

## MINUTES

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

October 17, 2006

Members Present: Dianne Burch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair; David Quale, Jack Ewing, Pat Giles, Don Hampton, Mae Westfall Cook, Andrea Gillispie, Dennis Shine, Mary Johnson.

Members Excused: Marion Esty, Steve Skipton, Rikki Rainey, Darlene Puls, Jane Strasdas, Jane Boren, Jim Patterson, Jean Jordan, Cathy Steadman Cox

Staff Members Present: Kay Metzger, Joan Taylor

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Dianne Burch called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. All members present introduced themselves.

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

No changes to the agenda noted.

### 3. **CONSIDERATION OF THE AUGUST 15, 2006 MINUTES**

Since a quorum was not present, this item was deferred to the next SSAC meeting.

### 4. **LCOG REPORTS**

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

Kay reported on the meeting of the LCOG Board in September. At that meeting, the LCOG Board approved the S&DS Legislative Priorities for 2006-07. Additionally, the LCOG Board heard a presentation from Bill Van Vactor, Lane County Administrator, on the Public Safety Finance Measure.

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

This item was postponed, as no committee member was present.

### 5. **ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Waiting List for Oregon Project Independence (OPI) Services**

In 2005, the Legislature allocated limited OPI funding for the 05-07 biennium. Kay explained that the demand for OPI services has been steadily increasing. Currently S&DS serves 135 OPI clients, and intake appointments are scheduled out six months – to mid-April. Figures from the first quarter of Program Year 2006-07 indicate that spending levels are on-budget, assuming spending continues at the current pace. Given the above information, S&DS determined it was necessary to initiate a waiting list for anyone who requested OPI services after October 1.

Kay asked for the Council's thoughts on how to manage the waiting list.

Council members offered the following comments:

- The neediest should be served first. However, a combination of first come-first served and need based priorities should be considered. The two are not exclusive.
- An in-person assessment for priority determination is best practice. However, a well-developed phone screening tool could be beneficial in determining the order in which callers are scheduled for an in-person assessment.
- Financial ability to pay should be a consideration in the prioritization process. Those with less income and ability to pay privately should be a higher priority.
- Volunteers can be a tool for maximizing service. Creative use of volunteers should be considered.
- The economic benefit of the service should be captured and communicated to the Legislature.
- Callers should be directed to their state elected official if they have concerns about the lack of service.

**b. RFP for Food Service for Senior Meals**

Kay directed the Council's attention to the handout in their packets, explaining the one year extension of the Food Service contract for Senior Meals. The Council should direct any questions to Sandy Karsten, Meals Program Manager.

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**a. Chair's Report**

No report at this time.

**b. Committee Reports**

**(1) Advocacy Committee**

Mary Johnson, Dennis Shine, Dianne Burch and Andrea Gillispie reported on the September Advocacy Committee. At that meeting, Nicole Palmeteer of the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) made a presentation on effective advocacy to the group. Members reported it was very informative and educational. SSAC members also stated they would like to have continuing education on S&DS programs so they can effectively advocate. Short presentations at each SSAC meeting, with handouts summarizing the services and programs, would be very helpful. Kay will coordinate the presentations, to occur at the beginning of the meeting.

**(2) Procurement and Monitoring Committee**

Mary Johnson reported on the September PMC meeting. Members signed confidentiality forms and heard about the Fiesta Fund-raiser for Senior Meals. Additionally Mary has been assisting with a review of the Money Management Program. The current coordinator has resigned. Kay asked that a meeting be held later this week to review information Patti Little will have on the status of the program. Mary Johnson, Pat Giles, Mae Westfall Cook and Dianne Burch volunteered to meet to review the information.

**c. Staff Reports**

**(1) Staff Update**

Kay reported that S&DS learned yesterday the Family Caregiver Program's allocation was incorrectly calculated at the State level. The Department of Human Services, Seniors and People with Disabilities will be requesting \$1.6 million at the November 2006 E-Board to backfill the problem. However, it is unknown at this time whether or not the E-Board will fund the request. S&DS will not be filling a vacancy that has occurred due to retirement. Additionally, S&DS will be closely monitoring the service expenditures through November. If there is no additional funding, services will most likely need to be terminated for the 89 current clients. Members suggested that Legislators be contacted before the November E-Board meeting to communicate the importance of this program.

**(2) Additional Reports**

None given.

**7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION:  
THE SENIOR CONNECTIONS PROGRAM**

Joan Taylor, Senior Connections Program Supervisor gave a short presentation on the services and programs provided by the 7 Senior Connections staff. The Family Caregiver Program is included in the array of services offered to clients. The goal of the program is to keep people off of Medicaid and in their own homes for as long as possible. Cost effective services such as Home Delivered Meals, information and referral, and the use of volunteers are the hallmarks of the program. Over 45,000 volunteer hours were offered last year to more than 1800 people. The program emphasizes creative solutions to meet the needs of the person, their families, and caregivers. Funding is not adequate to meet the demand and there is an increased focus on fund raising. Joan handed out pamphlets and a summary sheet of the program.

**8. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**9. REMINDER OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m.**

**Hilyard Center**

**10. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.