

September 28, 2007

To: LCOG Executive Committee

From: Kay Metzger

Subject: Appointments to LCOG's Disability Services Advisory Council

The Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) operates on an October 1 - September 30 yearly cycle. The terms of most members on the council are staggered. The DSAC Bylaws allow members to serve up to six years. The length of a term is two years; therefore members can serve three consecutive terms before "limiting" out.

This memo presents the DSAC's recommendations to the Board Executive Committee regarding appointments that take effect on October 1, 2007. The Council met on Friday, September 14, 2007, and approved the following recommendations.

Appointments to the Disability Services Advisory Council:

- a. Membership Report: According to the Council's Bylaws, the maximum number of members allowed is fifteen. On September 30, the terms of eight general members will conclude. Of those eight general members, five are eligible for reappointment. Additionally, the one year terms of the Community Representatives (there are two) will expire on September 30, 2007.
- b. Recruitment Activities: Prior to selecting recruitment strategies, the Council's Nominating Committee determined that three of the five current members eligible for re-appointment desire to be re-appointed. The Nominating Committee also contacted the Community Representatives regarding their interest in appointment to full membership. One of the Community Representatives is interested in full membership. The other Community Representative wishes to retain her current status and is not interested in full membership due to work commitments. Given these findings, the Nominating Committee concluded that it had four full member seats to fill with new candidates, and up to four Community Representative slots.

Once this number was established, it determined that the following recruitment strategies would be pursued to maximize diversity of membership and identify prospective candidates: (1) ask Nominating Committee and DSAC members to solicit applications from people known to them, and (2) send announcements to local human service agencies that work with people with disabilities informing them of the opportunity. Implementation of these strategies produced four new applicants.

The Nominating Committee met three times to deliberate and to interview new applicants. Two candidates were persons with a disability, and two candidates were members of the community. One candidate did not appear for the face-to-face interview. Therefore, due to the DSAC Bylaw requirement that more than 50 percent of its members be persons with a disability, the Nominating Committee recommended filling only two of the four vacant slots (one person with a disability and one able-bodied person). Its recommendations were presented to the Advisory Council on September 14th. The Council's recommendations are set forth below. (A summary of the qualifications of the new candidates for appointment to the DSAC is attached.)

c. **REQUESTED ACTIONS concerning appointments to the DSAC:**

- (1) That the LCOG Executive Committee re-appoint the following Council members to two-year terms (October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2009):
 - Tim Baxter, Eugene
 - Kelly Hodkinson, Cottage Grove
 - L.M. Reese, Eugene
- (2) That the LCOG Executive Committee appoint Graham Bailey (Eugene) from membership status as a Community Representative to full membership on the Council for a two-year term (October 1, 2007 - September 30, 2009).
- (3) That the Executive Committee appoint Jessica Harris (Eugene) to membership on the Council for a two-year term (October 1, 2007 - September 30, 2009).
- (4) That the Executive Committee appoint Scott Whetham (Cottage Grove) to membership on the Council for a two-year term (October 1, 2007 - September 30, 2009).

Attachment

Summary of Qualifications: Recommendation for Appointment as a Member of the Disability Services Advisory Council

Jessica Harris, Eugene: Ms. Harris has lived in Lane County for five years. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science and a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology. She currently works for ShelterCare as a Program Manager for Brethren Housing, whose mission is to serve adults with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI). Ms. Harris has a passion for working with people with disabilities, and stated her first hand experience as a Personal Attendant had a profound impact on her perspective. Ms. Harris brings enthusiasm and a strong commitment to the needs of people with disabilities to the position.

Scott Whetham, Cottage Grove: Mr. Whetham is a visually impaired professional in the field of employment services. He currently works as the Program Coordinator of Alternative Work Concepts, an agency that assists individuals experiencing significant/multiple disabilities to find employment. He has worked in partnership with Lane County Developmental Disabilities, Oregon State Commission for the Blind, Oregon Dept. of Vocational Rehab, and LTD Accessible Services. Mr. Whetham has extensive experience in the field of vocational rehabilitation and has unique insight into the needs of not only the blind community but also the needs of the significantly disabled.