

**People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2006**

Participants: (X = attended, A = absent; E = Excused) – January 11th

Members			
x	Peggie Beck	A	Kathryn Jenness
x	Jack Benson	x	Scott Lay
x	Jan Campbell	x	Ruth McEwen
A	Donna Crawford	x	James Naegele
x	Tonita Croghan	x	Dayle Niemie
x	Reta Griffith	x	Karen Showers
E	Susan Grimes	x	Mike Volpe
Attendant: Sarah Long			
Staff			
Morgen Brodie, Becky Murphy, Marc Overbeck, and Wendy Russell			
Public/Guests			
Marlaine Morton, SEIU Sally Lawson Bill Olson, BIAOR			
Speakers			
Cathy Cooper		Christina Jaramillo	

Call to Order

Called to order at 11:29 by Ruth McEwen, Chair.

Introductions

Introductions were made by roll call.

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Agenda Review

James Naegele would like to talk about caseworkers and client service attitudes.

Jan Campbell would like to have a prioritization discussion under chair update.

December Minutes

Page 9 under subcommittee reports, James Naegele's last name was spelled wrong. James would also like it to reflect that the discussion on Independent Choices was not about a personal issue affecting him.

MOTION: Approve minutes with corrections. *Passed* (James Naegele/Dayle Niemie)

Action Items Follow-Up

Donna Weaver of SPD was contacted about the complaint format process. Donna said the program managers were briefed last month, and she will be meeting with Debra today and will get back to Becky.

Prioritization on the Oregon Health Plan needs more comments from PDAC members, so that a letter may be drafted to the Oregon Health Services Commission. Only two comments were received.

A criminal records representative has been scheduled for the February meeting.

Staff Updates

The revised bylaws in the packet reflect only what was discussed at the previous meeting.

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Nominations

As of the beginning of the meeting there had been no nominations for Executive Committee members and the deadline is January 18th. Marc went through the procedures that had been approved.

James Naegele nominated himself to be on the executive committee.

All nominees will be asked to submit one paragraph on why they want to serve and it will be sent out in the February packet.

It was decided that nominations would be accepted from the floor at the February meeting.

MOTION: A two minute speech will be requested instead of a written paragraph. Passed. (James Naegele/Tonita Croghan)

2006 Meeting Schedule

At PDAC's request, we're bringing back the discussion of meeting options. Morgen reported that Cathy Cooper and James Toews suggested Option 4 — a variety of phone, video, and in-person meetings. This proposal would require less travel, with members able to go to local offices that have video conferencing capabilities. This would also give more opportunity for community outreach. The hope is that this option will meet the needs of the committee as well as being fiscally responsible.

Reta recommends holding a trial run before committing to video conferencing. Mental health, hospitals, and community colleges can also connect but there may be a fee involved.

MOTION: Try Option 4 with video only in March, then revisit options again. Passed. (Jan Campbell/Mike Volpe)

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Jan would also like to make sure there is a sign language interpreter if possible.

Chair Update

The DME workgroup asked PDAC permission to use their bylaws and processes when forming their own committee. Ruth felt that was a huge compliment and that PDAC should be proud.

MMA Update

Christina reported the MMA Team is being deluged by clients who are unable to get drugs. The field staff is working as quickly as possible. Each individual MMA issue takes an average of 1-1.5 hours to work through. They are working weekends and evenings to try and get caught up with the issues. There are about 10,000 clients in Oregon whose claims are not going through according to CMS.

Clients need to call 1-877-585-0007 if they are not getting drugs, especially if they are out or will be within three days. They are doing lots of pharmacy education. Some pharmacies may not have the software to bill the insurance companies.

Dr. Goldberg is working with the Governor's office to help get through this. He has made several press statements. Christina answered further questions about Part D.

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Public Input

Bill Olson attended the DHS budget legislative subcommittee. The focus was on budget and caseload forecasting. The subcommittee discussed that when cuts/changes are made to different programs it would be entirely appropriate for caseworkers to find other services/options that would be available to clients.

DHS/SPD Update (Cathy Cooper)

DHS leaders are getting ready for rebalance on April 6-7. There is no surprise that there is a \$172 million dollar budget shortfall. DHS was presenting their preliminary review to the legislative subcommittee today, including discussions from each cluster. The Department is bringing forward recommendations to slow recruitment but has not discussed any program-related cuts with the E-Board. There are \$4 million in administrative cuts on the table but the legislature so far has not given DHS any clear direction on how it wants the Department to proceed on this matter. The Department will be presenting the E-Board with a letter next week describing the issues in the Department and giving them an actual dollar amount with actions to reduce the shortfall by \$4 million. It was pointed out that \$30 million of the \$172 million was a shortfall from the 2003-2005 biennium.

The Long Range planning committee will be meeting January 20, 2006. There are no changes regarding ODC.

Subcommittee Reports

Language/Training Subcommittee – Jack reported the subcommittee met twice last week. The focus was to find out what training is being offered at what level and what kind. David Ray Walker and William Hoar provide cultural awareness training in the Department (includes disability issues), and welcomed PDAC members to attend. The subcommittee found out that these trainings are not mandatory. There was a suggestion on holding panels but they have found that there are not enough volunteers to participate and they just didn't have enough time or resources to recruit a panel. There are three different modules: managers, staff, and advanced. There was an idea of a piece at the Diversity Conference, maybe a panel segment? William and David Ray will be at presenting at the February meeting.

Joe Hesting is out ill. PDAC will send a card.

EPD – Scott sent out an email to the group with thoughts about new policy options that have been proposed; he would like comments/feedback to be sent back to him ASAP. The workgroup he sits on has had two meetings.

Liaison Reports

Mike reported he was unsure when the next Agency with Choice meeting is scheduled. He sent out the draft plan for the MIG 2 grant via email, but hasn't heard anything back.

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Scott reported the DME-POS Committee has been working on rules to change DME purchasing--what the committee sent out as a proposed rule eliminated tilt and recline wheelchairs. The rule was retracted and a new committee which includes advocates is working on a new proposed rule.

Homecare service workers are starting to be trained. The service provider registry should be up and running by June. There will be a meeting next week of the user group for the registry.

New Issues

Mileage rates are being reduced to \$.445 per mile.

Members thanked Ruth for sending the letter she sent to Dr. Goldberg. It was reported that the mental health stakeholders expressed the same concerns as she had regarding involvement of consumers and advocates.

Next Meeting Items

Becky reported on speakers who are available for the next meeting. Lisa Richards is available. Judy Giggy would be willing to come back to answer specific questions. A representative from the Criminal Records Unit would be willing to come discuss home care provider records checks. Sue Stoner will come if the Independent Choices surveys analysis are completed. David Ray Walker and William Hoar will come to discuss their Disability Culture training. There will be an MMA Update. Cathy/James will report on DHS/SPD matters.

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Dr. Goldberg will be in Washington DC when the February meeting is going to be held so perhaps he can attend the April or March meeting.

The committee would like to hear about the progress on ODC, have an update on what's happening with the E-board by James, and find out what is going on with OHP from someone from OHP. Also elections will be held at the February meeting.

Prioritization - Jan sent back comments stating that she was unable to prioritize OHP services as an individual. Unless there is more discussion she cannot do it and does not believe in it. She will not be sending in another comment.

Oregon Health Services Organization (OHSO) periodically goes through a list trying to decide what services are the most important. OHSO prioritizes services based on the funding available. There is a list of 576 kinds of services and the legislature asked OMAP to make cuts but was unspecific on where or what those cuts should be. There are ongoing discussions on how costs be more reduced.

Marc answered questions about the OHP prioritization request. There was discussion about how the Oregon Health Services Organization should fund OHP.

MOTION: Send a letter to the Health Services Commission with a blanket statement that PDAC cannot prioritize services. *Passed.*
(Jan Campbell/Jack Benson)

Scott suggested that the answer to the first question in his opinion was do not reduce benefits to cover more people.

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Caseworkers - James expressed his concern that some caseworkers don't seem to convey an attitude of support and assistance. James is currently serving as a mentor for another DHS client, and found that the person's caseworker didn't tell them about options for Vocational Rehabilitation or homecare services. The caseworker also made erroneous assumptions about what the client would be eligible for or benefit from. James expressed his concern that clients may not advocate for more out of a fear of retaliation.

PDAC wants to continue to advocate for all caseworkers getting training in customer service to help them do their job well. Marc reminded members that if there are specific complaints it is important to have the specifics of the situation—who, what, when, etc., so that a manager can deal with a situation, and notice if patterns are happening.

ACTION ITEM: Becky will check with the Quality Assurance Committee.