

**People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2006**

Participants: (X = attended, A = absent; E = Excused) – March 8th

Members			
E	Peggie Beck	x	Kathryn Jenness
E	Jack Benson	x	Scott Lay
x	Jan Campbell	x	Ruth McEwen
x	Donna Crawford	x	James Naegele
x	Tonita Croghan	x	Dayle Niemie
x	Reta Griffith	x	Karen Showers
x	Susan Grimes	x	Mike Volpe
Staff			
Becky Murphy, Marc Overbeck, and Wendy Russell			
Public/Guests			
None			
Speakers			
Max Brown		Sue Stoner	
Erin Mueller		James Toews	

Call to Order

A quorum was reached at 11:44 a.m. (A late start occurred due to technical problems with the first video conferencing meeting.)

Introductions

Review of Agenda

Becky noted a change in the agenda: instead of Sue Stoner talking about Independent Choices rules, Erin Mueller is giving a presentation on the results of the Independent Choices' survey.

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Jan requested to add a discussion about ODC with James. Members agreed with the revisions.

Review February Minutes

MOTION: Accept minutes as submitted. *Passed.* (Jan Campbell/Donna Crawford)

Follow up Action Items from February meeting

Naomi Steenson, Manager of the Governor's Advocacy Office, will attend the April meeting to give a presentation about the complaint process regarding field offices. Sue Stoner is to report on proposed rules for Independent Choices. One of the drafted letters to HCC letters has been put on hold, pending more information.

After other video conference sites were checked out, the only viable site available in the Gold Beach area is at the DHS office in Gold Beach.

The website is being updated to inform visitors that PDAC is recruiting members and the application will be available on the website soon.

Staff Updates

None.

DHS/SPD Update (James Toews)

The department is busy preparing the DHS budget's re-balance for April's E-Board. It mostly will be just an update of the shortfall numbers from January; there will be new projections, depending on new caseload forecasting numbers. James is not sure if the Legislature will take any action in April. The Department is not seeing any major

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service reductions being ordered by either the Legislature or the Governor. There could be a special session of the legislature called in early summer.

The Department is starting to project the 2007-2009 budget, along with coming up with a list of legislative concepts and potential policy packages that will be shared later with PDAC.

The next meeting of the Future Long Term Care workgroup is on March 17th. Their goal is to have the first draft of a preliminary Report ready by May 1st and be on the road for community forums in late May and June. The forums will gather information for planning purposes.

James received a letter from the Cross-Disability Coalition proposing what the new Oregon Disabilities Commission should look like. Their proposal recommended that a representative from each of the 12 or 13 consumer/advocacy groups in Oregon have a seat on the commission. It would be a culmination of what is important to all disability groups, not just one specific group.

The Department will be drafting a policy regarding attendant care and will hopefully have the first draft to bring back to the committee at the April meeting, after talking with individuals first. DHS needs to have a set wage/benefit schedule, to make sure that Medicaid is not being double-billed.

Medicare Moderation Act (MMA) Update (Max Brown, MMA Coordinator)

As it has been discussed in prior updates, MMA was in crisis at inception on January 1, 2006. About 3,900 people on Part D have had problems here in Oregon. Mostly the issues have been either enrollees

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don't show up as being enrolled in a plan, those who are dual eligible are being charged the wrong co-payments, or the insurance company formulary does not cover the medication.

Max and his staff have seen a reduction in case issues over the last three or four weeks. There have been ongoing problems caused by issues with information sharing between the insurance companies and CMS. Max sees this problem to continue for at least the next six months.

Medicare told plans that there should be 90-day transitional supply of medications given to give doctors time to file exceptions in case the drug was not on the insurance company formulary. Some of the individual insurance companies were proactive in this, but many were not. This option will be going away the end of March.

The state has been using money from the General Fund for those clients who are dual eligible and had difficulty receiving their prescriptions. The federal government will no longer be reimbursing the states after March 31st. The states are trying to postpone this decision until a later date. Max estimated that the total cost to Oregon's General Fund would be no more than \$50,000.

MMA received information in late February that the federal government is proposing that insurance companies cut down to two plans per company, one basic and one enhanced benefit plan.

There is also a question of what happens in 2007, when premiums go up and many of the plans will no longer be available. It is an issue that some of those clients who are dual eligible may be auto-enrolled again in a different plan which would cause problems like they did when Part D rolled out. Instead of auto-enrollment, Oregon would like to see

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individual choice counseling for clients who might otherwise be auto-enrolled saving time and resources for both the federal and state programs.

Many dual eligible clients have been having an issue of the wrong plan being on their medical card. This has to do with the information sharing glitches at the federal level. Oregon has decided to try to solve this issue by instead of showing the name of each individual plan on the medical card, the card would state only that the client has "Medicare Part D" coverage.

The committee would like to see the number of plans that changed their drug formularies since the implementation.

Max reminded the committee that MMA staff need to know about any cases in which the client paid for prescriptions. The clients should be getting reimbursed by either the pharmacy or the insurance companies.

Max answered various questions from committee members including EPD issues.

Independent Choices Survey Evaluation (Erin Mueller, Pacific Research and Evaluation)

Erin brought in the complete report summary findings to the committee. She explained who and what the survey focused on. The report cannot be sent out until it is finalized but will be forwarded to members once it is.

The survey was taken by phone from consumers and caregivers, and by e-mail from caseworkers. There was a definite high level of satisfaction in regards to the Independent Choices (IC) program.

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The IC pilot program has been in operation in five counties with a waiting list in Clackamas County. If approved by the federal government, there will be a regional roll out to all counties, beginning in 2006.

Sue Stoner spoke about the positive impact and the greater feeling of independence for seniors and people with disabilities resulting from the Independent Choices program. She will be presenting the program to Dr. Goldberg and will be talking to him about its potential expansion.

Public Input

None.

Reports

- **Subcommittees**

- The EPD Committee has been working via e-mail. They have decided to try a new way of meeting using Google groups. The group can use Google as a place for subcommittee members to enter questions and positions, especially when trying to reach consensus. Scott will send invites to all who want to be part of Google group.

- **Liaison Reports**

- The staff received two reports from meetings in March. Reports provide a viable link to other members to let them know what is happening in DHS.
- Staff will resend the form to all committee members.
- If the report is time sensitive, it will be e-mailed, otherwise look for liaison reports in April's packet.

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- Wendy asked that each person e-mail what groups they are attending, not only as PDAC liaison but also as individuals so as to compile a list. Members expressed it would take far too much time to do this, as many members participate in multiple groups. It was clarified that Committee members are only expected to send reports from groups that they have been appointed as liaison.

- **Rule Work Groups**

Buckley Bill - Ruth's report is available in packet. There has been some new work since the packet was sent out. The Buckley Bill workgroup is finished with its work, and some part of the work will be dealt with in Service Priority Level workgroup.

SPL - Ruth's report is available in packet.

New Issues

The Executive Committee decided since PDAC would be a continuing group that it should probably make six-month and one-year goals that the committee wants to take on and measure the progress. Any member who has other suggestions or process issues should give them to the Executive Committee before it meets again.

April's Meeting (Strategic Planning Recommendations)

The Executive Committee came up with some ideas for potential goals for the committee, to be developed strategic planning session. These include:

- Networking (connecting with other advocacy groups).
- DHS issues (Network of Care, Long Term Care pilot program, budget cuts, Legislative concepts, etc.).

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- Obtaining consumer feedback from clients. Strategize how to get information.
- A measurable way to evaluate PDAC as a group and its effectiveness.
- Expansion of knowledge of SPD services/programs/contracts.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.