Jane Shirley, Mary Johnson, Cathy Stedman Cox,
Marion Esty, Patricia Gile, Jane Boren

Community Reps
Present: Susan Busler, Yvaughn Tompkins,

Guest: Morey Povey

Members Excused: Mae Westfall Cook, Andrea Gillispie, Jean Jordan, Kathy
Mann, Jonathon Ramey, Dr. Dwayne Rice,

Community Reps
Excused: Melissa Bowers, Megan O'Connor

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

A G E N D A

1. CALL TO ORDER; SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Steve Skipton called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. All present introduced themselves.

The October 9, 2007 Minutes were passed out to those who needed them for review. Information distributed at the December meeting was made available, specifically the Digital TV Transition and Seniors flyer, the Heather Glen Project announcement, the update on the LTD Medical Transportation Brokerage, a funeral expense payment scam e-mail, and a copy of the Legislative Senate Bill 1061.

2. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING AGENDA

Agenda accepted by consensus without additions.

3. CONSIDERATION OF OCTOBER MINUTES

Motion: Jim Patterson moved to accept the October 9, 2007 Minutes with no changes noted. Jane Strasdas seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously with no changes.

Correction to the December 11, 2007 Minutes: Steve Skipton asked for correction of the Chair Report as he was absent from that meeting, and Jane Boren acted as the Chairperson in his place. The Chair's Report was corrected to read as follows: Jane Boren reported that Cathy Davenport has resigned from the SSAC, due to personal reasons. Marion Esty seconded the motion to correct the December 11, 2007's minutes. The corrected December 11, 2007 Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. LCOG REPORTS

a. LCOG Board of Directors

Kay Metzger reported that an Appreciation Dinner was held at Lane Community College on January 24, 2008. Various awards were given to elected officials and the best of Group Project and Collaboration. The focus of the dinner's program was on the appreciation of people and collaboration within the community. The next LCOG Board Meeting will be the fourth Thursday in February.

b. Disability Services Advisory Council

Mary Johnson reported that the Durable Medical Equipment reimbursement rate cut within the state would be a hardship on the disabled population. As an example, Mary described the recent difficulty a DSAC member had in obtaining service / replacement for her power chair. The Council, also, discussed using talking points when contacting our Legislators. Mary reported that the January 26, 2008 Legislative Forum was successful. Discussion followed.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Senior/People with Disabilities Advocacy Day (Attachment)

The State of Oregon House Majority Office is organizing a Disabilities Advocacy Day to be held on February 15, 2008 in Salem. Kay Metzger announced that five people will be going from here. They are Jim Patterson, Mary Johnson, Donna Peterson, and two members from DSAC. There were several more interested in joining those already going. Kay asked all those going to meet with her after the meeting.

b. Confirm Nominating Committee Members

Kay Metzger confirmed that Cathy Stedman Cox, Jane Boren, Marion Esty, Patricia Giles, and Mae Westfall Cook are the Nominating Committee members. The nominating process will start in March.

c. Other Action Items

None

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

Steve Skipton, Tim Baxter, a DSAC member, and Nancy Sargent-Johnson, Program Manager at S&DS, are involved in a work group called Payment Limitations Work Group, a group convened by S&DS in Salem to deal with payment levels for people receiving in-home care. People should have a choice about the type of care setting in which they receive care. If they are able to live at home and do, that's their choice. There are, of course, considerations of cost and safety. Living at home is better, because it promotes choice, independence, dignity, and it is cost effective. Their group is trying to champion choice and cost. Discussion followed.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Advocacy Committee

Mary Johnson reported that the Legislative Dialog that took place January 26, 2008 was very successful. The community turnout was not as good as they would've liked, but the response from the legislators was great. Nine out of twelve legislators attended. Discussions about the issues were beneficial. They are hoping to get additional OPI money in the February Session, and a redress of the long standing equity issue since AAA offices get less than DHS offices. They will be going to the Disabilities Advocacy Day in Salem on Friday, so they are hoping to follow up on the conversations they had with the legislators at the Legislative Dialog. The Legislators assured us that one of their priorities is finding additional money for Senior and Disabled Services. Discussion followed.

(2) Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)

David Quale stated that their committee is called on to review the functions of Senior & Disabled Services. A Coordinator of Quality Assurance was assigned last year at S&DS. The LTCC has been involved in surveying the staff regarding quality issues and looking at issues of staffing. An agency review was completed in December 2007 by SPD. S&DS was given a very favorable review. The committee took a look at the incoming telephone scripts (phone tree) in regard to the front door of the agency. They would like to make it as easy as possible for people calling for the first time by minimizing the choices and maximizing the opportunity of connecting with a human being. Improving efficiency is the main goal.

(3) Procurement and Monitoring Committee

Pat Giles reported that two reviews were conducted; one in December 2007 and the other in January 2008. Yvaughn Tompkins reviewed In-Home Services in

December, and found that they were doing a good job keeping the services relevant to the client's needs. The only suggestion made was to put a date on the client family caregiver survey form. Mary Johnson completed the second review by attending the Early Memory Loss Support Group. She completed a thorough narrative of the excellent service they provide for our community in helping our clients and caregivers. There is a concern that this program may face some cuts. The contract process will be in May, and we need a quorum to approve them.

(4) Planning and Budget Committee

Rod Holst reported the Planning and Budget Committee met January 29, 2008. Three things accomplished were accepting the principles of decision making, discussing, and then approving the 2008-2009 Area Plan Budget. The next step is passing the 2008-2009 Area Plan Budget Hearing on February 26, 2008. Rod noted that Mae Westfall Cook's presence has been missed as she contributes many ideas to the committee.

c. Staff Reports

(1) Senior Meals Program Presentation (See brochures and fact sheet)

Sandy Karsten, Senior Meals Manager at Senior and Disabled Services gave an extensive report on the Meals On Wheels Program. The Senior Meals Program is two pronged. On the one side is the group dining program. The other is the Home Delivered Meals program, or better known as Meals on Wheels. These are partially funded by the Older American's Act. They were designed in the early 1970s with two purposes in mind which are still considered to be the major building blocks to independence and healthy aging. First, a person needs a well balanced diet in order to maintain their health. Second, a person who is isolated is at greater risk of losing his/her independence. Both programs serve seniors 60 and older. The group dining program operates in twelve locations around the county. Low income people are the main target, but there is no means testing for participation. Over half of our people participating in the program live below 125% of the poverty level. Sandy spoke of the need to expand and modernize these programs. As an example, the staff is using computers from the mid-1980s, and they do not have easy access to the internet. (See fact sheet.) Fund raising is extremely critical to the sustainability of the program. About 20% of the budget must be raised through private donations. Direct mail campaigns are used, along with an endowment program. (See brochure). Close to a \$225,000 was raised last year, and the hope is to raise \$300,000 this year.

The Senior Meals Program's performance is monitored by the Procurement and Monitoring Committee. S&DS through LCOG leases a facility in Eugene that is equipped as the central kitchen which provides the food service for all the serving locations in Lane County. We, also, own two heated and refrigerated

trucks which deliver the food from the central kitchen to all of the locations including Florence, Oakridge, Junction City, Cottage Grove, Veneta, Creswell, and Springfield. Keeping the trucks operational is expensive. One truck has just been replaced at the cost of \$52,000, and the other should be replaced as well; however, currently there is not enough money available to do it. The kitchen is thirty years old and needs capital improvements to stay operational and meet new codes. These are the challenges the program faces.

Senior Meals is a member of the Tri-Agency Food Service Consortium, partnering with Oregon Cascades West and Northwest Senior and Disabilities Services to harness greater buying power for all three agencies.

Senior Meals contracts with the American Red Cross as a partner in delivering MOW for most of the Eugene and north Springfield area. Sandy's staff delivers the MOW in Springfield and out lying communities. They work **extremely** closely together in a good partnership with the Red Cross. It's been effective to have a public agency team up with a private non-profit organization.

Additional discussion followed.

7. Other Reports and Announcements

Dennis Shine reported that one of the Advocacy Committee's goals is to reach out to the minority community. As part of this goal, Patti Little handed out materials at the Martin Luther King Celebration. Additionally, Susan Busler shared regarding the Project Homeless Connect that was held at the fairgrounds with about 900 volunteers, including several from S&DS.

Kay Metzger announced that the extra meeting for May will be held in the second week of May 2008.

8. Reminder of Next Council Meeting

April 8, 2008, 1:30 p.m.

Hilyard Community Center

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.