

# Agenda Item Number 12.

## Advisory Council Reports

**Presenter:** George Kloeppel

**Action Recommended:** None. Information Only

**Background:**

*Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC)*

June 12, 2003

The Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) met on June 12 with representation from Lane County, Springfield, Eugene, LTD, Coburg and ODOT. The MPC:

Conducted a public hearing and adopted amendments to the current regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Six amendments were approved. Five were adjustments to transit projects and the sixth programmed the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds needed for the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that was adopted by the Committee in April.

Reviewed alternative schedules for the required development of the 2004-06 TIP. The Committee concluded that the longer process—culminating in the adoption of the new TIP in October—was preferable because of the additional opportunity afforded to the public to provide input on project selection criteria and project prioritization. However, the MPC directed staff to return to the Committee in July with possible amendments to the current TIP to capture available federal resources, particularly for preservation work this calendar year.

Heard a report from the MPC Subcommittee on Public Involvement Chaired by Commissioner Bobby Green. The Subcommittee had held its fourth and final meeting immediately prior to the MPC's meeting. A more inclusive report on potential changes to the MPO process will be before the MPC in July. The two underlying reasons for change were identified as (1) closer compliance with federal public involvement requirements and (2) response to public requests for a more open process. The likely direction of the recommendations will be augmenting the

membership of the Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) to include citizens and special interest representatives.

Heard a preliminary report from Tom Schwetz, LCOG, on the May “Certification Review” by the U.S. Department of Transportation. It was noted that the federal agency is expected to certify LCOG’s process subject to certain corrective actions. Areas that will require particular attention in the coming fiscal year include: (1) a Congestion Management Plan, (2) initiation of a long-range Regional Transportation Plan, (3) modifications to the TIP and project selection processes, (4) update of the public involvement process, (5) verification of the region’s implementation of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality maintenance, and (6) assurance of compliance with the federal Civil Rights Act with respect to any possible discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.

Received a written report from Milo Mecham, LCOG, on cable television franchise issues. Mecham emphasized the changes in (weakening of) the “privacy policy” of the franchise holder; a now-completed “audit” of Comcast’s compliance with franchise provisions; and the technical upgrade, now completed by Comcast.

**Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)**

May 13 and June 10, 2003

**May Meeting**

**S&DS Renewal Contracts**

The Procurement & Monitoring Committee recommended and the Council forwarded to LCOG the following renewal contracts for approval:

- Tri-Agency In-Home Service
- Medication Education/Assistance Program
- Senior Mental Health Counseling Program
- Elder Help Volunteer Program
- Senior Law Program
- Long Term Care Ombudsman Screening & Recruitment Program
- Metro Meals on Wheels
- Food Service for Senior Meals

**Committee Reports**

The Long Term Care Committee reported it is engaged in a study to ascertain the adverse affects clients have experienced since being terminated or cut back from service.

The Advocacy Committee reported on the April 19 Legislative Dialog and announced final preparations for its May 17 Dialog. Council requested that the Advocacy Committee plan a Legislative Wrap-Up in the fall.

The Nominating Committee began its recruitment drive for new members.

### Staff Reports

Staff reported that the State budget for the 2003-05 biennium submitted by the Governor (revised) and the Co-Chairs of the Ways & Means Committee reveal the following:

- no funding for General Assistance (GA);
- no funding for Oregon Project Independence (OPI);
- a limited amount of funding for the Medically Needy Program;
- funding for long-term care clients at levels one through nine (one through eleven on the Governor's budget).

Due to these developments, staff announced that:

- the Medicaid budget deficit for S&DS is now projected to total \$1.8 million for FY 2004, therefore, the following steps will be taken on July 1 to balance the LCOG budget:

- the Springfield office will be closed;
- a total of 28 staff will be laid off.

### **June Meeting**

#### Termination of the OPI Program

Staff reported that the remaining clients served by the OPI Program will be terminated from services on June 30, due to the loss of State funding.

#### Election of Officers

The Council elected the following officers for the 2003/04 fiscal year:

Herb Ball, Chair  
Joe Xavier, First Vice Chair

Jane Boren, Second Vice Chair

Approval of Membership Recommendations

As offered by the Nominating Committee, the Council recommended the following appointments to the LCOG Board of Directors for approval:

Re-Appointments

Carl Stubbs, Sr.

Joe Xavier

New Appointments

Debbie Olsen

Jonathan Ramey

Oguilvia Skelton

Steve Skipton

Money Management Program

The Procurement & Monitoring Committee recommended and the Council forwarded to LCOG the application submitted by the Emerald Empire Council on Aging (EECA) and the American Association of Retired People (AARP) to operate the Money Management Program in 2003-04.

Committee Reports

The Long Term Care Committee reported on its plan to interview a sampling of 30 individuals who meet the following criteria: (1) clients who have lost services since January 31, 2003, and (2) individuals who applied after the program reductions were implemented.

The Advocacy Committee reported it has completed its series of legislative dialogs which provided up-to-the minute reports from the Legislature on the budget process and highlighted community members' concerns regarding the loss of services so essential to the senior and disabled population. The Committee also announced that the Disability Community plans to pursue its legal options regarding the decision by General Services Administration (GSA) not to include an outside ramp in its design of the new federal courthouse.

Staff Reports

Staff requested that the Council consider holding meetings on a bi-monthly basis due to the significant lack of support services post-July 1. This item will be included as an agenda item for the July 8 meeting.

Staff reported that the Department of Human Services plans to continue funding long-term care services for clients in levels 10 and 11 post-June 30, irrespective of the current budget proposal put forth by the Ways & Means Committee, as it is hopeful this funding will be restored in the final budget adopted by the Legislature.

Staff reported that the Governor has requested the Department of Human Services cut an *additional* \$25 million from its 2003-05 budget to fund the bargaining agreement finalized between SEIU and the Home Care Workers. The Home Care Commission plans to adamantly oppose such action.

Staff reported that negotiations within the Legislature continue regarding the Oregon Health Plan and that exclusion of hospital care and a “ranking” system may be implemented to continue the plan.

#### Other Information

Staff distributed information on the bi-partisan U. S. Senate Finance Committee agreement regarding the Medicare RX Drug Benefit which would give Medicare beneficiaries the same prescription drug coverage whether they enroll in the traditional fee-for-service government program or chose a private insurance plan. It is projected that a prescription drug benefit bill will be passed by Congress this year.

#### Announcements

Council Member Cathy Steadman Cox announced that the Lone Oak Assisted Living Community is now accepting Medicaid clients for nine apartments that were vacated due to the recent loss of services for seniors.

#### *Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)*

June 13, 2003

#### Election of Officers

The following officers were elected for the 2003/04 fiscal year:

Darlene Puls, Chair

Michael Thomas, Vice Chair

#### Approval of Membership Recommendations

As offered by the Nominating Committee, the Council forwarded the following appointments to the LCOG Board of Directors for approval:

### Re-Appointments

Kathy Jenness  
Darlene Puls  
Michael Thomas

### New Appointments

Terry Parker  
Mary Derhak  
Kelly Hodgkinson  
Gene Obersinner  
Chiara Ihnat  
Traci Hartford  
L. M. Reese

### Committee Reports

The committee received reports from the Advocacy Committee and the Long Term Care Committee (see the SSAC June Meeting Report above).

### Staff Reports

Ted Stevens reported on the State's budget process as noted above, and stressed that an additional 400 people in Lane County will lose services if long-term care services for levels 10 and 11 are eliminated. He also reported on the effort being put forth to force clients into managed care which will put an added restriction on durable equipment and medical transportation.

Ted Stevens announced S&DS' plans to reduce its force as noted in the SSAC portion of this report.

### Announcements

*Day Of Action* will be held on June 23 at the State Capitol in Salem.

*Pride Day* will be held on June 21 at Alton Baker Park.

American Sign Language (ASL) has been accepted by the University of Oregon as a foreign language.

### Fond Farewell

The Council honored Ellen Bombaro, David Janicke, Ed Necker, and Ruth Anne Paul for the exemplary effort they put forth as members of the Council to improve the lives of people with disabilities.