

MINUTES

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

April 12, 2005

Members Present: Anna May Herbert, Chair; Jane Boren, Mae Westfall Cook, Marion Esty, Jack Ewing, Mary Johnson, Steve Kraus, Paul MacLearn, Darlene Puls, Alice Putnam, Rikki Rainey, Jonathan Ramey, L.M. Reese, Oguilvia Skelton, Steve Skipton, Carolee Smith, Jane Strasdass, Joe Xavier.

CR Members Present: Dianne Burch, Andrea Gillespie.

Guest Present: Moray Povey.

Staff Present: Sandy Karsten, Patti Little, Ted Stevens.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anna May Herbert called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Persons present introduced themselves.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Action: Without objection, Anna May Herbert ruled that the agenda for the meeting be accepted, as presented.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2005 SSAC MEETING

Motion: Moved by Mae Westfall Cook and seconded by Joe Xavier to approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2005 meeting, as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Following the approval of the Minutes, Mae Westfall Cook asked staff for

information on S&DS' applications to United Way for certification and funding. Ted Stevens replied that LCOG Senior & Disabled Services applied for and was accepted to receive United Way funds. He noted that LCOG is the first public agency in Lane County to be accepted into the United Way fund distribution process. Regarding its request for funds, Ted reported that all newly admitted agencies were limited to asking for no more than \$5,000. He stated that S&DS decided to focus its request on the expansion of the Senior Connections' Prescription Drug Assistance Program in the outlying areas of the county. This request is still pending. A decision is expected in May or June.

4. REPORTS

a. LCOG Board of Directors

Ted Stevens reported that the LCOG Board met on February 23, 2005, but did not consider items specific to Senior & Disabled Services.

b. Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)

Darlene Puls reported on the Disability Council's March meeting. She reported that representatives of the Lane County Parks Department attended the meeting to share information on the Department's process for updating the County's Parks and Open Space Master Plan and to ask for input on the development of this plan update. Darlene also reported that the Council considered and accepted the recommended advocacy statement on Medicare's 3-day prior hospital stay rule, as well as the proposed 2005-06 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services, as amended following the 2-23-05 public hearing on the plan. Further, she reported that the Council received reports from its standing committees and S&DS staff, and discussed issues associated with the transit strike against LTD and the associated problems the strike created for people with transportation needs.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Food Service for Senior Meals, via the Tri-Agency Consortium

Anna May Herbert provided a brief background statement on this topic, introduced Sandy Karsten, Senior Meals Program Manager, to the Council, and asked for questions on the recommendation presented by the Procurement and Monitoring Committee. Several questions were posed, as follows:

- Mae Westfall Cook asked about the Central Kitchen. Sandy Karsten explained

that LCOG leases the facility from the property owner and equips it with the food processing equipment required for the preparation of the food. LCOG, in turn, subleases the kitchen and equipment to Bateman, the vendor that produces the meals for the program.

- Mae Westfall Cook also asked about the monitoring of the performance of Bateman. Sandy and PMC Committee members explained the various monitoring activities which are undertaken each year.
- Joe Xavier asked several detailed questions about the rates being recommended by the Procurement and Monitoring Committee. Among his questions, he asked if LCOG receives and reviews Bateman's "operating statements," if LCOG has detailed information on Bateman's fixed costs, and if LCOG receives net income and profit statements from Bateman. Sandy responded by describing the procurement process used to select Bateman as the vendor, and noted the details in Bateman's budget for the provision of the service. Her responses did not satisfy Joe's interests for detailed financial information on Bateman's operations. Other Council members questioned Joe's need for these details. Joe responded that he has 40 years of professional experience in the food service industry. Given this experience, he stated that he feels that more information should be available from Bateman to support its requested rates.

Motion: Moved by Jane Strasdas and seconded by Marion Esty to recommend to LCOG the acceptance of the Procurement and Monitoring Committee recommendation and proposed meal rates, as set forth in the memo presented to the Council under this agenda heading. This motion passed, with Joe Xavier abstaining.

b. Area Plan Update for 2005-06

Jane Boren, Planning & Budget Committee Chair, provided background information on this topic and reported on the February 23rd public hearing on the draft 2005-06 Area Plan Update. Regarding the hearing, she shared that three representatives of the Lane County Long Term Care Ombudsman Recruitment and Screening Committee attended to object to the Committee's recommendation that funding for the Committee be eliminated in the Option #1 version of the 2005-06 Area Plan Budget. She reported that these representatives brought to the attention of the Committee language in the Older Americans Act requiring Area Agencies on Aging to fund local long term care ombudsman activities at no lower than FY 2000 levels. Next, Jane reported on the February 23rd Planning & Budget Committee deliberations following the close of the public hearing. After an extensive debate, the Committee, on a split vote, decided to dip into reserves to

allocate \$1,254 of OAA III-B funds to the Lane County Long Term Care Ombudsman Recruitment and Screening Committee in the Option #1 version of the budget and instruct S&DS staff to: (1) research how other AAAs in Oregon support local Ombudsman recruitment and screening activities; and (2) send a strongly worded letter to the Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman urging its support of the Lane County Committee. At the conclusion of her report, Jane presented the Committee's recommendations to the Council regarding this matter.

Following Jane Boren's report, Mae Westfall Cook praised the representatives of the local committee for attending the public hearing and for bringing their concerns and issues to the attention of the Planning & Budget Committee. Moray Povey, Chairperson of the Lane County Long Term Care Ombudsman Recruiting and Screening Committee, addressed the Council. She stated that it was incorrect to assume that the State Long Term Care Ombudsman does not support the work of the local recruitment and screening committee; she reported that the local committee receives considerable in-kind support from the State Ombudsman's Office.

Motion: Moved by Jane Boren and seconded by Mae Westfall Cook that the SSAC recommend the following to LCOG: (1) the adoption of the 2005-06 Area Plan Update, as amended following the 2-23-05 public hearing, and (2) that S&DS staff be authorized to submit the Option #1 version of the Plan Update to the Oregon Department of Human Services. Motion passed unanimously.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

Anna May Herbert reported that she has not been able to attend most meetings of the Standing Committees, however, she 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 behalf of the Committee. First, he stated that the Committee received a reply from the

Department of Human Services to its suggestion that DHS issue “smart” medical cards in the place of the current paper medical card. He indicated that DHS stated that this was a good idea, but that it could not be done. Second, Steve reported on the Committee’s project to re-survey former clients who lost services in 2003 during the large-scale downsizing of DHS services. He stated that the purpose of this project was to assess how these former clients are doing, after approximately two years without services. Of the 26 former clients identified to re-survey, thirteen have been contacted so far. None are doing well. Five were in such poor shape that they were referred back to S&DS for re-evaluation and, possibly, reinstatement of services. Kay Metzger is evaluating these cases. Steve reported that the Committee hopes to conclude this project by its May 3rd meeting, and plans to present its findings to the Advocacy Committee at its May 20th meeting. Finally, Steve reported that the Committee continues to receive and review the Customer Service Reports submitted to S&DS by agency clients. He stated that between 75 and 100 reports are received each month, and that the vast majority are very complimentary of the services being provided by the agency and its staff.

(2) Advocacy Committee

Ted Stevens reported on the February and March meetings of the Advocacy Committee. He stated that the majority of the February meeting was spent preparing for the March 12th Legislative Dialog, and that a considerable portion of the March meeting was spent debriefing the event. In addition, he reported that the Committee is tracking the status of bills that have a bearing on S&DS’ legislative priorities for the 2005 Session.

Following Ted’s report, Mary Johnson asked for information on the budget proposals recently released by the Co-Chairs of the Joint Ways and Means Committee. Ted explained the specifics of the Co-Chairs’ proposals and commented more broadly on the status of the development of the 2005-07 State Budget by the Legislature. Regarding the latter point, he opined that the process is moving much more quickly than in prior legislative sessions and, as a result, that now is the time for senior and disability advocates to press their budget priorities. Expanding on this topic, Ted reported that advocates for K-12 education have been very successful this session, with the result that the Legislature is likely to agree to \$5.4 billion for the K-12 education budget, leaving an additional \$.3 billion shortfall for other budgets supported by the State’s General Fund, especially Human Services.

Mary Johnson and Mae Westfall Cook reported that they had received calls from

the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities urging them to write letters to the editors, call or email to local legislators, and to attend next Wednesday's lobby day at the State Capitol. Regarding the lobby day, Ted Stevens reported that RideSource is willing to send a lift-equipped van to Salem that day, provided that there are several mobility impaired advocates who are willing to lobby for funding for senior and disability services. Ted shared that Patti Little is coordinating transportation to the lobby day event.

Dianne Burch announced that the next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be held on Friday, April 15, 2:15 pm, at Hilyard Community Center, Eugene. Anna May Herbert urged any Council member with an interest in advocacy to attend this meeting.

(3) Procurement and Monitoring Committee

Anna May Herbert, Procurement and Monitoring Committee Co-Chair, reported on the Committee's March meeting. She stated that the Committee received the findings of recent monitoring visits, scheduled April monitoring visits, received a status report on the negotiations for the extension of the in-home services contract with Addus Health Care, and agreed to meet on April 28 (1:30 – 3:30 pm, Campbell Center) to act on applications from providers for 2005-06 continuation contracts.

(4) Nominating Committee

Patti Little presenting information on the membership needs of the Council for the Program Year which starts on July 1, 2005. She also reported that the Nominating Committee held its first meeting of the year earlier in the day. Then, she invited Joe Xavier, recently elected Nominating Committee Chair, to report on the day's meeting.

Joe reported that a productive meeting was held immediately prior to the start of the SSAC meeting. He indicated that the Committee agreed on a plan for identifying new members for appointment to the Council, and developed a slate of candidates to nominate for SSAC officers of 2005-06. He stated that the Committee's recommendations will be presented to the Council at its special meeting on May 10, 2005.

c. Staff Reports

(1) Senior Meals Endowment Fund

Sandy Karsten presented information to the Council on the recently created Senior Meals Program Endowment Fund. She explained that the Senior Meals Program has been soliciting private charitable funds from donors for the last sixteen years. Funds raised from donors have been, and continue to be critical to sustaining the size and scope of the program, with such funds becoming increasingly more important each year. Sandy noted that sixteen years ago, the annual fund raising goal was \$8,000; in contrast, this year's goal is in excess of \$250,000. In addition to raising funds for day-to-day operations, Sandy reported that the program is now beginning to work to develop an endowment fund to help sustain the program in the future. She explained that an endowment fund is a trust fund, where the principle is invested prudently and the income from these investments is made available to fund on-going operations. Sandy described two large gifts which have been received by the program in the past couple of years and reported that one of them has been used to launch the program's endowment fund. Sandy shared that responsibility for the investment of endowment funds has been turned over to the Oregon Community Foundation, through an arrangement with the Southern Willamette Services Corporation.

Following the presentation of this background information, Sandy presented the recently-produced Senior Meals Program Endowment Fund brochure. She reported that it has been sent to program donors, and soon will be distributed to program clients, as well as to local attorneys and financial planners. Concerning the initial mail out to donors, Sandy reported that the program received back several thousands of dollars, some for placement in the endowment and some for day-to-day operations. At the conclusion of her remarks, Sandy urged SSAC members to think about the needs of the Senior Meals Program as they develop their own estate plans.

(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 a status report on the agency's 2005 legislative priorities. In this report, the various bills that have a bearing on local priorities were highlighted. Members noted that several of these bills have been introduced at S&DS' request by local legislators.

At the conclusion of this report, Ted Stevens reminded SSAC members of the May 21st Legislative Dialog. He urged members to schedule it on their calendars – Saturday, May 21, 9:30 – 11:30 AM, Hilyard Community Center, Eugene.

7. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN

Anna May Herbert reminded members that the next Council meeting will be a special meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2005, 1:30 PM, at Hilyard Community Center.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.

(Recorded by Ted Stevens)
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