

October 4, 2010

TO: Members, Senior Services Advisory Council

FROM: Kay Metzger for Advocacy Committee

SUBJECT: S&DS Legislative Priorities for 2010-11

One of S&DS' responsibilities as the Area Agency on Aging and Disability Services for Lane County is to work as an advocate for those we serve. To this end, S&DS, with the help of the members of its Senior Services and Disability Services Advisory Councils, strives to develop and maintain positive relationships with the elected officials who represent Lane County in the State Legislature, and also to educate them about the needs and concerns of seniors and people with disabilities who reside in this county. Additionally, at times there are local issues which are of concern to seniors and people with disabilities.

To facilitate this advocacy work, every even-numbered year S&DS develops a set of priorities or issues that the Council's Advocacy Committee will focus on. The Advocacy Committee, at its July meeting, developed a set of proposed priorities for 2010-11. The Disability Services Advisory Council endorsed these priorities at its August meeting. Once both Councils endorse the priorities, they will be offered to the LCOG Board for approval at its meeting in November.

**Requested Action:**

The Advocacy Committee of the Senior and Disability Services Advisory Councils recommends that the Senior Services Advisory Council endorse the proposed priorities for 2010-11 and recommend approval by the LCOG Board.

**Proposed S&DS Priorities for the 2010-11:**

The recommended priorities contain few surprises. Several have been on LCOG's list of priorities during prior legislative sessions. The others are directed at enhancing the provision of services currently available to seniors and people with disabilities in Lane County. The three proposed priorities are set forth in summary form here. Brief explanations of each issue are attached.

- Improve access to Medicaid services through equitable reimbursement to Transfer Area Agencies on Aging and workload-based staffing.
- Support services that prevent or postpone the need for Medicaid such as the Oregon Project Independence program.
- Advocate for pedestrian safety and other improvement that will enhance the livability of our community for seniors and people with disabilities.

Attachments