

**People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2007**

Participants: (X = attended, A = absent; E = Excused) – May 10th

Members			
X	Jan Campbell	X	Scott Lay
X	Donna Crawford	X	Ruth McEwen
X	Tonita Croghan	X	Karen Showers
X	Kathryn Jenness	X	Mike Volpe
Prospective Members			
X	Sharon Ely	X	Phillip Pownall
E	Linda Hildebrand	X	Ed Zaha
Attendants			
Avi Cooper, Jon Croghan, and Susan Johnson			
Staff			
Lee Girard and Becky Murphy			
Public/Guests			
Sally Lawson		Kay Trask	
Speakers			
Mary Gear		Lynda Dyer	
Debbie Bower/Max Brown		Gene Sundet /Joe Easton	
Rep. Ron Maurer			

Call to Order (9:00 a.m.)

A quorum was reached.

People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2007

Chair's Discussion Item

Scott's draft letter to Dr. Goldberg was read and discussed---a challenge regarding surviving on disability benefits. Discussion included: possible research, awareness, joint statement with other groups, and affordable housing with accessibility available.

MOTION: PDAC send a "challenge" letter to Dr. Goldberg, copy to Victor Mercid and other groups. Passed. (Scott Lay/Kathryn Jenness)

Someone needs to work on another draft which needs to be expedited as soon as possible.

Sharon thought it could be brought up at the next 04AD meeting.

Introduction of Mary Gear

Mary briefly shared her background and experience in Michigan and Washington.

Her area of SPD is: Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs), Residential Living Facilities (RLFs), Adult Foster Homes, and Nursing Homes. Her unit also does reviews of local offices. There are multiple licensing access issues and physical plan requirements. There is a problem with rates, acuity, and the moratorium on ALFs.

ACTION: Mary will check the rules and ADA requirements.

Mary reported on the Ways & Means Presentation and answered questions presented.

People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2007

Debriefing

Members wanted Mary to return for another meeting.

It appears there is a marketing trend regarding ALFs. It was questioned if there was a time limit regarding ALFs using Community Housing funds for the requirement to allow so much for low-income clients.

ACTION: PDAC needs to check on policy efforts.

MOTION: Draft letter with GCSS and other groups to work on the issue reviewing licensing of ALFs with access issues and services. Passed. (Jan Campbell/Karen Showers) [Executive Committee requested to place this “on hold” until receipt of more information.]

Other Discussion Items

“Conflict of Interest” and “Confidentiality” – (An excerpt from PDAC’s Bylaws and DHS policy was included in the meeting materials.)

Lee facilitated discussion which included:

- Affects all employees and volunteers.
- “Actual” versus “Potential” conflict of interest.
- Personal benefit issues should be directed to appropriate staff.
Suggestion: To be discussed with staff on a one-to-one basis.
- System change needed?
- PDAC here to assess and address policies and procedures.
- Issue – an isolated incident? Is systematic? Policy to assess?
- As DHS employees, there can’t be a two-way dialogue if a specific incident regarding a member because of confidentiality.

People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2007

- Role of group: guiding principles – Donna, Karen, and Ruth volunteered to work on this. Becky will set up a meeting.

Educating Members Before Bringing Up Issues to Guests – A written (in meeting materials) and verbal reminder.

Disability Services Advisory Councils (DSACs) Statewide - Discussion initiated because of public input in the March meeting about DSACs' inactivity and PDAC's role. (Input, SPD's transmittal about DSACs, and a spreadsheet of what currently known of DSACs. It was discussed there is less funding for DSACs and some areas do not have very active groups.

MOTION: Send brochures, agenda, minutes, and website location, with a welcome and value of their input. Passed. (Jan Campbell/Scott Lay)

Potential Letter Regarding Home Care Workers Bargaining – drafted letter included in meeting materials.

MOTION: Letter to the Governor supporting enhanced wages and benefits for homecare workers with consideration not to reduce numbers served or services, with copies to HCC, GCSS, DSACs, and SILC. Passed. (Jan Campbell/Donna Crawford)

Oregon Project Independence (OPI) Rules/Update [Lynda Dyer]

Lynda went over the rules, page by page, a copy of which was included in meeting materials. She also distributed a copy of the training schedule.

People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2007

If someone is receiving Medicaid, they are not eligible for OPI. Refer to the AAAs. The consumer sets priorities of services covered in their area.

Lynda plans to send the drafted rule to SPD management and 04AD directors. Then the notice of filing and hearing notices will go out.

Lynda reported that Ruth was working on OPI training; Ruth is working with someone from Multnomah County with role playing. The regional trainings will cover several modules: adaptive equipment, local panels from the disability community, multi-generation issues, and rules and program changes.

Lynda reported registration will be on-line (DHS staff and partners). Instructions on how to register will be out soon.

Lee reported what she heard from the 04AD meeting – if OPI is cut from \$16 to \$12 million, they can't see how they can expand services to people with disabilities.

Ruth stated she has enjoyed working with Lynda while working on revising the OPI rules and appreciates all her efforts.

Lynda reported they hoped participants for the panels at the OPI training would be from the local areas. If there are questions, contact Ruth or Lynda.

Public Input

Sally Lawson of Northwest Senior and Disability Services – Reported how much she appreciates the hard work Ruth McEwen does as DSAC Chair. She leads in visiting legislators.

People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2007

Ruth asked the prospective members for any input:

Sharon – Mentioned about service dogs and OPI – the allowable service of grooming costs and pooper scooping (care givers not allowed to do).

Ruth thought this should be mentioned – amend rules/task list performance.

Ed – Nothing to share.

Phillip – Mentioned Roberts' Rules regarding meeting format and new members' feedback. Questioned "physical" definition compared to ADA.

Reports – Liaison and Subcommittee

Only one report – **Emergency Preparedness** from Linda – was submitted timely and included in the meeting materials.

Verbal Reports:

Medicaid Advisory Committee – Donna reported the committee was disappointed about the vote for the Healthy Kids bill. They will continue working on health care issues – eligibility and payment systems.

Spousal Pay – Tonita attended the work group by phone. She expressed frustrations to receive payment from the feds, spouses need to make a payment to get into the program.

Employer-Employee Relationship in the CEP Program Work Group – Mike and Scott reported on the first meeting. The issue is about directing own services for in-home care. There are two times

People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2007

an assessment might be made: when initially put into program and if mental capability deteriorates in which criteria needed? Clients receiving services need to hire and direct own services, possibly a home health agency.

Subcommittees:

Language and Training Subcommittee – Jan says they will start meeting again, starting in June – third Tuesday, 10:00-11:00, right before the Employment Subcommittee.

Employment Subcommittee – Scott wanted to know if to continue subcommittee or not. Mike and Scott reported that the Work Group for EPD has had two meetings, the rest were cancelled. Scott wasn't sure about an ad hoc or standing committee. He hasn't heard anything about an Employment Task Force.

DECISION: Ad hoc, Subcommittees, and Structure will be discussed at the July meeting.

Legislative Update [Debbie Bowers and Max Brown]

Debbie reported quite a few bills have already died and potentially might. She reported on the Ways and Means presentation. Ruth asked about the answers to the questions asked by the legislators.

ACTION: Debbie or Max will send them electronically to Becky.

Bills of Interest:

- SB 716 – Looks like it is passing. Differences in types of handicapped spaces (ambulatory and wheelchair).
- HB 2032 – OPI and counties. Into Finance Committee.
- HB 2134 to HB 3139 – General Assistance (GA) – hearing next week or two, SPD addressing fiscal impact.

People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2007

- HB 3330 – Task Force addressing children. It is onto Ways and Means.
- HB 2530 – Tax Bill – still alive, hearing tomorrow.
- SB 329 & SB 27 – universal health care – passed out of committee; onto Ways & Means.
- SB 83 – moved both sides; passed and signed.
- SB 438 – service dogs – passed one side; #1 priority for SPD, testifying in support.

The Ways and Means presentation is on DHS website; supplemental information will be posted. SPD had the most public testimony. Now waiting for the May forecast. Ruth asked if the listings could be by number order instead of by bill manager or priority.

ACTION: Debbie or Max will sent a listing of bills by number.

March Issues Continued [Gene Sundet & Joe Easton]

#1 – 300% of SSI versus 225% of FPL – Deficit Reduction Act.

Discussion about Lee's chart and SSA 1902(R)2.

#2 – Exclusion of income/resources so people don't have to live in poverty.

Gene thought this would be addressed in one of James' meetings.

#3 – Consumers added to mortgage of providers.

Joe reported this was a misconception from SEIU. DHS has never advocated for consumers to be added to the deed of providers. The actual rule was included in the meeting information.

People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2007

#4 – Exclusion of retirement accounts.

Can non-annuities retirement be excluded? Gene said this would be researched as a possible option for the future.

Accommodation Allowance Meeting Summary:

To prevent negative impact, allowances will continue to be calculated in the old manner (prior to December 2006) if eligible. This would make the rule's impact held harmless. Calculations of all 130 cases will be reviewed by central staff; calculations will be done both ways to see what benefits the client most. Staff will also look at utilities reported, and if a break in service (over 30 days) or ineligible.

Rule Amendment Summary

Gene discussed the difference in the rules process for financial eligibility rules – CAF. File first, then process whether changes needed. Gene went over each rule. Members reported appreciation of the new format.

Debriefing

If introduced by SPD – a work group is usually formed. It was believed processes are proceeding in the right direction.

Senior & Disability Caucus Overview/Update [Rep. Ron Maurer & Staff Person]

Rep. Maurer introduced himself by sharing his background in health care. He reported that the Caucus was a loose coalition of legislators whom have seniors and people with disabilities as a priority in their legislative agenda. He felt Caucus members gave

People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2007

information and educated other legislators. Rep. Maurer reminded members that the budget is a big issue.

Caucus members meet about every three weeks – so far have met four times – discussing some specific bills and funding issues. A letter is the most effective way to communicate with legislators, over emails and phone calls.

ACTION: Becky will send a list of the Caucus members.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

- Emergency Preparedness Update with Connie Saldana.
- James and Cathy.
- Legislative Update with Debbie and/or Max.
- Monthly Update with Gene.
- Consideration of new members.
- Nominations for Elections in July.

Adjourned.