

March 21, 2003

To: LCOG Board of Directors

From: George Kloeppe, Executive Director

Subject: Oregon Project Independence (OPI) Clients Slated for Termination Notices Next Week

Last night, the Board of Directors reluctantly approved the recommended plan to terminate services for the “least impaired” clients receiving help under the State-funded OPI program. That cost-saving measure would take effect May 1, and would result in our completing the current fiscal year (and the biennium) with a zero balance in the OPI account. It was estimated that the number of clients to lose services in May would be 74; however, as of today, the operative number is 61, due to reassessments of condition and attrition. Recall that Area Plan for next year, approved by the Board last night, anticipated no OPI resources after July 1, which would result in the loss of service to an additional 79 clients in Lane County this summer.

Taking the elements of this unfortunate fiscal circumstance one step at a time, the Board approved terminating services to clients at Levels 15-18. But, the Board also directed that LCOG communicate with our legislative delegation to express our disapproval of the proposal to completely de-fund the OPI program in the coming biennium (that communication to go out next week), and further requested that the number of clients losing services and their geographic locations be reported to the Board. This latter information was thought to be valuable, as communities seek to provide support to citizens who are no longer eligible for help under OPI. Accordingly, the distribution by community is as follows:

Cottage Grove	5
Creswell	2
Eugene	34
Florence	2
Pleasant Hill	1
Springfield	16
Veneta	1

As I will be out of the office March 24-28, any questions that you may have regarding this memo should be directed to Ted Stevens, Director of Senior and Disabled Services at 682-4432.