

MINUTES
Senior Services Advisory Council
Hilyard Center, 2580 Hilyard St, Eugene

April 14, 2009

Members Present: Barbara Butzer, Steve Skipton, Pat Giles, Mary Johnson, Dr. Dwayne Rice, David Quale, Melissa Bowers, Vaughn Tompkins, Jonathon Ramey, Mae Westfall Cook, Tim Baxter, Dennis Shine by phone

Members Excused: Jim Patterson, Andrea Gillispie, Cathy Steadman Cox, Rod Holst, Donna Peterson, Zall Villanueva

Community Reps

Excused: Carmen Dake, Robert Fritson

Guest: Linda Dryer, Jerry Smith, Moray Povey

Staff Present: Kay Metzger, Patti Little, Lenora Crowson

1. CALL TO ORDER: SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chairperson, Steve Skipton. All present introduced themselves.

2. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING AGENDA

The meeting proceeded with the non-action items, since we didn't have a quorum present.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2008 AND FEBRUARY 2009 SSAC MEETINGS (ATTACHMENTS)

We were unable to accept the minutes from the December 2008 and February 2009 meetings, since there wasn't a quorum present. The minutes will be presented at the May 12 meeting.

4. LCOG REPORTS

a. LCOG Board of directors

Kay Metzger reported that the LCOG Board of Directors met in February and their primary focus for the meeting was brainstorming plans for regional issues. The board includes twenty seven elected officials from around the county. Some

of the issues discussed included law enforcement, transportation, and the state budget. The board does advocate for senior and disabled services, however, the last meeting was more focused on regional issues.

b. Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC): Tim Baxter reported that at the March meeting: 1) The **2009-10 Area Plan for Senior and People with Disabilities** was discussed and approved to be presented to the LCOG Board and the Oregon Department of Human Services; 2) An update on the Governor's Budget as it pertains to seniors and people with disabilities, as well as the closure of OPI, services was presented by Kay Metzger.

5. ACTION ITEMS

We still needed one more member present to obtain a quorum. To proceed with the items needing immediate attention, Dennis Shine was contacted by phone so that he could participate in the discussion and vote.

a. Draft Letter of Appreciation (Attachment)

Patti Little presented the letter of appreciation that the Procurement and Monitoring Committee (PMC) recommended be sent to the S&DS Volunteer Program Coordinators from the Senior Services Advisory Council.

Motion: Mary Johnson moved that we approve the volunteer letter of appreciation and that it be sent on behalf of the Council. Pat Giles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. 2009-10 Area Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities (Attachment)

Kay Metzger presented the Area Plan for Senior and People with Disabilities for approval, noting that the Planning and Budget Committee formulated the plan. The committee met four times and struggled with the challenges of a reduced budget. Their main focus was to provide services that respond to some kind of assessment and need, rather than across the board cuts. Many funding streams are service specific. Eighty percent of our funding comes from Medicaid and food stamps allocations. These rules are rigid with the funds designated for specific programs. Older American's Act (OAA) is another funding stream that serves people over 60. There is some flexibility with those funds but not a lot. The Planning and Budget Committee's vote was not a unanimous one, and their decision was based on the S&DS 2006 needs assessment and the S&DS staff survey recently conducted by Patti Little. The summary of the 2009-10 Components to the Area Plan contains the following information:

- ✓ Information on the needs of seniors and people with disabilities in Lane County

- ✓ Proposed Budget for 2009-10
- ✓ Proposed Service Delivery Plan for 2009-10
- ✓ Proposed Objectives for 2009-10
- ✓ General Information on S&DS, a division of Lane Council of Governments

Motion: Mae Westfall Cook moved that we recommend the 2009-10 Area Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities and submit it to the LCOG Board for their approval and then to be submitted to the Department of Human Services. Pat Giles seconded the motion. Motion carried.

c. Other

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair's Report

Steve Skipton reported on the letter received from LTD responding to the SSAC letter mailed to them in February. The two main points of their letter were that paratransit services will continue as required by the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) and a request to elicit our support for Representative Terry Beyer's 7 cent cigarette tax increase. The passage of HB 2379 would provide approximately \$1.1 million in additional funding and would ease the strain on their general fund. These funds would enable LTD to maintain their fixed-route bus service which also provides service to seniors and people with disabilities who use the bus.

In regard to transportation, Kay Metzger announced that U. S. Congressman Peter DeFazio would be holding town hall meetings tomorrow, Wednesday, April 15 at various community centers as reported in the April 12, 2009 Register Guard. She urged people to attend any one of those meetings to encourage him to support paratransit funding at the federal level. She distributed copies of the Register Guard article and an Advocacy Alert issued by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging on transportation issues. The Advocacy Alert included the **House "Dear Colleague" Letter in Support of Senior Mobility Programs** and called for constituents to contact their U. S. Representatives and urge them to sign on to it.

Steve Skipton announced that the Long-Term Care Forum sponsored by AARP, S&DS, and the Gerontology Institute is being held at the Valley River Inn April 16, 2009 at 5 p.m. Patti Little is on the planning committee. Steve Skipton, Kay Metzger, and Mary Johnson are part of a panel discussion concerning long term care issues. The event's focus will be to inform people how to prepare for the time in life when loved ones age and need more help. Information about available resources and how to navigate the system will be covered. Oasis is sponsoring

follow up programs. One meeting will be on the legal aspect, the other will focus on accessing internet resource information. To date, 135 people are registered to attend. An informative poster was distributed.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Advocacy Committee

Mary Johnson reported that the Legislative Forum was a success with eight Legislators and approximately 55 people from the community in attendance. The committee's trip to the Capitol was a success and worth the time. They are planning more trips to the capitol. Some available dates are Friday, May 15, Monday May 18, or Friday May 29. Their priority will be to target Ways and Means members. There will be an O4AD sponsored day at the Capitol on April 30th. The committee has decided to support Jean Cowan's HB 2391 which provides for the establishment of prevention and intervention services and support for Oregon's long term care system, which includes funding for the Oregon Project Independence Program (OPI); and Phil Barnhart's companion bills HB 2069 and HB 2471 which would provide a funding stream for HB 2391 by limiting the State of Oregon's medical deduction for people over age 62. These two bills have to pass together. Summaries of these two bills were distributed. They will continue to lobby to get the equity issue adjusted so it is fair to the transfer agencies. The roundabouts in Springfield continue to be another area for concern. There should be traffic signals, since they are impassable for people who are sight impaired. Their committee is waiting for a reply from the Springfield planners in response to their meeting with them. Mae Westfall Cook voiced her appreciation for the Advocacy Committee and all of the hard work it does.

(2) Long Term Care Committee

David Quale reported that they welcomed three new members from the Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC). They had a presentation from Brenda Lattion, supervisor at S&DS, on the Diverson and Transition Program and Oregon on the Move. The budget cuts and how they will affect the agency has been talked about at every meeting.

(3) Procurement and Monitoring Committee (PMC)

Patti Little reported that the PMC continued with site visits and drafted the S&DS volunteer appreciation letter previously discussed.

(4) Nominating Committee

Kay solicited volunteers to be on the Nominating Committee. Jonathan Ramey volunteered. The committee will be meeting at a later date.

c. Staff Reports

(1) 2009-22 Legislative/Budget Report

Kay Metzger announced that the Oregon Ways and Means Committee has scheduled Public Hearings on the Governor's Proposed Budget. One is planned for Friday, May 1 at the U of O, Prince Lucien Campbell Hall (PLC 180) 1415 Kincaid St from 1-4 p.m. She urged everyone to attend or to send a letter to Nicole Palmateer Armstrong, Director of Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disability (O4AD), to be distributed to the Legislators, if you are unable to be there. The Ways and Means Committee wants public input. Kay handed out copies of the e-mail she received from the O4AD office. Kay, also, distributed a brief summary of the impacts on S&DS programs/staff of the proposed budget reductions up to 30% received from the Department of Human Services. These reductions supersede previous proposals.

(2) Update on the Real Choices Systems Change Grant

Kay Metzger's update on the Real Choices Systems Change Grant was a brief overview due to limited meeting time. She explained that it is a two year program that S&DS is partnering with the State of Oregon; there are two parts to the plan. The first part is working with the hospitals in developing a discharge plan focused more on the consumer/patient. The hospital staff will be involved with tracking and following up patients after their release. The other part is setting up a resource center where people can call to get referrals, information, and to get connected with services whether state funded or not. The help is short term help.

7. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. REMINDER OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

May 12, 2009, 1:30 p.m.

Hilyard Community Center

9. ADJOURN

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