

People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2006

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

Members			
X	Peggie Beck	X	Kathryn Jenness
X	Jack Benson	X	Scott Lay
X	Jan Campbell	X	Ruth McEwen
X	Donna Crawford	E	James Naegele
X	Tonita Croghan	X	Dayle Niemie
X	Reta Griffith	X	Karen Showers
		X	Mike Volpe
Staff			
Morgen Brodie, Becky Murphy, Marc Overbeck, and Wendy Russell			
Public/Guests			
Michael Levine			
Speakers			
Cathy Cooper		Lee Girard	

Call to Order

Ruth called the meeting to order.

Introductions

Introductions were made as roll call was taken.

June Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted; Morgen has more to add under staff updates.

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May Minutes

MOTION: Approved minutes as written. Passed. (Jan Campbell/Donna Crawford)

Action Items Follow-Up

Becky reported most of the To Do List is still the same, many items are pending. The Website has been updated. Sue Stoner will let us know when Independent Choices (IC) rules are final. Wendy is still working on updating the liaison list; it should be completed by July if everyone submits their information.

Staff Updates

Last Thursday Morgen met with the trainers of various DHS field offices. She was asked to talk about advocates and advocacy. They said that sometimes advocates don't understand the rules that staff have to operate under, and indicated the advocates check with case managers to find out about specific rules. They talked about providing advocates with current and consistent information and maybe providing reference material for advocates to keep them better informed. PDAC expressed interest in training eligibility workers and trainers. It was suggested that PDAC make a video for the DHS offices to use to help workers better understand service recipient perspectives.

Morgen reported on a preliminary meeting to discuss developing a conference on physical disabilities, to include self advocates, case managers, providers, and policy makers. Members suggested Morgen contact the Independent Living Centers and those working on the MIG grant about Independence Fairs that the independent living centers put on for consumers to learn how to work with the system.

Attendant Care Reimbursement Policy

Morgen reports they are still working through issues and the next meeting is on June 28th.

Public Input

None.

Strategic Work Plan Update

Becky is trying to find out who the contact is to request EPD and EI data.

Peggie has attended three community forums on the Future of Long Term Care. In each one James Toews addressed the shortage of specific data about people with disabilities. The forums were focused on the aging population. Peggie will be providing a report for those three and Jan will be reporting on the Portland forum.

Reports

Liaison - Mike, Scott, and Ruth turned in written liaison reports that were sent in the packets.

Peggie reported she will submit a report for the Future of Long Term Care forums; her other group, Lifespan Respite, did not meet.

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Ruth reported the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) workgroup met and there are some issues but there may be some changes to the OMAP system. Tim Baxter, Tina Kitchin, Sandy Wood, and Ruth are trying to get another workgroup together. The meeting on June 26th has been cancelled.

Scott reported the Home Care Commission (HCC) has signed a contract for the work on the service provider registry that Dayle has been working on for 4.5 years. It should be up and running by November 1st. Also, the HCC is contracting with State Independent Living Council (SILC) to develop a curriculum and training for consumers who use in-home services. The goal is to reach 1,000 consumers. The training funds come from state workers' compensation monies that have not been used since claims are decreasing.

Liaison List - Wendy is still waiting on responses from some of the members.

Rule Workgroup - The only workgroups left are on the Buckley Bill and Oregon Project Independence (OPI). Members are trying to get involved at the beginning of the rule process instead of just giving input after the bill has been constructed.

DHS/SPD Update (Cathy Cooper)

Future Long Term Care and Community Forum Update - Cathy spoke about how the Department really appreciates that advocates and people with disabilities have been showing up and have given great input at the different forums. James points out at the beginning of each

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of the forums that the report really did not specifically address disability demographics, since its primary focus is on the aging population. Julia Huddleston has received information regarding other databases where she can get information on people with disabilities. Cathy spoke about assembling an eighth workgroup which would focus on demographics for people with disabilities. PDAC is also encouraged to look at all seven areas discussed in the Long Range report with the emphasis on how they pertain to people with disabilities.

At these forums the Department is hearing from real Oregonians and getting a fresh perspective from local stakeholders, advocates, and groups from the various communities. They are looking at using the same approach the next time they take the budget discussion out on the road since the attendance to those were low except in Portland and Eugene.

Cathy reminded members that there is a website available for information and comments regarding the long range planning forums. Staff will resend the website for public input, especially for those unable to attend. (Note: website address is <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/spwpd/lrc/flrc/index.shtml>.)

2007-09 Budget Update - The Department is finishing the essential budget level based on numbers from the spring of 2005. At this point, SPD has sent up Policy Option Packages (POPs) to the Department's financial unit. There are 96 POPs that the Department has to prioritize before they send the budget to DAS. The Department also has to complete the exercise of projecting a 10% budget reduction, but hopes it is just an exercise.

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The Budget Forums were held and mental health and DD services were the programs discussed by the majority of the attendees.

One of SPD's POPs is the restoration of the Employment Initiative. It has been sent up with the other 96 POPs. The Committee was encouraged to send Dr. Goldberg a letter supporting the Employment Initiative restoration. Cathy also encouraged members to have other groups and individuals also write letters of support.

PDAC is part of the SPD central budget, it does not have its own line item in the budget. If the group really feels there is a project that is important Cathy welcomed them to bring the idea to her and James and they would discuss it. Members asked that staff price out the idea of the committee having more in-person meetings.

ODC Update - Morgen is working on a letter that will go out to statewide advisory groups, including PDAC and ODHHS. The letter is to invite the groups together to use the ODC structure to discuss common interests and needs and submit proposals to the legislature. It is hoped that the group will start meeting in July.

Advocacy Team Move - SPD has over 220 employees and precious little space. During the last legislative E-board, the legislature showed concern that the Department is paying long-term leases on vacant space. This is what gave SPD the idea to turn 676 Church Street into a fully accessible advocacy building. Some of the staff did an initial quick walk through and had some accommodation concerns. They were told that all reasonable accommodations would be considered. SPD would

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like to make the Advocacy Building a model for accessibility for all persons, disabilities or not. Once Central Information Technology Systems is moved out of the building and it has been cleaned and painted, the hope is to have a few members of each of the advocacy groups go through and help design a fully accessible space. The goal is to have Church Street have all of the most modern equipment including video conferencing, loop systems, etc.

Cathy assured members that staff would still come to meetings at the new site and that there will still be drop-in cubicles available for members in the HSB building.

HCC Lawsuit - Cathy was not aware of the lawsuit against the Home Care Commission being dropped yet.

OPI Expansion (Lee Girard)

SB870 did not completely restore all the funding OPI previously had but did fund \$12 Million. There were some major changes to how the money is handled for OPI now. One of the changes is that the money allocated for OPI now goes in a treasury account which earns interest and cannot be put back in the general fund for budget balancing.

OPI also received \$250,000 from the Senior Property Tax Deferral Program. The money is transferred directly from the Department of Revenue to a treasury account. Lee will meet with Revenue and discuss fund projections. This money will expand the services allowed. OPI can fund information and assistance, planning for long term care and web based information services.

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OPI is looking to expand and provide services to people with disabilities. The language is so vague about adding people with disabilities when there are sufficient funds that a workgroup is looking at a rule change to better define it. The workgroup includes SPD, AAA, GCSS, Ruth from PDAC and Tina Treasure from SILC. The workgroup will be meeting at least once a month and advisory committee members were asked to give input on the following list of questions.

- When do we start helping people with disabilities?
- How do we define who are the eligible folks with disabilities that can be served?
- How do you define people with disabilities?
- How do we allocate funds to local communities?
- What is a reasonable amount to be allocated?
- To not require the same kind of service package for all, what kind of packages would people with disabilities need?

Lee will have Becky send the questions to members to give answers by email or phone or in-person at the July meeting.

Committee Members Comments

Dayle is looking for ideas for money to fund the HCC trainings.

Scott would like to talk about the discussion at HCC and how service hours are being reduced. He would like PDAC to look at the documents from Karla Spence and their impact. Ruth will contact Karla.

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New Issues and July's Agenda Items

PDAC would like to add Lee and OPI to the next agenda so that members can discuss and give input on the questions she submitted.

They would also like to add some time in to talk about the reduction in service hours.

Becky reported who so far are on July's agenda: Dr. Goldberg, James Toews, and Cathy Cooper regarding DHS/SPD; Jane-ellen regarding an overview of the budget; Christina Jaramillo regarding an MMA update; Jeff Miller regarding clients and COLAs; and Laurie Brooks from Access Technologies.

Morgen suggested to members that they strategize on what they want to talk to Dr. Goldberg about. When he met with GCSS he didn't give a presentation, he was open to what they wanted to discuss and she hopes that it would be the same for PDAC.

Adjourn at 1:39.