

Agenda Item Number 7.C

Advocacy Letter, “Equity Funding”

Presenter: Kay Metzger

Action Recommended: Approve Advocacy Position

Background:

The term, “Equity Funding” has been used as a rallying point for over a decade. It refers to the State of Oregon policy of providing less support to Area Agencies on Aging, such as LCOG, than is provided to the State DHS offices elsewhere in Oregon that are charged with performing the same work in the long-term care program. This year for the first time, the issue has been favorably addressed in the Governor’s Budget. If approved by the Legislature in the 2007-2009 budget, state support for our staff and the staffs of other “B-Transfer AAAs” would be brought nearly to the target point of “equity.” Such support would facilitate a significant improvement of service to the clients in Lane County.

At the January LCOG Executive Meeting, members expressed a desire to promote increased services for seniors and people with disabilities in Lane County. Staff was directed to draft a letter in support of equitable funding for “transfer Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities” to be sent to State Legislators. At its meeting this month, the Committee reviewed the proposal (attached) and recommended its endorsement by the LCOG Board. The model letter on the following page is set up to accommodate the signature of any Board member—although it could also be used to express the agency’s position over the signature of the Chair. The Committee felt that the Lane County delegation should receive encouragement to support “equity funding” from the local elected officials with the best access to individual legislators.

A motion to endorse the position reflected in the attached draft letter is recommended by the Executive Committee.