

**People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2007**

Participants: (X = attended, A = absent; E = Excused) – March 14th

Members			
X	Jan Campbell	X	Ruth McEwen
X	Donna Crawford	E	Dayle Niemie
X	Tonita Croghan	X	Karen Showers
X	Kathryn Jenness	X	Mike Volpe
X	Scott Lay		
Prospective Members			
X	Ed Zaha		
Attendants			
Jon Croghan, Sarah Long, Connie Scott, Linda Sjoblom			
Staff			
Lee Girard and Becky Murphy			
Public/Guests			
C.J. Reid		Sally Lawson; Kay Trask	
Speakers			
Cathy Cooper			

Call to Order (11:00 a.m.)

Roll was called and a quorum was reached.

Chair's Comments

ODC - Ruth shared that the ODC Letter from the Governor's Office has been received. PDAC is requested to submit three names of

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PDAC members and the Governor will appoint two of them. Ruth and Lee shared what the work group drafted for ODC's mission, purpose, etc. Copies of the letter and enclosures were distributed to all members. The decision was made to submit the following three names: Jan Campbell, Scott Lay, and Ruth McEwen. A work plan, priorities, and subcommittees will be finalized when all members are appointed.

Envelopes - Ruth explained the envelopes included with the meeting materials were for donations to be made in Jack's memory for his favorite cause, Rural Organizing Project. Jan reported she attended Jack's memorial service at his home – a totally accessible house.

Vice-Chair - Ruth reported the Executive Committee appointed Jan to be vice-chair until the next election. The full committee approved the action.

Review of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Approved February minutes as written. Passed. (Jan Campbell/Kathryn Jenness)

Follow-up Action Items from February Meeting

Becky reported there were no changes to the list of action items.

Becky shared she sent a revised recruitment letter to college disability services offices and State Independent Living Centers in the counties PDAC had hoped to recruit from.

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Becky also shared a couple of responses to correspondence plus other materials available if copies are desired. It was requested the materials be displayed on a table instead of being routed.

Staff Updates

- Lee reported that there is now a freeze on hiring and restrictions on purchase of office supplies, etc. Interviews will still be done for the Operations and Policy Analyst 2 (OPA2) position but the offer of the job cannot be made until July 1st.
- Lee led a discussion on the accessible issues of the Church Street building.

DHS/SPD Update (Cathy Cooper, SPD)

Network of Care – Cathy reported about the changes to be made on the website: side bar, color, readability, and options.

SPD Budget – For the “rebalance,” there is a freeze in hiring, and restrictions on travel, training, and purchasing until July 1st. DHS has had increased costs for the data center and the state hospital. Cathy mentioned the “reshoot” for the Governor’s Recommended Budget not having many changes. DHS is asking there be no cuts in staffing.

Legislative Session – SPD staff have been very busy with bills and hearings. The SPD presentation for Ways & Means is to be on April 23rd and will last for two and one-half weeks. SPD will inform advocates of the presentation and public hearings dates.

ODC – Cathy understood PDAC received a letter from the Governor’s Office. She also understood the concerns and

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disappointment of ODC not being up and running for this legislative session.

Future of Long Term Care (FLTC) – Draft #2 of the report will be reviewed by the full work group on April 6th --- and then draft #3 can be worked on.

Deficit Reduction Act – Cathy reported there will be many changes and impacts to Medicaid services. One example is the changes in waiver such as Independent Choices. SPD received a 12 month renewal. New waiver regulations won't be out until late summer. It is believed the waivers will include eligibility changes and regulations on in-home, community based services. No final decisions have been made.

Members brought up issues dealing with rule changes. Cathy reported many of the implementation (and interpretation) changes were made because of state and federal audits. Cathy suggested invited Gene Sundet to respond to specific issues.

DMAP – Cathy reported on the positive outcomes (working effectively with advocates and consumers) from a meeting in Lane County.

Money Follows the Person Grant – Oregon is a finalist and should know by April.

Questionnaire Grid

Ruth read the questions and answers (including in meeting materials). Discussion followed.

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Accomplishments or Successes of PDAC:

- Making the Department of Human Services (DHS), especially Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD), aware of PDAC's availability to give input as advocates and to participate in work groups.
- The changing of language in rules and policies.
- The recognition of the need to include input from people with disabilities in the Future of Long Term Care ongoing process and reports.
- Collaboration with other advocate groups: Oregon Project Independence (OPI) joint statement from PDAC and the Governor's Commission on Senior Services (GCSS), other issues with State Independent Living Council and the Home Care Commission.

Barriers and New Goals:

- Recruitment of new members. Find other ways to recruit – besides sending letters and a press release. Have exit interviews with members resigning. Mentorship of new advocates needed.
- Distance – more meetings using technology (video conferencing, power point presentations, netcasts, etc.).
- Low level of travel reimbursement costs - pursue options on shared transportation.
- Being included in the policy making effecting people with physical disabilities at the **earliest** possible stages department-wide.
[Contact other divisions and inform Dr. Goldberg.]

Language Versus Services:

- Language reflects values and attitudes.
- Continue as part of PDAC's goals.

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- Subcommittee continue – balance regarding services and language. Need to be up on new language regarding.
- Recommend to the new ODC.
- Grade level of readability; gear to audience.

Reports Versus Actions:

After a report:

- Ask if an action needs to be done?
- Accomplishes PDAC's mission?
- Is the action necessary?
- An assignment?
- Build debriefing into the agenda.
- Add new line to "Liaison" report: Is action needed?

Relationship with the Department and Partners:

- SPD language issues.
- OPI joint statement – PDAC and GCSS.
- Working with other groups – SILC and HCC.
- I hope PDAC will be able to be a part of the policy making at the earliest possible stages. Effect changes – impact.

Issues to discuss with Dr. Goldberg on March 15th:

Many advocates believe there has been a fundamental shift in DHS' philosophy --- penalizing clients living in their home? Are rules and policy changes motivated by state or federal changes? (This is a priority of seniors and people with disabilities.)

Examples:

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- Using options for financial eligibility, income, and resource exclusions.
- Shelter Exception (Allowance Accommodation)
- Consumer living with provider is required to be added to the mortgage.
- Spousal Pay Program Pay-In
- Comparison of OHP Program and OSIP/In-Home Programs

PDAC wants to be a part of policy making at the earliest possible stages department-wide (not just SPD) since rules and policies that effect people with physical disabilities cross divisions. [DMAP is on the agenda for later today.]

Are there any specific issues or projects you would like PDAC to work with you on?

Adjourned.