

**People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2006**

Participants: (X = attended, A = absent; E = Excused) – July 13th

Members			
X	Peggie Beck	X	Kathryn Jenness
E	Jack Benson	X	Scott Lay
X	Jan Campbell	X	Ruth McEwen
A	Donna Crawford	E	James Naegele
X*	Tonita Croghan	X	Dayle Niemie
E	Reta Griffith	X	Karen Showers
		X	Mike Volpe
Attendants: Avi Cooper, Donald Hill, and Glenna Niemie			
Staff			
Morgen Brodie, Becky Murphy, Marc Overbeck, and Wendy Russell			
Public/Guests			
Kay Trask, NW Senior & Disabled Services			
Speakers			
Clyde Saiki James Toews Cathy Cooper		Christina Jaramillo Lynda Dyer	

* Phoned in for part of the meeting.

Call to Order (8:00)

Chair's Discussion Items

Morgen came up with some new "pretend" names for the advisory committee and presented them to PDAC. Morgen also wished PDAC a happy first year anniversary.

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Members discussed about what they wanted to add to the agenda items for Clyde, James, and Cathy. Members wanted to emphasize continuing community-based services instead of nursing home services and to be involved at the beginning stages of anything that deals with people with disabilities at the government level. PDAC wanted to make sure that Clyde was aware of some of the interests the Committee has regarding the Employment Initiative, Independent Living Centers, In-home Services, and the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant 2.

DHS/SPD Update (Clyde Saiki, DHS Deputy Director; James Toews and Cathy Cooper, SPD)

Best way for Two-Way Communication and Direction with the Director's Office - Clyde informed the group that James and Cathy are primary point of contact. They will bring issues to Clyde and Dr. Goldberg. The Department has over 200 advisory groups and so for PDAC to get the best communication possible they should take their needs/concerns to James and Cathy who will then pass it along to the DHS Cabinet. Clyde spoke of he and Dr. Goldberg both having an open door policy, but for the most effective resolution for group issues start with James and Cathy.

Ruth talked to Clyde about being at the beginning of policy or rule changes. Cathy said that they try letting members know just as soon as possible about any possible changes, but it is not always brought to their attention in a timely manner.

Eligibility and Citizenship - There is good news. People on Medicare or SSI will not need to verify eligibility; it has been decided that that serves as verification of citizenship. There has been a multi-state class action suit filed. Oregon is trying to comply in a way that doesn't put people in danger. DHS is not contemplating doing any implementations before August 1st, giving the Department time to come up with a thoughtful,

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strategic plan that will include staff training in this matter. DHS plans on giving individuals as much time as possible to come up with required documentation and the Governor has been very supportive. SPD is hoping for this to have a very low impact on clients since the Medicare/SSI eligibility picks up 70,000 dual eligible people in the state caseload.

PDAC would like the Director's Office to know the importance of the following issues: Employment Initiative, Independent Living Centers, and In-Home Services. The members realize that there are pressures on the budget but believe that long-term service issues and what was brought to light at the community forums also need to be addressed. The Committee would like to make sure that long-term services provided in the home continue to receive the amount of priority that they have in the past. Community-based services have been proven more cost-effective than nursing home services. Independent Choices will be expanded statewide; the Department just signed off on the waiver, and 2,600 people will be added to the demonstration.

Clyde informed the group that the State Plan for Emergency Preparedness has no specific plan on how to help people with special needs during and after a disaster. There will be a group formed and a report sent to the Governor, Dr. Goldberg, and the Emergency Management System with concerns and suggestions regarding people with special needs in an emergency situation. Clyde feels that a person from PDAC should be part of that workgroup.

PDAC members discussed the difficulty for people with disabilities to partake in community involvement due to the rules about mobility devices being for in-home only. Members feel that those rules should be changed.

Clyde would like to hear input about how the medical transportation and brokerage systems are working for individuals; please send input to Morgen or Marc.

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The group suggested sensitivity training for para-transit drivers regarding people with special needs. Tri-met has developed training regarding access and cultures and the Committee suggested that other medical transportation and brokerage systems look into this type of training.

Budget Package Update - The Department is still looking at Policy Option Packages and budget options, which have yet to be prioritized. The Department is looking at packages that must fall into five initial areas. Morgen will email the list of priority areas.

FLTC/Community Forums Update - There was a lot of participation and the Governor's Commission on Senior Services (GCSS) is assembling the comments that were received and will take them back to the full workgroup on August 23rd. At that time they will decide where to go next. The Department now realizes there need to be several new workgroups formed. They are trying to get every possible data source that deals specifically with disability statistics; PDAC has been asked to be part of that workgroup. James has continually said that this is seen as multi-year process. GCSS intends to put together a report for the Director and the Governor.

Work Group #8 - Cathy asked that PDAC decide how many people and from what disability groups, should be part of Workgroup #8.

ODC Update - Letters are in the mail inviting representatives to the initial planning session reconstructing ODC—Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities, SILC, SRC, Commission for the Blind, ODHHS, Mental Health Planning and Management Advisory Council, and PDAC. The invitations are limited to existing departments or groups required in statute. The first meeting is for delegates from each of the groups to talk about what ODC would look like, what its role would be, and what resources there are to support it. The goal is to have some recommendations by mid-fall which would be before the legislative

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session for 2007 opened. The whole focus of the new ODC is to advocate for overarching legislative agendas for the entire disability population. Morgen believes this will take several meetings before ODC is ready to become fully functional.

Advocacy Team Move Update - At this point there isn't any new news but the plan is still to move to 676 Church Street.

“Physical Disabilities” Definition/Clarification for Recruitment

Purposes - PDAC succeeded the former Oregon Association of Disability Services Advisory Councils. PDAC's vision is to cover those with disabilities who are not covered by any other advocacy group.

Oregon Project Independence (OPI) - There are a few major concerns that need to be focused on now that it is in statute that people with disabilities are included “when there are adequate funds.” Some senior advocates are lobbying that nothing should go to people with disabilities until the funding is back up to where it was before Oregon Project Independence (OPI) got cut, which was \$13 million. With inflation they want it up to \$17 million before people with disabilities should be added. The general consensus is that there should not be a percentage split between the seniors and people with disabilities but funding should be on a first come first served eligibility basis, based on functional needs. OPI is not an entitlement and it is capped. It is based on the 18 Service Priority Levels. As new opportunities develop eligibility for the program should broaden. It was suggested that there be a direct dialogue with AAAs and O4AD, and also that GCSS and PDAC jointly form a position.

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

Things are getting better, but there are still issues that are continually being worked on. Clients who enroll in the middle of the month still have issues getting drug coverage in an effective and timely manner. The

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DHS Director, Dr. Goldberg has allowed us to continue to help cover prescriptions for individuals who have Medicare and full Medicaid with immediate drug coverage needs through at least September.

We are down to receiving about 30 cases a day compared to the hundreds at the beginning of the year and the cost to the state is less than \$20,000 monthly. We will not pay for drugs for multiple months. Some pharmacies are not using Point Of Sale backup payer, because of some of the issues in getting paid for the claims. One pharmacy reported that they had \$100,000 reversed after the prescriptions had been approved through the Point-of-Sale payer.

Clients who were deemed eligible last year, that are no longer in DHS medical programs, will get a letter in August stating they will not have the low-income subsidy to help with the cost-sharing for the Medicare Part D program.

The MMA team is working on getting money back from the federal government for the money paid for prescriptions in January through March 8th, as well as for the administrative and payroll costs of straightening out the issues people had with their prescription drugs from January through May 5, 2006, but this is a huge process.

Christina answered member questions.

There will be changes again in November where some clients will be auto-enrolled due to some companies not offering coverage or only offering one or two plans instead of several which will cause more confusion in January 2007.

A permanent option of an override process that would temporarily pay for medications when people are stuck in the middle of a prescription coverage issue would be a big help for clients. It was suggested that PDAC advocate with the director regarding this.

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MOTION: Write letter of support to Christina thanking her and letting her know if she needs more assistance to let us know (with a copy to James and Cathy). *Passed.* (Jan Campbell/Kathryn Jenness)

Christina informed the group Missy Dolan was the Administrator for the Oregon Prescription Drug Program which is part of the Office of Health Policy and Research.

Reports

- **Subcommittees**

EPD - Scott reported he set up a Google group for PDAC and asked members to let him know if they are not receiving any emails regarding it. There are several topics being discussed at this point, the webpage has space for questions and answers, opinions and suggestions. It was suggested that members communicate back and forth to bring what they really want to recommend to SPD in time for the next full meeting. One of the topics currently being discussed is the proposed client contribution for Employed Persons with Disabilities Program.

Training - Behind the liaison list is DDCC information. We are advocating for use of the word "service" instead of "care," and "people or individuals served" instead of "clients".

Donalda was presented with a card with the Committee's thanks for all she does as she's soon to finish her schooling and won't be joining us as a provider anymore.

- **Liaisons** – Two reports were included in the meeting packet.
- **Liaison List** - Included in the meeting packet.

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- **Rule Groups** – None to report on at this time.

- **Group Representative**
 - **DDCC** – Staff will send an email out asking if someone would be interested; the Executive Committee or Chair will make the decision.

 - **Work Group #8** - Scott, Mike, Ruth, and Jan (depending on time) volunteered. Also discussion on who should be represented. What about someone from the HIV population, such as Cascade AIDS project? The DD, TBI, and Mental Health population should also be represented.

Bylaws (Revision Proposal)

MOTION: Table revision proposal of Bylaws until the next meeting.
Passed. (Peggie Beck/Kathryn Jenness)

Oregon Project Independence Expansion (Lynda Dyer, State Unit on Aging)

Lynda explained what she does for DHS. The SB870 workgroup has been meeting since December figuring out what it says DHS has to do, a very slow process. She provided information on Oregon Project Independence, which now will include additional services. OPI is expanding to fee-based case management. She asked for feedback on a few questions which were handed out. Lynda's handouts included a copy of the revised statute. Budget of \$12 million is only partial restoration. A decision needs to be made on how the allocation should be split, and on training of AAA caseworkers to work with people with disabilities. If you receive Medicaid you are not eligible for Oregon Project Independence.

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OPI is currently available at AAA offices, and will expand to the DSO offices. Members had ideas that they gave to Lynda. There is no estate recovery for Oregon Project Independence. OPI is based on CAP's assessment and serves people at Service Priority Levels 1-18. She answered member questions. There is a \$5 surcharge annually after the client is determined eligible and reassessed.

Committee Members Comments

Drafted letter to Dr. Goldberg needs fragmented sentences fixed. Concerned that the EI wording should say the return of the employment specialists staff in the field. After revisions, it is okay to finalize and send.

Dr. Goldberg is scheduled to attend the October meeting.

There is too much on the meeting agendas; there is a need to narrow the focus. It was suggested to start an hour earlier on the first day and end an hour later on the second day, both of which was agreed upon.

Members feel they are more effective in-person.

They would rather have video than telephone meetings. Extend the video conferencing an hour or two. Becky will find out if we can add an hour or more.

Scott believed it would be beneficial to have Estate Administration come in and talk to the group.

Dayle, Scott, Mike, and Ruth need binders just to use at meetings.

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Scott's employment subcommittee eventually will have policies to recommend to SPD. How do we go about doing that individually or as a group? We will not wait but send them in phases with cover letter saying this is one of many. Agreed by consensus.

The letter previously sent to the Home Care Commission needed clarification. There was a question about whether we were asking that the make up of the training committee or the bargaining unit be modified. The whole point of the letter is that three consumers should be on the training committee. We want it put in the rule that three must be consumer representatives. We also recommend that there be a senior consumer on HCC. Scott will get back to the group.

Public Input

None.

New Issues

Invite to future meetings:

- * Deb Wert, DHS Client Transportation Coordinator.
- * Jean Palmateer, ODOT Public Transit Director.
- * Jeanette Burket regarding the Attendant Reimbursement policy.
- * Nicole Palmateer from O4AD.
- * Someone from Estate Administration.

November deadline on brochure.

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Find out what the timeline is for initiatives, etc.

Get together with the Governor's Commission on Senior Services (GCSS) to draft a joint statement regarding Oregon Project Independence. Ruth, Karen, and Mike will attend the next GCSS Meeting on July 28th.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Video conference updates.

Have Jeanette or Estate Administration representative attend the August meeting.

List of expenses for Cathy including request for offset due to increased cost of driving.

Suggestions for possible member candidates: Tim Baxter and Dan Arkin from Lane County.

Adjourned (12:25)