

# OREGON DISABILITIES COMMISSION

---

Thursday • June 25, 2009 • 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

St. Helens A Conference Room • Airport Sheraton Hotel • 8235 NE Airport Way,  
Portland, OR 97220

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Armstrong  
Ann Balzell  
Janet Campbell  
Judith Cunio

Cindy Helvington  
Marcie Ingledue  
Bill Lynch  
Bob Pope

Martha Simpson  
Sherry Stock  
Tina Treasure

## MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ruth McEwen  
Frank Synoground  
Bill Wellard

## GUESTS:

Lucy Baker

## STAFF PRESENT:

Max Brown, Advocacy Coordinator  
Becky Murphy, Administrative Staff

## AGENDA ITEMS:

### CALL ALL TO ORDER

- Introductions
- Review and Approval of Agenda
- Review and Approval of Minutes
- Updates/Announcements

### COMMISSION BUSINESS

- Disability Award for Employers

- Legislative Priorities
- EPD Subcommittee
- Liaison Reports
- Action Items

### ORIENTATION TO THE OREGON DISABILITIES COMMISSION & PUBLIC INPUT

### ADJOURN

---

*This document can be obtained in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities upon request by contacting: Kelsi Eisele, 503-945-6482, Fax: 503-373-7823, or TTY: 1-800-282-8096. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.*

## **CALL TO ORDER**

---

Bill Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

### **Introductions**

Bill Lynch introduced himself and gave a brief summary about the new Oregon Disabilities Commission (ODC). Commission members, per Bill's request, gave an expanded introduction of themselves. Staff were also introduced.

### **Review and Approval of Agenda**

Members reviewed and approved the agenda as presented.

**Motion:** Frank Armstrong moved to accept the agenda as presented. Jan Campbell seconded the motion.

**Vote:** 11-0-0-4

**Yeas:** Armstrong, Balzell, Campbell, Cunio, Helvington, Lynch, Pope, Simpson, Stock, Treasure

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**Excused:** McEwen, Synoground, Wellard, Ingledue

**Motion carried.**

### **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Members reviewed and approved the minutes with corrections (page 7, Jan Campbell made the motion and Marcie Ingledue seconded the motion).

*It was requested that minutes that are approved with corrections always have the corrections listed.*

**Motion:** Jan Campbell moved to accept the minutes as presented. Judy Cunio seconded the motion.

**Vote:** 9-0-2-4

**Yeas:** Armstrong, Balzell, Campbell, Cunio, Pope, Simpson, Stock, Treasure

**Nays:** 0

**Abstentions:** Helvington, Lynch

---

*This document can be obtained in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities upon request by contacting: Kelsi Eisele, 503-945-6482, Fax: 503-373-7823, or TTY: 1-800-282-8096. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.*

**Excused:** McEwen, Synoground, Wellard, Ingledue

**Motion carried.**

### **Updates/Announcements**

- Jan Campbell reported that Portland has its first disabilities commission, and that the Portland Disabilities Commission is now accepting applications. Applications can be obtained through their website and there will be hard copies at the display table on Friday. August is the deadline for applications.
- Sherry reported on two Brain Injury Association (BIA) bills that passed: SB 348 (training requirement for coaches and a physician required to approve if play after an in-game injury) and SB 381 (mandate for insurance to cover cognitive rehabilitation).
- Bill Lynch introduced Marcie Ingledue who is the Executive Director of ARC, the lead planner of the MegaConference, and represents the State Advisory Council on Special Education on the ODC.

## **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

---

### **Disability Award for Employers**

Bill Lynch introduced Lucy Baker, the Executive Director of Oregon Business Leadership Network (OBLN). It is hoped today ODC will begin the planning process of an employment-related awards program, as initially discussed at the last meeting. OBLN is a consortium of Oregon businesses, big and small, with the value of inclusion---people with disabilities in the work force---for hiring, retention, and promotion. Sponsors of OBLN include many Oregon businesses.

Lucy shared her vision and proposal that ODC and OBLN form some type of partnership around employment awards for businesses, possibly the top five, which could be competitive, fun, and meaningful. She also suggested a possible honorary co-chair, the CEO of Diversity, Inc.

Commissioner Comments:

- It is important to acknowledge good work in the employment arena.
- This would be a beginning step.

---

*This document can be obtained in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities upon request by contacting: Kelsi Eisele, 503-945-6482, Fax: 503-373-7823, or TTY: 1-800-282-8096. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.*

- Opens doors and recruitment of interns.
- Use Public Service Announcements (PSAs).
- Use percentages instead of numbers in terms of evaluating hiring, retention, and promotion.
- Campaign statewide.
- Some mechanism in place that the organization will continue efforts; an ongoing commitment.
- The most inventive workplace accommodation and/or work places with forward thinking policies and procedures – this could go beyond mere numbers.
- Create a formal partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation and other Boards/Commissions?
- Form a subcommittee with Commissioners who would volunteer?
- Work with the Employment Department as a partner?

Lucy suggested competition could involve internal, diverse groups, focus on aspects of diversity, inclusion of disabilities, opportunities, and/or improvement in hiring, retaining, and promoting employees with disabilities. OBLN, a statewide organization, would assist in inexpensive ways to advertise, criteria for awards, and website information. She suggested possibly being a part of a National Employer Awareness Campaign, encouraging people with disabilities to apply.

*Volunteers for a Subcommittee: Sherry Stock, Ann Balzell, Frank Armstrong, Martha Simpson, Cindy Helvington, and Judy Cunio.*

Lucy will convene a meeting prior to September's meeting.

**Action Item:** Bill Lynch and Max will supply Lucy with all the contact information. It was suggested that these meetings could be conducted by phone, and staff will ensure to take steps so the meetings comply with public meetings law.

Lucy distributed brochures which states the current partners are Oregon Business Plan, Oregon Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Oregon Commission for the Blind, Insight, and DePaul Industries. Discussion followed about ODC's policy about materials needing to be in an accessible format and sent electronically prior to

the meeting. Bill Lynch requested Lucy to send an electronic copy to Max who will e-mail to members.

## **Legislative Priorities**

Bill Lynch shared that representatives from ODC have given testimonies, written and verbal (attending the hearings) during the 2009 Legislative Session. He then went over the meeting packet handout on legislative priorities.

Bill Lynch briefly discussed each priority area with some comments from members.

### **Employment and Employed Persons with Disabilities Program:**

- Although there were no bills, a fact sheet on the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program was completed and ready to educate in case the program became compromised. Now the subcommittee can turn to developing proposals for program improvements.

### **Transportation:**

- HB 2677 – Permits ODC to inspect parking space signage. There was no conversation with ODC until after it was introduced. ODC has no capacity to fulfill the bill's request. No movement was made.
- Revenue bills to fund transportation for seniors and people with disabilities have not moved.
- SB 937A – Requirement for a certificate from a medical professional when reapplying for a disability parking permit. This bill has passed.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act:**

- SB 874A (originally HB 2319) updates state law to meet federal law to strengthen ADA. The Disability Rights Oregon made a presentation prior to the Legislative Session. This bill has passed.
- HB 2600B – Requires larger hotels and motels to have a lift system. Reconciliation needed on the Senate and House versions.

### **Health Care:**

- HB 2009C - Health Reform. This bill has passed.

---

*This document can be obtained in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities upon request by contacting: Kelsi Eisele, 503-945-6482, Fax: 503-373-7823, or TTY: 1-800-282-8096. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.*

- SB 702 - Home Care Worker definition. This did not pass but it became a Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD) budget note (which means more discussion and report to the Legislature by the Department of Human Services (DHS)).

Protective Services:

- HB 2442B – Definition and prevention of abuse and neglect. This bill has passed.
- HB 2883, SB 237, and SB 238 – Powers of Attorney and Adult Guardianship. These bills have passed.
- HB 2137A - Protects confidentiality in Adult Foster Homes. This bill has passed.

Other legislative discussion:

- Sherry Stock mentioned that BIA sponsored a bill for funding for the work incentive network (now a federal grant). Although deadlines were missed, they hope to try again in February.
- Frank Armstrong brought up the lack of enforcement of parking permits in rural areas. Funding is an issue - since local enforcement doesn't see the fees, they don't have a great incentive for enforcement. Frank would like for ODC to keep this in mind as an ongoing issue.
- Bill Lynch and Jan Campbell reported on previous legislation, SB 716. This refers to van parking and mobility devices in which cities are to implement. Portland set up a task force with a time line for education and enforcement. It was felt the law discriminated one group against another group with disabilities.
- Tina Treasure reported the plans to decommission the Commission for the Blind were taken off the table for the time being. In the future there will be more discussion on combining vocational rehabilitation services.
- Frank reported the budget for the Commission for the Blind has been approved.
- Tina also reported because of approved general funds (to match federal funds) and the stimulus package, Vocational Rehabilitation will be able to serve many on their waiting lists. Bill mentioned that federal matching for

rehabilitation services are more than most matching – every \$2.00 spent, Oregon receives \$8.00 in matching funds.

### **Employed Persons with Disabilities (EPD) Subcommittee**

Bill Lynch and Max Brown briefly shared on the EPD Subcommittee. Discussion from the last meeting included:

- Philosophical conversation on buy-in to Medicaid.
- Keep more of resources, maybe put into a trust.
- Ideas how to improve the program (retirement, trusts, outreach, and training of staff regarding eligibility).
- Future recommendations.

### **Liaison Reports**

- Tina Treasure's report on Real Systems Change Grant is in the meeting packet.
- Judy Cunio submitted the Home Care Commission minutes (electronic copy sent prior to the meeting and hard copies provided at the meeting).

### **Action Items**

Bill Lynch briefly went over the Action Items' meeting packet handout. Many were for today's meeting.

- Bill noted the Anti-Bullying Bill (HB 2599) did pass.
- State Independent Living Centers (SILC) wants to retain Martha Simpson as a representative so she can serve her full term with ODC.

## **ORIENTATION TO THE OREGON DISABILITIES COMMISSION AND PUBLIC INPUT**

---

Bill Lynch again made introductions and briefly summarized ODC's history and current status as a commission. ODC does try to focus on cross-disability issues which is sometimes challenging. The mission statement for the MegaConference is

---

*This document can be obtained in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities upon request by contacting: Kelsi Eisele, 503-945-6482, Fax: 503-373-7823, or TTY: 1-800-282-8096. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.*

similar and consistent to ODC's. ODC takes the coalition approach, both as advisors and advocates---for system change.

Bill suggested two minutes each for those wanting to comment, and then more comments can be made if time permits.

Before Break:

- **Therese Steward**, parent, wanted to discuss the closing of Oregon's School of the Blind and what ODC's position was. Bill reported ODC did not take a position of closing the school and were not actively involved. Frank plans to meet with Therese during the scheduled break.

After Break:

- **Patricia Bollin**, Oregon Volunteers and Americorps, has an interest to become partners with disability organizations. She discussed various volunteer groups.
- **Trish Baker**, Self-Advocates as Leaders (SAAL), addressed the parking bills. She questioned the costs of having a medical certification for permit renewals. Some suggestions were made: (1) contact Motor Vehicles (DMV) with questions and (2) get a list of medical professionals, not just physicians, who can do the certificates. She supports bills around transportation. Commissioners discussed the need for more parking spaces, given the percentage of the population with disabilities doesn't often reflect the number of accessible parking spaces.
- **DJ Lemar**, a deejay as a career since 1995 for the disabled, and said he will be playing at the MegaConference. One commissioner requested we always say people with disabilities instead of disabled people, as it's more respectful. It was also requested that DJ not play the music too loud.
- **Roberta Dunn**, Family Action Coalition Team (FACT), is glad ODC has the ear of the Governor. She is concerned about systems changes regarding

---

*This document can be obtained in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities upon request by contacting: Kelsi Eisele, 503-945-6482, Fax: 503-373-7823, or TTY: 1-800-282-8096. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.*

Individual Education Plans (IEPs), transition to kindergarten, appropriate education, and employment for children with developmental disabilities. There is a need to strategize to be a voice.

- **Bertha**, citizen, requests that in the near future ODC should propose People First of Oregon (developmental disabilities) to start up again.
- **Shelley Joyce**, Oregon Family Support Network (OFSN) Project Manager, wants to discuss the children's mental health system. Legislative changes are keeping more children in their communities, home, and school. The Wrap Around Project will add a layer of education and outreach to coordinated services. There is a need for all health insurance to pay for children's mental health services like the Oregon Health Plan. The mental health parity did not work from last legislative session. As a commission, please support private insurance reform----basic floor of services (like OHP) and the issue pre-existing conditions. Bill mentioned the Family Opportunity Act part of HB 2009 (250% of the poverty level) includes children's mental health.
- **Lynn Stevens**, special education teacher, is concerned for many parents who cannot afford to become guardians of their adult children especially for decision making. Please look into waivers or other ways in which parents of more modest means can do this.
- **Joe**, multiple hats of self-advocate, is very happy ODC is on again. More groups are needed with more cooperation between groups. Bill mentioned an ODC letter to organizations requesting interest in collaboration.
- **Gwyneth Von Frank**, Lane Independent Living Alliance (LILA) from Eugene, was disappointed ODC did not take position on closing the School for the Blind. There may be preparation for a lawsuit on grounds that some educational opportunities not provided in community/school districts. Many students have multiple disabilities and a need for education and belonging. She wants ODC to consider educating themselves and take a stand when this hits the courts.

- **Trish Baker** questioned about partnering with Vocational Rehabilitation. She did not have a good experience years ago. Now abilities are matched, not disabilities. Assessments and transition programs are needed early with collaboration with other agencies.
- **Jean Atola**, citizen, is concerned about the failure of mental health parity. She stated she has diabetes and is bi-polar, explaining that getting treatment is more complicated for the mental health issue. There is a need for total health care.  
It is vital your district legislators hear issues and experiences, current and those who introduced the bill. Also contact the media, and make a complaint to the insurance commissioner (call or write).
- **Sarah Hussein**, Policy Assistant for the Office of Commissioner Amanda Fritz of the City of Portland, welcomes all comments or concerns on health issues.

Bill thanked all the public and the commissioners for comments which seemed more like a conversation. He appreciated all the resources around the table. Bill stated all comments will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:45 p.m.