

## MINUTES

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

May 8th, 2007

Members Present: Jane Boren, Chair; Dennis Shine, Jack Ewing, Steve Skipton, David Quale, Jonathan Ramey, Andrea Gillispie, Rikki Rainey, Dianne Burch, Patricia Giles, Mae Westfall Cook, Jean Jordan, Cathy Steadman Cox, Jane Strasdas

Members Excused: Marion Esty, Murray Petitt, Jim Patterson, Darlene Puls

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

### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Jane Boren; Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

### 2. **CONSIDERATION OF MEETING AGENDA**

Agenda accepted by consensus without additions.

### 3. **CONSIDERATION OF THE APRIL MINUTES**

David Quale noted a correction was needed in the section describing the presentation given by Rhonda Busek of LIPA. In the last paragraph, "**LIPA**" should replace all references to "**Trillium**".

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

### 4. **LCOG REPORTS**

#### **a. LCOG Board of Directors**

Kay reported on the April meeting of the LCOG Board of Directors. Items relating to S&DS included the adoption of the 2007-08 Area Plan Update. Additionally, a presentation was given on the inter-relation of education, employment and the economy.

#### **b. Disability Services Advisory Council**

In Darlene's absence, Kay reported on the most recent DSAC meeting. The DSAC heard a presentation by Gene Obersinner, Chair of the Southern Willamette Services Corporation. The SWSC is recruiting for new board members. Business actions completed by the DSAC included acceptance of the 2007-08 Area Plan Update. The DSAC also heard reports by the SSAC/DSAC Standing Committees.

## 5. ACTION ITEMS

### a. Procurement and Monitoring Committee Recommendations

In Mary Johnson's absence, Pat Giles reviewed the contract renewal recommendations of the PMC. The Council took actions as follows:

#### **(1) Senior Law**

Pat reviewed the services provided by Senior Law, under contract with S&DS. Additionally, Steve Skipton, staff attorney for Senior Law, provided information and answered Council member's questions. The public learns of Senior Law services through publicity in Senior Centers, referrals from lawyers, S&DS and Social Security. Senior Law is actively attempting to recruit a volunteer for the Florence area.

Steve explained that the parent program, Lane County Legal Aide and Advocacy Center, has been subsidizing the services provided to seniors as the OAA allocation is not sufficient to meet the need. Jane Boren commented that the services are excellent and provides an avenue for those in the community who are underserved to receive legal advice. Dennis Shine asked regarding efforts to publicize the services in smaller papers (for rural areas). Public Service announcements may be free and Dennis thinks this would be a good idea. Steve Skipton clarified that Florence lawyers do volunteer, but the staffing is not regular and is more hit and miss.

#### ***Motion:***

Pat Giles moved that the SSAC recommend that LCOG: (1) Accept the application submitted by the Lane County Law and Advocacy Center to operate the Senior Law program in 2007-08, and (2) That it award the program up to \$56,835 of Older Americans Act III-B funds, payable at the rate of \$17.25 per unit of service, not to exceed a total of 3,295 units of service annually. Jean E. Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed with one abstention from Steve Skipton.

#### **(2) Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Screening and Recruitment Program**

SSAC members reviewed the services provided by the LTC Screening and Recruitment Program.

**Motion:** Jean Jordan moved that the SSAC recommend that LCOG accept the application submitted by the Lane County Ombudsman Recruiting and Screening Committee to operate the Lane County Ombudsman Recruiting and Screening Committee for FY 2007-08; and that it award the program up to \$1,224 of Older Americans Act, III-B funds, pursuant to the application, payable on an as needed basis, not to exceed a total of \$1,224.

Motion seconded by Mae Westfall Cook. Motion passed unanimously.

### **(3) Food Service for Senior Meals**

Sandy Karsten presented information on the contract for food preparation for the Senior Meals Program. S&DS is part of a three agency consortium that contracts with Bateman Senior Meals. Pat Giles expressed concern with the price of meals and menu changes. Sandy Karsten explained the funding reductions of the past few years required changes in the contract that were determined unacceptable to the agencies. Thus, the partners determined the need to change specifications in the current proposed contract.

Sandy Karsten explained that Bateman is very reliable and cooperative. The price increase this year is related to a desire for higher quality menus, an increase in wages to allow Bateman to better retain employees, and the cost of gasoline. Dennis Shine asked what the cost would be if meals were provided locally rather than through a consortium. Sandy responded that it would be far more. Dennis pointed out the trickle down effect of poor nutrition affecting health care costs and the economy. Dennis commented that it would be more expensive in the long run if the service wasn't provided.

**Motion:** Dianne Burch moved that the Senior Services Advisory Council recommend:

- 1) That LCOG contract with NorthWest Senior & Disability Services, as the lead agency in the Food Service Consortium, and;
- 2) That NorthWest Senior & Disability Services continue the contract with Bateman for the provision of food service for FY 08 at the rates no higher than the rates noted below.

<b>Hot Meals</b>	<b>Hot Meals</b>	<b>Frozen Meals</b>	<b>Frozen Meals</b>
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<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>
\$3.40	\$2.50	\$2.95	\$1.70

Mae Westfall Cook seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with no abstentions.

**(5) Metro Meals on Wheels**

The contract with the American Red Cross to provide home delivered meals in the Eugene metro area was reviewed. Jean E. Jordan stated that Sandy Karsten runs the most complicated program in S&DS. Sandy explained that in Lane County, S&DS delivers Meals on Wheels, as well as Red Cross. This is a historic partnership and has worked well.

Next year, revenue from the County may be reduced due to loss of timber funds. USDA funds have been stable but have not increased in many years. Additionally, funding through the Older Americans Act has essentially been flat, which translates into a decrease over time. A reduction of 200 meals is proposed in this contract. Mae Westfall Cook asked how a waiting list would work, if implemented. Sandy replied the Senior Meals Program has established a protocol for a waiting list, but the list has not been used much.

**Motion:** Jean E. Jordan moved that the SSAC recommend that LCOG approve the FY 2008 contract for Metro Meals on Wheels with American Red Cross, for meals at a total unit rate of \$6.69 per meal. This recommendation is made with the understanding that if funding levels or contracted food service rates change, the budget and service levels will be renegotiated. Andrea Gillispie seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with no abstentions.

**(6) Caregiver Support Group and Training**

Patti Little explained that Cascade Health Solutions provides Caregiver support and training to family caregivers. Cascade Health Solutions is committed to providing the same amount of training and employees even though there has been a financial reduction. The focus is on training and group counseling/support of caregivers. Andrea Gillispie, Director, explained there are 3 support groups that meet each week. Trainings are once a month. Legal advice, resources and transitions are a focus of the trainings. Average attendance is 20 participants.

**Motion:** Jean E. Jordan moved that the SSAC recommend that LCOG accept the application submitted by Cascade Health Solutions to operate the Caregiver Support Group and Training Program from July 1, 2007 thru June 30, 2008, and that the program be awarded up to \$1,999 (\$1,430 of III-E & \$569 of III-B) for training and \$ 10,082 (\$7,251 of III-E & \$2,831 of III-B) for support groups of Older Americans Acts funds, pursuant to the application, payable as outlined in the Comparative Summary on page three of the report. Pat Giles seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, with one abstention (Andrea Gillispie).

## **6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **a. Chair's Report**

Jane Boren stated she wished to apologize to the group for not being present at every meeting this year. Council members recognized that Jane had many unavoidable health challenges this year.

### **b. Committee Reports**

#### **(1) Advocacy Committee**

Dianna Burch reported on the activities of the Advocacy Committee. First, an announcement was made regarding the S&DS Legislative Dialogue scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 10:00-noon at the Hilyard Center. There may be as many as 6 legislators attending the Dialogue. Dianne Burch encouraged everyone who was available to attend.

The status of Senate Bill 360, which establishes the Office of the Health Care Ombudsman was reviewed. One hearing has been held before the Senate Health and Human Services Sub-Committee. Several Advocacy Committee members testified to the importance of ombudsman services for seniors and people with disabilities receiving Medicaid. The Senate Health and Human Services Sub-Committee has referred the bill to Ways and Means with no recommendation. Advocacy Committee members continue to work towards passage of the bill.

In April, the Seniors and People with Disabilities' budget was reviewed by the Joint Ways and Means Committee. There was a ninety minute opportunity for public testimony on April 26<sup>th</sup>. There were many care providers at the hearing to advocate for their point of view. Three members of the Advocacy Committee (Dianne

Burch, Mary Johnson, and Ed Necker) gave testimony regarding the need for adequate funding for OPI and equity.

Dianne stated she has been following House Bill 3342, which established funding for Public Guardianship/Conservatorship. The bill requires a 25% local match for funding of up to \$100,000 for each area. It has been referred to the Ways and Means subcommittee, and passage is looking promising at this time.

#### **(2) Long Term Care Committee**

Steve Skipton reported on the Long Term Care Committee. The LTCC received a demonstration from JJ Bien on the Client Tracking System (CTS), an IT program developed internally by LCOG staff to help S&DS staff efficiently and effectively perform work in adult protective services. It is considered cutting-edge across the state, and has had many positive reviews from state auditors. Additionally, the LTCC reviewed information regarding the Money Management Program.

#### **(3) Procurement and Monitoring Committee**

The PMC presented its information earlier in the meeting, thus no further information was shared.

#### **(4) Nominating Committee**

Mae Westfall Cook reported on the Nominating Committee. There are twelve applicants to interview for new membership. The interviews will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Mae shared the recommendation of the Nominating Committee for the 2007-08 Slate of Officers. Voting for the slate of officers and new members will occur at the June SSAC meeting.

### **c. Staff Report**

#### **(1) Hispanic Fair**

Patti Little reported that three S&DS staff attended the Hispanic Family Fair at the Springfield Middle School. Turnout was very good. The S&DS presentation board was translated into Spanish for the event. Patti reported that approximately thirty people stopped to inquire regarding our services and received information and referral from our staff. It was very beneficial to have a Spanish-speaking staff person at the event.

#### **(2) Other**

Sandy Karsten reminded us to put June 16<sup>th</sup> on our calendar for the Vitality Walk. The event is sponsored by the Oregon Heart and Vascular Institute to support Meals on Wheels. There is a small entry fee and an information brochure will be out soon.

Patti Little distributed an invitation for the Older Americans Month Honorees for 2007. This will be held at the Willamalane Adult Activity Center, Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-5:30 p.m.

## **7. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dennis Shine reported that on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM, the Springfield museum is honoring the Senior Forum. Most members have been elected officials at one time or another.

Cathy Steadman Cox made an announcement regarding the Regional Conference on Alzheimers to be held June 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information, please feel free to contact her.

Jean E. Jordan announced the Senior Companion is having its annual fund raiser, "A Night on the Town". This is a raffle for a special night that includes a limousine ride, dinner, and two tickets to see the play "Hairspray" at the Hult Center. Jean encouraged SSAC members to support the Senior Companion Program by purchasing tickets for the raffle.

## **8. REMINDER OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING June 12, 2007, 1:30 p.m.; Hilyard Community Center**

## **9. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.