

**People with Disabilities Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2006**

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**Participants:** (X = attended, A = absent; E = Excused) – April 12<sup>th</sup>

<b>Members</b>			
<b>X</b>	Peggie Beck	<b>X</b>	Kathryn Jenness
<b>X</b>	Jack Benson	<b>E</b>	Scott Lay
<b>X</b>	Jan Campbell	<b>X</b>	Ruth McEwen
<b>E</b>	Donna Crawford	<b>X</b>	James Naegele
<b>X</b>	Tonita Croghan	<b>X</b>	Dayle Niemie
<b>E</b>	Reta Griffith	<b>X</b>	Karen Showers
<b>X</b>	Susan Grimes	<b>X</b>	Mike Volpe
<b>Attendants</b>			
Avi Cooper, Jon Croghan, Donalda Hill, Glenna Niemie, and Amy Parker			
<b>Staff</b>			
Morgen Brodie, Becky Murphy, Marc Overbeck, and Wendy Russell			
<b>Public/Guests</b>			
Sally Lawson, NWSDS		David Taylor, DHS Trainer	
<b>Speakers</b>			
Sue Stoner		Christina Jaramillo	
Lee Girard		James Toews	
Naomi Steenson		Cathy Cooper	

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## **Call to Order 12:03**

## **Introductions**

Introductions were made around the room.

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## **April Agenda Review**

There were no additions to the agenda.

## **March Minutes**

**MOTION: Accept the minutes with no additions or corrections.**  
*Passed.* (Jan Campbell/Dayle Niemie)

## **Action Items Follow-Up**

In the packet of information that was handed out to committee members, under the last tab is a copy of the updated website. There is information about recruitment, and the new application is interactive and can be emailed to staff. Also the new member roster lists whether a person is an officer.

After asking members if the coffee service was worth the cost, it was decided by consensus that there would be no coffee service.

It was reported that the Governor's Advocacy Office received only one complaint in March for SPD.

There has been no response from the Home Care Commission regarding the letters written by PDAC.

The answers to questions members asked in regards to MMA previously are included in the packet of information provided. If there are any new questions, Christina will answer them when she is here later this afternoon.

Wendy is starting to compile a list of what members are liaisons for this committee to other groups, and other groups involved in.

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A “thank you” letter to Vikki and Bill Hammonds has been mailed thanking them for their extraordinary service as managers of the Salem Inn.

State Parks had requested a volunteer for their advisory committee and Reta volunteered. Next time there is a request for a volunteer, Becky will also check with college disability services and independent living centers.

Lisa Richards added a line on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Hearing form that addresses both auxiliary aids and alternate formats as suggested by PDAC.

## **Staff Updates**

Morgen reported there is a possibility that the whole Advocacy Team could be moving into its own space. There is office space at a building at 676 Church Street which is about three blocks west and one-half block north of the DHS building. It has its own conference room. Staff will be doing an inspection of the space and checking for full accessibility with the help of a couple of volunteers from each advocacy group. The move could happen as early as June.

There is some information regarding the Office of Special Education of Rehabilitation included in packet regarding their homepage. One of their focuses is on the reuse of durable medical equipment (DME). Morgen would like to have Laurie Brooks who is the Executive Director of Access Technologies, Inc., who are the sub-contractors that are carrying out the TALN grant, talk at a future meeting about what they do and about the reuse of durable medical equipment.

Morgen reported there are a lot of disconnects in the Bylaws. Jack and Tonita will form an ad hoc committee to review them and bring back any revisions to the group by the next meeting is possible.

## **Attendant Care Policy**

Morgen talked about the work being done to develop an attendant care policy for DHS. Morgen took the preliminary information she gathered from members and drafted a proposed policy and forms that were included in the packet. She also sent these to other groups for their input. Morgen affirmed the group that DHS is looking for full participation from all. One of the concerns is that hours in a person's request for reimbursement do not duplicate hours in their service plan. This proposal would provide a separate stipend and cost coding that would pay for any assistance above the level covered in the service plan.

## **Chair's Discussion Item/Video Conference Feedback**

Committee members were impressed with how the last video conferencing meeting went in spite of technical difficulties at the beginning. There was some concern over the rooms not being marked. It was suggested that signs be posted. Also it was requested that the contact person for the various sites be available during the meeting, and that PDAC staff contact them via email the day before to confirm everything. When asking for accommodations, we will have the notices state at least 48 hours prior to meeting. Other accessibility issues surrounding video conferencing were discussed.

**DECISION by Consensus: Continue to conduct a portion of the PDAC meetings by video conferences.**

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## **Reports**

Some of the liaison reports were late and did not get mailed prior to the meeting---they are in the packets provided at the meeting.

**EPD** – Susan reported the subcommittee has not been able to connect and/or meet. They even set up a Google group but that didn't work very well. Committee members posted their concerns on the group site. Susan was requested to send out the site information to all PDAC members again.

**SPL** – Jan felt that testimony needs to be given on the Service Priority Levels. The SPL workgroup has made some real changes that are causing more work for case managers. Members thought it would be helpful for someone from the department to attend a meeting and explain this. There was concern that there may not be time to address these issues before the rules hearing.

It was suggested that PDAC be involved in case management training and could draft a publication about the importance of a thorough client assessment.

Susan, Kathryn, Jan, and Peggie will form an ad hoc committee to draft testimony. It was reminded that testimony needs to focus on the social model. The language is moving from the "care" model to "service" model. A special thanks to Sue Stoner and that instead of a person's plan of care has been changed to an individual services model.

The DME Advisory Board needs another person to volunteer. There are four "advocate" positions on the DME Advisory Board and only two are

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filled. The Board will meet quarterly once it's established. Mike would be interested in volunteering if it doesn't conflict with the Home Care Commission (HCC) meetings. Kathryn is interested, if Mike is unable to attend.

### **Independent Choices Proposed Rules (Sue Stoner, IC Program Analyst)**

PDAC publicly thanked Sue for her support of Ruth's ideas in the SPL workgroup and for her willingness to get the documents needed to help educate this group.

The drafts of IC program specifics as a demonstration program and proposed rule changes were included in the meeting packet. Sue explained how the project works and that it is intended to compliment natural supports and allow people to live in their own homes. She asked for any input to be given to her before May 12<sup>th</sup> so they may be incorporated in the proposed rules. The ICP toll-free number for comments is 1-866-294-0153, and Sue's email address is susan.k.stoner@state.or.us. The program will not be statewide until after November.

### **Lifespan Respite (Lee Girard, State Unit on Aging)**

Lee explained about the new competitive contract process that organizations will now need to go through in order to receive any grants. Due to this and other changes the Lifespan Respite program received special permission from Office of Contracts and Procurements to extend contracts through June 2007. A memo will go out to programs that currently have grants under the Lifespan Respite

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program explaining to them about the new contract process as well as the 12% reduction due to the latest budget analysis.

Lee is currently putting together a task force to provide advice to DHS about the respite program. Ruth appointed Peggie as the official liaison from PDAC.

### **Complaint Process Overview (Naomi Steenson, GAO Manager)**

Naomi distributed a training handout (complaint form, instructions, and comment forms already in the meeting packet) on the new DHS customer comment forms.

The Governor's Advocacy Office has put together a PowerPoint training for all field offices. The training talks about policy timelines and what is expected when making contact with complainant within five days and then hopefully the resolution five days after that as a follow up. It is still up to local offices to set up how complaints are handled. The Training and Development section is developing a statewide training on customer service. The GAO will be getting a new database which will help track all the information received.

Lori Nelson has put together this training with the input of 27 different advocate groups. It covers the expectations of following up when an office receives a complaint.

Jan suggested that field staff could be more helpful in informing the public on programs that are available which they might be eligible for.

## **Medicare Modernization Act Update (Christina Jaramillo, MMA Coordinator)**

May 15<sup>th</sup> is the first deadline for people to enroll into a plan; after this date, there is a financial penalty for each month a person has not enrolled. CMS sent letters to anyone who they believed had two plans or more, and noting CMS's intent to put people back in their original plan. This has caused problems again in enrollment, as well as the filling of prescriptions.

There are still about 1,000 cases where people are having trouble getting prescriptions. The reimbursement to the state to fill emergency prescriptions for Medicare and full Medicaid will end at the end of April. The MMA unit is still trying to educate pharmacies on billing. There will be federal reimbursement of casework for administrative staff time through the end of April.

### **Public Input**

None.

### **Committee Member Comments**

Jan, Susan, and Mike would like PDAC to continue talking about Independent Choices and some of the issues regarding benefits for caregivers. The caregivers do not receive insurance or workers comp like those who work under the Home Care Commission. James Naegele answered a few questions since he is on Independent Choices.

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Mike brought up the Employment Initiative Program. At one time the program was staffed by 22 people in the field and support services for people with disabilities who were or want to be employed. Mike asked if it would be appropriate for PDAC to try and restore the Employment Initiative Program? He acknowledged that it probably wouldn't be reinstated but that it would keep the Employment Initiative Program under focus.

Members would like more information regarding both the EPD and Independent Choices programs. Staff will invite people to upcoming meetings to discuss both topics at a greater length.

Susan would like to have more discussion on the attendant care policy. Morgen pointed out that she would like everyone to look over the draft information and bring comments back, since SPD is out of compliance for not having a policy regarding this issue. Time was set aside on the agenda for tomorrow.

## **DHS/SPD Update (James Toews/Cathy Cooper)**

### Budget Package

The Department is getting ready to put the 2007-2009 base budget together. There is still time for groups to introduce policy packages until the middle of June. The Department deadline is mid-May for potential input of budget packages. The Employment Initiative would be considered a budget package option and PDAC can recommend that. James said that if there are specific issues they be brought forward. SPD should have a complete list by the time PDAC meets again.

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Legislative Concept Package

The potential bills that the Department would like to introduce have already been sent to DAS for approval. A list of potential bills will be emailed out to members.

E-Board/Special Session

There will be a special session of the Legislature held next week to address the \$140 million dollar shortfall. In SPD there is a \$35 million dollar shortfall; \$11 million is in nursing homes and much of the balance is for caseloads dealing with children with developmental disabilities caseloads which are still on the rise.

James does not believe that there will be any reductions in programs arising out of the special session.

Future of Long Term Care (FLTC)/Community Forums

There will be another FLTC workgroup meeting on May 19th. SPD plans to have this as a work in progress for multiple years and doesn't know when it will be considered finalized due to the magnitude of information it could bring back regarding the aging demographics. The report being drafted in May will be a road map for people to address in upcoming years. It will not be a detailed implementation plan.

Jan feels members should attend the community forums in their communities. The Executive Committee should put together talking points for members to bring up at the forums. Members are asked to

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contact their local SAC's, DSAC's and SILC's and invite them to the forums.

A webpage is now available with a comment area on the DHS website in regards to the Community Forums.

James answered questions about how the forums fit in with people with disabilities.

### ODC Update

There has been no change on the status of ODC. James did receive a letter from the Cross-Disability Coalition asking SPD to take a next step in revitalizing ODC. The next step would be developing a charter and figuring out the representation. PDAC will be asked for a representative when the time comes.

**Adjourn 4:20.**