

February 5, 2008

To: Executive Committee

From: Kay Metzger

Subject: Senior & Disabled Services Legislative Dialogue

Each year, the Advocacy Committee of the Senior Services and Disability Services Advisory Councils seeks to offer opportunities for the public to interact with State elected officials regarding issues of concern to the populations we serve. On Saturday, January 26th, the Advocacy Committee sponsored a Legislative Dialogue, held at the Hilyard Community Center from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. This memo is to give the LCOG Executive Committee an update on that event.

Invitations / Format

All twelve state elected officials were invited to the Legislative Dialogue. Prior to the event, S&DS staff e-mailed the agenda and the S&DS Legislative Priorities to each Legislator.

The format for the Dialogue was fairly simple. Ed Necker, chair of the Disability Services Advisory Council, was the moderator. At the beginning of the meeting, each Legislator was given up to 5 minutes to talk about their priorities, accomplishments, and goals. A question and answer period followed, with specific time limits for both the public and Legislator's comments. Additionally, note cards were available to those who preferred to submit their questions in writing.

Attendance

Of the twelve State Elected Officials from Lane County, nine attended the Legislative Dialogue on January 26th. This was an excellent turnout and show of support for senior and disabled constituents. Approximately 25 members of the public attended. While this number is lower than anticipated (perhaps due to poor weather), the audience was quite engaged and knowledgeable regarding current issues. Some shared personal experiences that highlighted the need for improvements within the "system". At the end of the Dialogue, several Legislators commented that they learned new information and felt the exchange of ideas was very beneficial. Members of the public also stated they felt the event was a success. Later this year, the Advocacy Committee plans to host a Candidates Forum for those seeking election to state public office.