

SPD invited input about the OPI program through four stakeholder focus groups held in Salem and facilitated by Marla Rae, focus groups held throughout the state by local Area Agencies on Aging, an online survey posted on the SPD website targeted to AAA/SPD field staff, an email box to receive comments and a telephone satisfaction survey to a random-selected sample of current OPI recipients.

1. Participants providing input

Stakeholders – 52

Online Survey – 273 (97=AAA staff, 130=DHS staff, 1=AAA Board, 10=citizens, 36=other)

E-mail – 3

Satisfaction Survey - 60

Local Focus Groups - 319

A compilation of the input is available on the web at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/spwpd/oa/opi/index.shtml>

2. Common themes based on input

Statewide Consistency

Although the majority of comments emphasized the need for local flexibility and control the majority stated that there should be statewide consistency in the area of core services offered and those core services should include home care, personal care, case management and home-delivered meals. Statewide consistency was also recommended in the areas of service priority levels (level of need), service hours in terms of a minimum/maximum per month, a wait list policy and a fee collection policy.

Participant Cost Sharing

The majority of respondents felt that liquid assets should be considered in determining OPI participant cost sharing. However, it was not considered cost effective or in the best interest of the program to employ estate recovery.

Program Identity

Generally people felt that OPI should be distinguishable from the Medicaid program as a preventive service to people who need a

OPI Attachment #2
State Focus Groups

minimal amount of supplemental in-home support in order to remain in their own homes. Additionally, many expressed that OPI needs to be part of a continuum of services to support people proactively to make informed decisions about long-term services and supports. Such support is seen as necessary in assisting people to avoid more costly alternatives that can result in spend-down to Medicaid.

Funding

Overwhelmingly people expressed dismay that the OPI program is not adequately funded with a reliable source of funding. They expressed frustration that this cost-effective program is at-risk of elimination each legislative session. Additionally, they felt that persons with disabilities should be provided access to OPI and that the current statute stipulating such access based on "adequate funding" has resulted in no progress on this issue since 2005.

3. OPI Recipient Responses

The following are responses from current OPI recipients when asked if they did not receive help, would they be able to stay in their homes:

27 responded "Yes" but all qualified that it would be difficult:

- For awhile; as long as possible
- Shopping/laundry
- Would stay because I am stubborn
- Not easily
- I really don't know what I'd do
- No \$\$ to pay though, cannot afford
- But wouldn't be able to clean
- Stay in my home, no matter what
- Fear of sudden illness
- I would need help, almost blind and tremors

20 responded "No" with the following comments:

- Live with children or other family
- Move to nursing home or assisted living

13 responded "Maybe" with the following comments:

- I'd be a mess – I'm 92 years old!
- Don't know what I'll do
- Guess I could but maybe no
- Haven't tried, so don't know