

MINUTES

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

April 10th, 2007

Members Present: Dennis Shine, Steve Skipton, Vice Chair; David Quale, Mary Johnson, Dianne Burch, Pat Giles, Mae Westfall Cook, Murray Petitt,

Members Participating By Phone: Marion Esty, Jane Strasdas, Cathy Steadman Cox

Members Excused: Jim Patterson, Andrea Gillispie, Jane Boren

Staff Members Present: Kay Metzger, Patti Little, Lorilee Davis

Guests: Rhonda Busek (LIPA), Gene Obersinner (SWSC)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

In Jane Boren's absence, Steve Skipton, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. **CONSIDERATION OF MEETING AGENDA**

Kay Metzger requested the addition of a report by the Nominating Committee to be addressed under Information Items.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF THE December 2006 MINUTES**

Mae Westfall Cook noted that the Nominating Committee Member Don Hampton had resigned. The Committee is in the process of replacing him. Dianne Burch noted she was not present at the meeting and should be listed under Members Excused.

Motion: Steve Skipton moved the minutes be accepted with corrections noted. Mae Westfall Cook seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously with corrections.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Gene Obersinner from Southern Willamette Services Corporation (SWSC)

Gene reported on a volunteer opportunity as a SWSC Board member. Information regarding the SWSC was included in the packet. SWSC concentrates on the welfare of Senior Citizens in the community who tend to “fall through the cracks.”

Among other projects, SWSC works closely with Joan Taylor in Senior Connections. Fundraising, donor base, health insurance have all been a focus. Currently the focus is on assisting Joan Taylor in getting the word out about Senior Connections through neighborhood committees and local agencies. Gene will be leaving in May because of prior commitments, and is attempting to recruit for new members. SWSC meets quarterly at LCOG. Mae Westfall Cook asked what Gene was doing to recruit from rural areas as this is a point of emphasis for SWSC. Mae will try to think of recruitment ideas for rural areas. Dianne Burch asked about transportation issues, especially to/from Florence. There are large organizations on the coast who would like to be involved, but would need assistance with transportation.

b. Rhonda Busek from LIPA

Rhonda Busek, Chief Operations Officer, gave an overview of Lane Individual Practice Associating (LIPA). LIPA serves OHP clients and covers physical health for clients on Medicaid.

LIPA began in 1976 as a Physician’s Organization to contract for health management. In 1996, Regence Blue Cross/Blue Shield delegated LIPA to do services in Lane County. In 1999, Regence and Providence left the area and LIPA became an official contractor for Lane County. Now LIPA is the only contractor in Lane County for OHP. There have been a lot of changes in organization and focus: LIPA has 27,500 members. Trillium was created to provide better service for Dual Eligible clients. There will be a period of disenrollment beginning May 1st and Trillium will be working closely with Alicia Beymer for the exceptions and continuation of care.

Pat Giles asked what the reasons may be for clients to not go with Trillium? The main reason would be that the formularies (preferred drug list) may be different than what the client needs. Clients who choose not to go with Trillium move to an Open Card. Clients on an Open Card receive services through the Department of Medical Assistance Programs (DMAP). DMAP

is managed by the State of Oregon. Pat Giles expressed concerns for clients attempting to get exceptions to their drug coverage.

Rhonda Busek reports that so far the transition has been fairly smooth. Part D had a rocky beginning, but with Trillium, having everything “under one roof” is very attractive to many clients.

Mae Westfall Cook noted that it seemed there has been a lot of adverse publicity for Trillium. What she has read in the paper has been an adversarial and arrogant theme from Trillium for being the “only show in town”. Rhonda Busek reports that Trillium took these views as a wake up call to become a better community partner and to review who they are and how they provide their services.

5. ACTION ITEM

a. 2007-08 Area Plan for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

Kay Metzger reviewed the 2007-08 Area Plan Update. The process was discussed in detail, including the important role of the Planning and Budget Committee. Decisions were based on the 2006 Needs Assessment completed earlier, along with reviews of services provided in the past and the anticipated revenues for next year.

Motion: Mae Westfall Cook made a motion to adopt the Area Plan Update, Steve Skipton seconded the motion. All in favor of the motion: 8 in attendance and 3 via telephone participation.

b. Other Action Items.

None.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair’s Report

No report at this time.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Advocacy Committee

Mary Johnson attended a hearing in Salem to establish a healthcare ombudsman. It seemed promising at the time, but nothing further has been heard. Dennis Shine brought up the Ombudsman bill on Saturday at a Community Forum in Springfield.

Kay Metzger reported on the budget process within Oregon. The Ways and Means Co Chair's budget reduces OPI and funding for equity, among other reductions in Human Services. The Ways and Means Committee is meeting Wednesday night at the U of O. Kay will be there and if you are interested, please attend and lend your voice to give feedback.

Mary Johnson would like to attend and talk about keeping people out of nursing homes as well as employment opportunities for women through OPI. Dennis Shine is interested in Mary's views and has outlined some points to emphasize: the plan saves tax payers money. He will bring 20 copies and thinks this will make a very good case for OPI.

(2) Long Term Care Committee

Steve Skipton talked about the money management program. Coordinator Carol Cookson has agreed to extend her contract through December. There has been an allocation of funding through June. Carol will continue to be an advisor for the money management program. She has recruited new volunteers. What is left to address is a long term sponsor, additional funding and a place to meet.

(3) Procurement and Monitoring Committee

Mary Johnson reported on the Jan/Feb site visits completed by the Committee. Patti Little reviewed results of the Addus in-home service survey. For the most part, all clients were satisfied and happy with the service. Patti and Cathy also did a survey of the files at the Lane County Addus office. Lane County has decided not to contract for the S&DS Money Management Program. Reviewed continuation contracts to be discussed in April.

(4) Nominating Committee

Mae Westfall Cook reports that SSAC Bylaws allow for no fewer than 15 and no more than 23 members. On June 30th, 6 member's terms will conclude. 2 of these have decided not to continue to serve. The goal is to recruit 5 council members and at least 2 community representatives. The Committee would 2 of those recruits to be from a rural area, if possible. Mae reports that we need more members and need people interested in serving as 1st and 2nd Chair. Patti Little has distributed a packet to interested members with an application and information. Mae recommends going to people you know and asking them to be involved as being the best way to recruit new members.

c. Staff Reports

(1) Emergency Coordination

Kay Metzger reported that S&DS is updating its current business continuation plan. Staff in Florence are very involved with local agencies regarding emergency preparedness for the vulnerable population.

(2) Springfield Fair

Patti Little is attending a fair in Springfield next Saturday to attempt to reach out to the Hispanic population. A case manager will be there, as well as Senior Connections.

7. REMINDER OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Special Meeting in May for contract review.

Tuesday, May 8th

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Hilyard Center

8. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

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