

## Joint SSAC-DSAC Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

**SSAC Members Present:** Catherine Skiens, Vice Chair; Lee Strandberg, Mark McNabb, Bill Turner, Doris Lamb, Chris Barnes, Dewey Konopa, Margaret Wells, Fawn Metcalf and Janet Shinner.

**DSAC Members Present:** Mike Volpe, Chair; Suzanne Brean, Vice Chair, Terry Brown, Pete Rickey, Edythe James and Rusty Burton.

**Guests:** Andy Olson, Mitzi Naucler, Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Victoria Short, Lindsey Oeder, Dani Marlow, Teri Jefferson and Curtis Miller.

**Members Absent:** Suzette Boydston, Chair; Bill Hall, Commissioner; Anne Brett, Kimberly Kimball, Lee Lazaro, Sherry Rocha, Jann Glenn and Mark Frederic.

**Staff:** Lisa Bennett, Carrie Corson, Terri Sharpe and Marci Howard.

1. Catherine Skiens called the meeting to order at 11:04 am.
  - Introductions were made including guests.
2. Approval of Joint SSAC-DSAC June 2, 2015 Minutes:
  - **ACTION:** Pete Rickey moved to approve the June 2, 2015 SSAC/DSAC Joint minutes as written. Suzanne Brean seconded. Motion carried.
3. Guest Speaker: State Representative Andy Olson:
  - Lisa introduced State Representative Andy Olson and gave his biography to the Councils, summing it up with Andy's compassion toward seniors and the disabled and his tireless efforts advocating for them.
  - Andy shared that he has always cared about people and it was not difficult to go from his previous career as Commander of the State Police to spending six years in the Human Services Policy Committee. His preference would be to stay with this Committee but the Speaker of the House wanted him on the Marijuana Committee. Because of his connections with Human Services they compromised, and he was assigned to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services. The Subcommittee worked on pieces of House Bill 5026, the Budget Bill for Human Services, and because of the monthly meetings with Lisa, Mike, Catherine and other Council members he was able to project the Council's interest back in Salem. It was through their advocating that brought back Options Counseling after not be funded the first time around.

- Department of Human Services received \$2.7 billion dollars for general fund dollars in a \$10.2 billion overall budget. This is a 16 % more increase from two years ago.
- Andy shared what is happening with Budget Notes with Aging People with Disabilities (APD) and Intellectually Developmental Disabled (IDD). The Budget Note on Sustainability for APD and IDD states that the Department of Human Services is directed to report to the Joint Committee of Ways of Means in 2016, the committee Andy is assigned to, to ensure services to APD and IDD remain sustainable into the future with a goal of capping biannual general fund budget growth at 10%. Andy is unsure as to whether you would want to cap this growth or if you want to exceed it and is looking forward to this discussion. Andy would like to come back and meet with Lisa, Mike, Catherine and other Council members to learn more about what the Councils' needs are and holding this Budget accountable with DHS.
- Another Budget Note Andy shared had to do with the homeless and runaway youth for the Child Welfare Budget. The Subcommittee approved \$1.6 million from the general fund that would support homeless and runaway youth local programs. Linn County will be opening the Jackson Street Homeless Shelter this Thursday.
- The Caregiver Training Initiative, funded by DHS, stated the Initiative should be continued for the 2015-17 biennium to further realize the investments made by the previous biennium. The Subcommittee approved \$3.3million from the general funds to provide evidence based practice type training.
- Oregon Project Independence (OPI) fared pretty well. Andy emphasized how the advocating from Mike and others helped contribute to the OPI pilot for younger people with disabilities getting funded. \$6 million was approved for it and just over \$20 million was allocated for the whole OPI package.
- Lisa reemphasized that everything on OPI and the OPI Pilot has been renewed for the biennium.
- Catherine stated how fortunate we are to have a Representative that is as knowledgeable as Andy is. DHS is a large organization with many parts which is hard to follow and we're lucky that Andy has shown interest and dedication in working with us in supporting our issues.
- Mike wanted to thank Andy for coming down and meeting with them personally and caring about their issues. It's appreciated and makes them empowered.
- Lee asked if the schools were working with DHS directly in providing funding and shelter for homeless children. Andy is not sure the depth of how DHS will handle this but imagines they would have to have some type of connection with the schools. Margaret said when she first moved to Toledo there were 200 homeless children in Lincoln County and today there is over 600. She questions how they can even get an education. Andy understands that the \$1.6 million they allocated for the homeless children won't even be close but it is a start and he is curious on how the next two years will measure out.

- Bills that Andy helped push through included:
  - House Bill 2092 that helps eliminates fraud with the Oregon Tail Card by putting one's name on the second card that was applied for. DHS was a huge advocate with this and helped Andy push this through.
  - House Bill 2393 requires the state lottery to hold prize money of excess of \$600 or more when people have been identified in situations where they owe money. One area of concern was with overdue child support benefits.
  - House Bill 2394 requires if a client on the Oregon Trail Card had winnings of \$1,250 or more, the Oregon Lottery would report the winnings to DHS and their benefits would be adjusted accordingly.
  - House Bill 3014 allows grandparents to remain in the lives of children when parents give up legal rights of their kids.
- Andy spoke on some of the issues related to the legalization of marijuana that they are working on.
  - One issue is with the Federal Banking industry that does not want to deal with marijuana issues. They are urging Congress to take a look at this at least in the three states that have legalized marijuana.
  - Pete asked if there has been any discussion around marijuana and federal housing; HUD has not recognized this. Andy said they did have discussions on this for both medical and recreational use but not the in-depth discussion that is needed and will be revisited over the next year or two.
  - Andy is concerned about the black-market side of sales. The Marijuana Committee first had to deal with medical side of it before they could look at the recreational side. Oregon has an overabundance of marijuana and a pipeline to 13 other states across the country. They do have some control with that. They have control over counties and cities and if they want to opt for selling either medical or recreational marijuana that is their choice. There is concern with kids having access to drinks with TLC in it. House Bill 2313 took the same idea for consumption of alcohol and applied it to marijuana. This passed 60 -0 on the House floor but when it went to the Senate side it died so they stuck it in with their Ominous Bill and it passed.
  - Andy stated that fatalities while driving under the influence of marijuana is up in the State of Colorado and the DUI's (driving under the influence of intoxicants) are up in the State of Washington and he predicts that we will be seeing that here in Oregon. Unfortunately we don't have tools to be able to do anything with it yet.
  - Andy said that once they got the medical side fixed then the recreational side was easy. It mostly had to do with labeling, and testing.
  - Lee predicted that with the legalization we'll be seeing an uptake in kids with clinical problems related to marijuana and a rise in medical costs. Andy agreed and stated that we were already the second largest state in the nation for high school dropouts and he hopes we do not take over the number one position.

- Lisa thanked Andy for coming and invited him back next year after the short session.

#### 4. Lunch Break and Networking (30 minutes)

#### 5. Presentation: Food and Medicaid Eligibility (Brian Leeper, Eligibility Specialist; Senior and Disability Services):

- Brian provided to the Councils an overview of the Eligibility Department and their responsibilities. There are 23 Eligibility Specialist throughout the 3 counties with a little over 10, 000 cases between them. They are responsible for determining eligibility for food and medical programs for seniors and people that are disabled or blind. If they are a senior and receiving medical benefits they are 65 years or over and if they are a senior receiving food benefits they are 60 years or over.
- Eligibility is determined by the number of people in the house that are applying, their income, resources they have, shelter and utility cost. These factors are taken into account to determine what specific programs they qualify for. Typically consumers' income is from Social Security but there are programs that allow employment income. Brian provided a reduced chart of what they use that shows the different income levels for individuals and couples and the resource levels that they have to meet for the different programs. These numbers change from year to year.
- The maximum amount a single individual can receive for Food benefits is \$194 and the minimum is \$16.
- Consumers usually recertify on an annual basis unless they have earned income then they need to report on semiannual basis. People who have been deemed disabled by social security and have employment income can qualify for the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program. Brian referred to the chart he provided to show the fee that is associated with the different income levels.
- Consumers that get food benefits only and are 60 years or older get their food benefits from COG. If they were under 60 years old and did not have any medical program would get their food benefits from a self-sufficiency office. Children's medical programs are handled in Salem.
- An Eligibility Specialist also works with case managers when a client's care needs increases and would have to go into an assisted living facility or a skilled nursing facility, or receive in-home care services. The case manager would assess the individual to see if they qualify and if they do their case would be transferred to the case manager. If the client no longer qualifies the case is transferred back to an Eligibility Specialist so it's important that they work together for a smooth transition.
- Brian encourages people to talk to social security so they know what their benefits are and how they will be affected if they work.
- New people first go through the ADRC office, who will determine if they need to talk to an Eligibility Specialist.

- Brian has 470 cases; the typical is 460, with some being single and some having up to five people in them. This averages out to about 30 to 40 cases a month.
  - SNAP- Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program is the official name for food benefits.
  - Lisa thanked Brian for his presentation.
6. Issues/Advocacy Committee Meeting Update:
- The Older Americans Act is in the process of being reauthorized. Lisa passed around postcards and a Congressional contact list for the members to send to their representatives advocating for reauthorization. Unfortunately there was a typo on the card so Lisa will edit this and have it to everyone at the next Council meeting. Mike inquired whether in the meantime it would be OK to call their representative to which Lisa encouraged them to do so or send an email.
    - Lisa reminded everyone that the next Issues and Advocacy meeting will take place on August 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 2:00 with Mike McCormick, Director for Aging People with Disabilities, as the presenter.
7. Announcements:
- Catherine reminded everyone that the September Advisory Councils meetings are being held at the Veteran's Home in Lebanon.
  - Terry shared that the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America is participating in the BBQ and car show on August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Veteran's Home in Lebanon, and all are invited.
- Senior and Disability Services Updates:
- Marci shared that changes are coming to the In-Home Care Provider Program. Some of the changes will start at the end of August. One change is there will be cap of 50 hours per consumer per week. The other changes will be to the Live-in Program. Coming in September or October there will be clearer information on the impact on the consumers, and we will report back on this next month. The changes will start on August 31<sup>st</sup> and the changes will happen as they touch cases, not all at one time. Marci is not sure if there will be notices sent.
  - Rusty inquired if the wages of the homecare worker would stay the same. Mike stated that it would stay the same.
8. Questions Regarding Senior and Disability Services Updates:
- No questions at this time.
9. Adjournment:
- The SSAC/DSAC Joint Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

- The Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe.
- The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at the Veterans' Home in Lebanon.