

MINUTES

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

October 11, 2005

Members Present: Anna May Herbert, Chair; Jane Boren, Dianne Burch, Mae Westfall Cook, Marion Esty, Jack Ewing, Andrea Gillispie, Jean Jordan, Jim Patterson, Darlene Puls, Rikki Rainey, Oguilvia Skelton, Steve Skipton, Jane Strasdas, and Joe Xavier.

Members Excused: Don Hampton and Murray Petitt.

CR Member Present: David Quale and Cathy Steadman Cox

Staff Members Present: Sandy Karsten, Patti Little, Kay Metzger, and Ted Stevens.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anna May Herbert called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. She welcomed Jim Patterson to the Council. Persons in attendance introduced themselves.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Anna May Herbert reported that the Planning and Budget Committee wished to add an Action Item dealing with amendments to the current year budget for Oregon Project Independence (OPI).

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

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2005 SSAC MEETING

Action: Without objection, Anna May Herbert ruled that the minutes of the August 9, 2005 meeting be accepted, as presented.

4. LCOG REPORTS

a. LCOG Board of Directors

Ted Stevens reported that the LCOG Board met on Thursday, September 22nd, in Springfield. He shared that the Board received three reports pertinent to Senior & Disabled Services. First, the Board received and discussed the end-of-session legislative status report prepared by S&DS staff. Second, it learned about program cuts scheduled to take effect on September 30, 2005 (General Assistance and the Disability Employment Initiative). Third, due to a reduction in its funding for case management and eligibility services staff, the Board was informed that S&DS will be laying off nine staff members at the end of October .

b. Disability Services Advisory Council

Darlene Puls reported on the September meeting of LCOG's Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC). She stated that the Council organized itself for Program Year 2005-06, appointing members to Standing Committees and selecting her to continue to serve as liaison to the Senior Services Advisory Council. She shared that the other items on the Council's agenda will be addressed by the SSAC later in the day's meeting.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Procurement and Monitoring Committee – Family Caregiver Program's Respite Services Waiting List Policy

Anna May Herbert, Procurement and Monitoring Committee Chair, presented this matter to the Council. She reviewed the proposed policy, including the risk assessment form. Rikki Rainey asked about the process for scoring "informal supports" on the assessment form. Anna May and Ted responded. Steve Skipton asking about the overall scoring, wondering if the methodology would work in all instances. Anna May replied that the instrument had been tested on a few cases, but should be viewed as a work in progress. Thus, it is open to modifications if experiences show that they are warranted.

Motion: Moved by Jane Strasdas, and seconded by Joe Xavier, that the SSAC approve the proposed Family Caregiver Support Program Respite Services Waiting List Policy and risk assessment tool. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Planning and Budget Committee – Amendments to the Current Year Budget for Oregon Project Independence

A handout with information about this matter was distributed to Council members. Time was provided for them to read the memo and its accompanying spreadsheet.

Ted Stevens reviewed the highlights of the situation and presented the two new versions of the current year OPI budget recommended to the Council by the Planning and Budget Committee.

Motion: Moved by Jane Strasdas, and seconded by Joe Xavier, that: (1) the Senior Services Advisory Council accept both new versions of the FY 2005-06 OPI Budget (attached), and (2) the Council recommend their adoption to the LCOG Board Executive Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Chair’s Report

SSAC Chair, Anna May Herbert, stated that she had nothing to report.

b. Committee Reports

(1) Advocacy Committee

Patti Little reported on behalf of the Advocacy Committee. First, she stated that the Committee cancelled its October 21st “conversation” in Florence with Senator Verger and Representatives Roblan and Brown. This decision was made because two of the three legislators were not able to participate in the meeting. In lieu of a meeting in Florence, the Advocacy Committee will hold its monthly meeting on October 21st, 2:15 – 3:45 PM, at **Campbell Senior Center**, Eugene. Second, Patti reported that the Committee plans to continue with the other three “conversation” meetings, as scheduled. Third, she indicated that the Committee will discuss whether to re-schedule its Florence meeting when it meets in October. Finally, Patti reported that the Committee will hold the election for its 2005-06 Chair at its October meeting.

Following her report, Marion Esty reported that the League of Women Voters is holding a legislative wrap-up event on October 18th in Eugene. More information on this event is available for the League’s office.

(2) Long Term Care Committee

Steve Skipton reported on behalf of the Long Term Care Committee. First, he stated that Laura Weil, DSAC member, was elected committee chair for 2005-06. And, second, he reported that the Committee received information about S&DS' staff reduction plans. Regarding these plans, Steve stated that the Committee decided to focus its energy during the next few months on assisting the agency "do more with less." To this end, it will tour S&DS' office in Eugene and will endeavor to gain a fuller understanding of how the agency works on behalf of seniors and people with disabilities. Once it is better informed on these matters, it may develop suggestions for increasing the efficiency of agency operations.

(3) Planning and Budget Committee

Jane Boren, P&B Committee Chair, reported on the Committee's meeting earlier in the day. First, she stated that she was re-elected committee chair for the year. Second, she reported that the Committee considered the OPI budget amendments (see Agenda Item #5.b above). And, third, she stated that the Committee developed its schedule for the preparation of the 2006-07 Update to S&DS' 2003-07 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services. As an extension of her report on the final item, Jane stated that the public hearing on next year's draft Area Plan Update is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2006, 1:30 – 2:30 PM, at the Hilyard Community Center, Eugene.

(4) Procurement and Monitoring Committee

(a) Impact of Escalating Fuel Costs on Rates for Senior Meals

Sandy Karsten, S&DS' Senior Meals Program Manager, provided background information on this topic, explained in some detail the negotiations that have occurred between the Senior Meals Consortium (the three-agency procurement consortium to which LCOG belongs) and Bateman Senior Meals (the contractor providing the meals to the Consortium), and announced the agreement that has been accepted by all parties – that the Consortium will pay a surcharge for the added cost of gasoline when fuel costs are more than \$2.25/gallon but less than \$3.25/gallon. David Quale asked if this agreement only covers the fuel costs for the delivery of meals from the Central Kitchen to the meal sites, or if it also covers the cost of transporting the meals from the sites to the homes of Meals on Wheels participants? Sandy replied that it only covers the fuel costs for the delivery of

meals from the Central Kitchen to the meal sites. Then she provided information on the volunteer component of the delivery activity, stating that S&DS reimburses volunteers at the rate of \$.31/meal if they ask for reimbursement. Given these responses, Steve Skipton urged S&DS to consider increasing the rate of reimbursement provided to its volunteers.

Before moving on to a different topic, Sandy took the opportunity to distribute and explain a graph displaying the impact of the tri-agency food services procurement consortium on the rates paid for meals. She opined that the existence of the consortium has saved S&DS thousands of dollars over the period of its existence.

(b) Other Committee Business

Anna May Herbert, Procurement and Monitoring Committee Chair, reported on other items addressed by the Committee at its most recent meeting. She stated that: (1) she was re-elected Committee Chair, (2) new members were oriented to the work of the committee, (3) the Committee received an update on S&DS' contract with Addus HealthCare for the provision of in-home services to OPI clients, and (4) the Committee considered and approved a contract monitoring plan for Program Year 2005-06.

c. Staff Reports

(1) Medicare Part D Implementation Updates

Ted Stevens provided updates to the Council on three activities: choice counseling work to be performed by S&DS for individuals eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid (a.k.a., "dual eligibles"), inter-agency planning and coordination regarding outreach to the general population of Medicare enrollees, and S&DS' responsibilities to perform Medicare Part D education and outreach work with temporary staff hired by its Senior Connections program.

The mention of Medicare Part D prompted a number of questions from Council members. To the best of his ability, Ted responded. David Quale added helpful details and corrections to Ted's explanations.

(2) S&DS Staffing Updates

Ted Stevens reported that S&DS will be laying off nine staff members at the end of October. He stated that three things were prompting the need for these reductions:

the termination of the General Assistance Program and the loss of staff associated with the program, a similar termination of the Disability Employment Initiative, and changes in the methods used by DHS and the Legislature to project long term care and financial services caseloads. Ted also commented on the temporary positions that the agency will be filling in the next few weeks. The people who will fill these positions will work on the implementation of Medicare Part D.

(3) Hurricane Recovery Stories

Sandy Karsten reported that Bateman Senior Meals, S&DS' food services provider, has many contract for service provision in the Gulf States region devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. She shared information on Bateman's positive contributions to the hurricane recovery effort. She also expressed comfort in knowing that our food services provider has been able to respond quickly and generously to those in need in and around New Orleans.

(4) SSAC Roster Correction

Patti Little asked members to correct the mailing address on the SSAC Roster for Andrea Gillispie. She stated that the correct address is 996 Jefferson St, Eugene, 97402. Once this information was shared, Andrea Gillispie reported that Cascade's Adult Center has re-located from Springfield to the Trude Kaufman Senior Center. She stated that the transition has gone smoothly and that her program's clients like the homey feel of the Kaufman Center.

7. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cathy Steadman Cox announced that Home Instead is hiring case coordinators and case managers. She urged SSAC members to pass this information on to people who may be looking for work.

8. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN

Anna May Herbert reminded members that the next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, 1:30 PM, at the Hilyard Community Center, Eugene.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Attachment

(Recorded by Ted Stevens)

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Last Saved: October 17, 2005