

May 10, 2005

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: Ted Stevens

SUBJECT: Action on the 2005-06 Update to the 2003-07 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services for Lane County

Background:

Currently, S&DS is in the second year of a four-year Area Plan cycle. To prepare for the current cycle, S&DS conducted an assessment of the needs of seniors and people with disabilities who live in Lane County in 2002. Since then, there have been dramatic reductions in the availability of services for both populations. In recognition of this fact, S&DS updated portions of its 2002 assessment in the summer of 2004. The contents of the 2005-06 Update to S&DS' 2003-07 Plan are guided by the findings and recommendations of the 2004 update to the 2002 assessment.

The Planning and Budget Committee began its work on the development of the 2005-06 Plan Update in November 2004. First, the Committee reviewed the findings and recommendations of the 2002 needs assessment and its 2004 update. Next, it was briefed on the progress being made to accomplish the objectives in the 2004-05 component of the four-year Plan. Finally, it received estimates from staff on the availability of federal and State revenues for the 2005-06 Program Year. Based on all available information, the Committee developed drafts of the 2005-06 Area Plan Budget, Service Plan, and Objectives. The Committee completed its work on these drafts in January 2005.

(Note: As explained on Page 8 of the 2005-06 Plan Update document, the revenue picture for the upcoming fiscal year is unclear. Sometime between June and September 2005 the State Legislature will adopt a State Budget for the 2005-07 biennium. This budget will determine how many OPI and Public Assistance Block Grant [PABG] dollars are available of services in Lane County between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2007. Since the Legislature will not act on these appropriations

prior to the date for the submission of this Plan to Oregon's Department of Human Services, the Planning and Budget Committee decided to develop two versions of the Area Plan Budget for 2005-06, one based on the Governor's Recommended Budget for 2005-07, and another based on the assumption that the Legislature will approve a more generous appropriation for Oregon Project Independence than the one proposed by the Governor. In the revenue and expense tables presented in the Plan Update document, both versions of the proposed Area Plan Budget for 2005-06 are displayed. If the Legislature accepts the OPI appropriation level recommended by the Governor, S&DS will implement the budget entitled "Option 1." However, if the Legislature appropriates funding for OPI at the level it approved for the 2003-05 biennium, S&DS will implement "Option 2." Finally, if the Legislature adopts an OPI appropriation for 2005-07 that is different than either of these scenarios, the Planning & Budget Committee may need to develop a third version of the Area Plan Budget for the 2005-06 program year.)

In accordance with State and federal requirements, a summary of the proposed 2005-06 Plan Update and a notice of a February 23, 2005 public hearing on the document were prepared, duplicated and circulated broadly throughout the county. In addition to the publication of a legal notice of the hearing and the distribution of hard copies of both documents, they were posted on S&DS' web site for those with access to the internet. The proposed Plan Update was available for public review and comment between February 1 and February 23, 2005.

Public Hearing:

As announced, the public hearing on the Plan Update was held on February 23rd at Willamalane Adult Activity Center, Springfield. The hearing was chaired by Jane Boren, Planning and Budget Committee Chairperson. In addition to LCOG staff and members of LCOG's Senior and Disability Services Advisory Councils (Jane Boren, Dianne Burch, Mae Westfall Cook, Anna May Herbert, Terry Parker, Murray Petitt, L.M. Reese, and Joe Xavier), three persons attended the hearing.

The agenda for the hearing addressed the following topics:

- C Review of the purpose of the hearing;
- C Explanation of the processes used to develop the Area Plan Update;
- C Review of the contents of the draft Plan Update;

- C Response to questions from the audience regarding the contents of the draft Plan;
- C Acceptance of comments from the public on the draft Plan; and
- C Closing comments.

During the course of the hearing, S&DS received questions and comments on the draft Area Plan Update for 2005-06 from three representatives of the Lane County Long Term Care Ombudsman Recruiting and Screening Committee. In short, they were opposed to the elimination of Older Americans Act support for the Ombudsman Support Program in the Option #1 version of the proposed Area Plan Budget for 2005-06. To bolster their argument for funds, they introduced language from the Older Americans Act which directs all Area Agencies on Aging to expend no fewer funds on Ombudsman Support than were expended by each AAA in Fiscal Year 2000.

Planning and Budget Committee Action on the draft 2005-06 Update to S&DS' 2003-07 Area Plan:

The Planning and Budget Committee met on February 23rd, immediately following the conclusion of the public hearing. At this meeting, staff briefed the Committee on the hearing and summarized the comments received on the draft Plan Update. Following this report, Committee members discussed at length issues associated with the request from the Lane County Ombudsman Committee that funds for Ombudsman Support be restored to the Option #1 version of the Area Plan Budget. After extensive debate, the Committee adopted the following motion on a vote of six “yes,” and one “no”: “(1) allocate \$1,254 from reserves to the Long Term Care Support Services program in the Option #1 version of the FY 2005-06 Area Plan Budget, (2) direct S&DS staff to research how other local recruitment and screening efforts are funded across the state, and (3) send a ‘strongly worded’ letter to the State Ombudsman advocating that the State Office financially support the local committee.”

Once the question of funding for the Long Term Care Ombudsman Support Program was resolved, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Advisory Councils and LCOG the adoption of the Plan Update, as amended.

Advisory Councils' Action on the Plan Update:

Following Planning & Budget Committee action on the Plan Update, it was reviewed by the Senior Services and Disability Services Advisory Councils. Both approved it, as amended by the Planning & Budget Committee.

LCOG Approval:

The 2005-06 Area Plan Update is now available for consideration by the LCOG Executive Committee. (Please recall, the Board delegated responsibility for Area Plan matters to the Executive Committee.)

A copy of the Plan Update, as approved by the Advisory Councils, is attached for Executive Committee members' review. Questions regarding the document and the process leading to its development may be posed to me at the May Executive Committee meeting.

REQUESTED ACTION:

The Senior Services and Disability Services Advisory Councils recommend to LCOG the following:

1. That the 2005-06 Update to S&DS' 2003-07 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services, as amended by the Planning and Budget Committee following the February 23rd Public Hearing, be adopted; and
2. That S&DS staff be authorized to submit Option #1 version of the Plan Update to the Oregon Department of Human Services.

Attachment

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Last Saved: May 11, 2005*