

**Local Government Advisory Committee
Room 473, Human Services Building, Salem
April 8, 2005
Minutes**

ATTENDING

Ben Boswell	Wallowa County Board of Commissioners
Janet Carlson	Marion County Board of Commissioners
Bill Crowell	DHS – Office of Information Services
Ron Dodge	Polk County Board of Commissioners
Gina Firman	Assoc. of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs
Irene Fischer-Davidson	Clackamas County Human Services
Ramona Foley	DHS – Children, Adults and Families
David Foster	Oregon Housing and Community Services
Gordon Fultz	Association of Oregon Counties
Robert Furlow	Douglas County Health & Social Services
Sharon Guidera	Association of Mental Health Program Directors
John Hartner	Oregon Association of Community Corrections
Tony Howell	League of Oregon Cities
Barry Kast	DHS – Health Services
Pete Mallord	DHS – Office of Information Services
Linda Modrell	Benton County Board of Commissioners
Jack Morgan	DHS – Seniors and People with Disabilities
Janet Morgan	DHS – Seniors and People with Disabilities
Madeline Olson	DHS – Health Services
Anne Peltier	Conference of Local Health Officials
Clyde Saiki	DHS – Administrative Services
Mary Shortall	Multnomah County Area Agencies on Aging
Barney Speight	DHS – Health Services
Vic Todd	DHS – Finance and Policy Analysis
James Toews	DHS – Seniors and People with Disabilities
Bill Wagner	Cascades West Council of Governments
Gary Weeks	DHS – Director’s Office
Jane-Ellen Weidanz	DHS – Seniors and People with Disabilities
Gillian Wesenberg	Douglas County Commission on Children and Families

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Modrell called the meeting to order and roundtable introductions were made. The March 11, 2005 minutes were not approved pending information from Sharon Guidera. Guidera will email suggested corrections to Linda Modrell for follow-up with DHS staff.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Gary Weeks announced his acceptance of the Director position at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries in Olympia. He plans to continue work with DHS until May 18, 2005. Weeks expressed his appreciation for LGAC and the good work of DHS.

Weeks outlined the recent release of the Co-chairs budget. Both House and Senate versions include restorations; however, challenges include funding approval for increased caseload numbers, child welfare and adult protection services packages, and addressing the proposed Eastern Oregon Training Center closure. Of additional concern is the proposal to return the Oregon Commission on Children & Families (OCCF) to DHS.

Other items included in one or both budgets: some dental benefits have been restored to the Oregon Health Plan (OHP); slight restorations to mental health and A&D programs may indicate a possibility for further discussion during Phase Two; \$1.7 million for the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) will cover anticipated obligations but will not cover initial steps in planning a new hospital.

- Q. What do we know about reviewing A&D funding for per capita and upcoming meetings regarding the issue?
- A. Several counties have gotten together to discuss equity of A&D funding. These meetings were not organized through the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) or the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP). Headed by Deschutes County, a coalition of a few counties will meet Legislators the morning of April 11 to discuss an A&D budget package. Gina Firman and Gordon Fultz will attend, and the Mental Health Directors will hold a meeting on April 14 to begin a broader discussion.

Phase Two of the Ways and Means process begins April 20. The next budget forecast will be available in May, and the reshoot of the Governor's budget is scheduled for the end of May.

COUNTY CONTRACT/AGREEMENT UPDATE

Handout #1: County Contracts, April 6, 2005

Handout #2: Draft Memorandum of Understanding

Handout #3: Proposed Amendments to House Bill 3303

Fultz explained handout #1 outlines negotiated provisions and boilerplate language for the county contract agreement, and Handout #2 outlines the components of a state and county partnership. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be distributed next week to program representatives, county commissioners, and legal counsels for review prior to the final negotiation. This review will require a one-week turn-around, so it is important that feedback be given quickly.

Q. Is the MOU intended to take the place of HB 3303?

A. The MOU existed prior to the introduction of HB 3303. After all parties have reviewed the MOU and feedback has been given, the AOC Legislative Committee can recommend whether or not to support the bill.

The MOU is not an enforceable document, but a signature recognizes the manner in which the partners will work together and there is no effect of not signing. The MOU was never intended to replace any of the intergovernmental agreements. There's no indemnification; the final arbiter will be the court of law. The suggestion was made for the addition of a timeline, and for having the Attorney General's office sign, as well.

EXPRESS PAYMENT & REPORTING SYSTEM (EXPRS) UPDATE

Handout #4: eXPRS News, April 2005

Bill Crowell introduced Jack Morgan, who provided an overview and timeline of the Express Payment and Reporting Systems (eXPRS). DHS is in the process of upgrading obsolete technology used to make Medicaid payments for services to people with disabilities, mental health issues, and addiction problems.

eXPRS is an internet-based system and will involve a different security arrangement with all organizations. The system will resemble online banking systems, and payments will be made directly to providers on behalf of the counties. The new system will be more responsive overall, and will speed the process of getting funds to providers and providers will have the choice between paper checks or electronic deposit.

Phase one, including selected service elements in Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS), A&D and Mental Health will be in place by July 2005. The remaining service elements will be included in phase two, scheduled to begin in July 2006.

The training plan includes utilizing a company in Chicago with extensive experience conducting Internet training. Most training will occur via Netlink. Some classroom settings will be offered in Pendleton, Salem and Medford, although sites have not yet

been confirmed. The training scheduled for May includes an opportunity for users to utilize and test the system for one week, followed by an exam that must be passed before they are formally enrolled into the system. On-site training availability will continue through September, and an online user manual will be available 24-hours a day, in addition to a desk manual. In May and June DHS will be contacting local organizations and inviting staff to participate.

Q. Will eXPRS eliminate the long, end-of-biennium settlement process?

A. Yes. Any time an error is detected the adjustment will be made.

Of concern is that direct payment to the A&D providers will encourage cutting out the counties as the middle managers. This could create a problem with the legislature and funding.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT (MMA) UPDATE

Handout #5: MMA Implementation, DHS Workgroups

Handout #6: MMA Advisory Council

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) provides seniors and individuals with disabilities a prescription drug benefit, more choices, and better benefits under Medicare. Implementation will occur in January 2006. Tina Kitchin introduced Jane-Ellen Weidanz as the DHS project manager. Weidanz distributed handouts listing the team members and workgroups, which will be up and running in the near future. An advisory council will also be formed for the implementation, and handout #6 lists those invited to participate. Advisory Council meetings will be held in Salem (exact location TBA) on the fourth Wednesday of each month beginning May 25.

An MMA Website will be established, and LGAC will be provided with information for those at the local level who may receive calls or other inquiries. Additionally, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Social Security will be providing a number of outreach events in local communities. DHS will work with the local communities to coordinate these events.

Starting in October, those who have dual enrollment in Medicare and Medicaid will be auto-enrolled across the state, and randomly assigned to any plan available to their area. For those Medicaid at-risk clients, planning must begin to assist them in choosing a plan that best suits their needs. At the same time, a public communications process will be established to assist general Medicare beneficiaries in selecting a plan. If they don't make a timely decision there will be financial penalties.

Weidanz will be included regularly on the LGAC agenda for MMA updates. Questions for upcoming meetings should be sent in advance to Weidanz at: janeellen.a.weidanz@state.or.us.

FEDERAL BUDGET UPDATE

Handout #7: Analysis of the Highlights from the 2006 Presidential Proposed Budget

Handout #8: Update of Highlights from the 2006 Presidential Budget as of April 2005

Handout #9: County News article, February 14, 2005, regarding the federal budget

Weeks explained handout #7 outlines provisions in the President's proposed budget with other analyses from American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), the National Governor's Association (NGA) and DHS. Handout #8 outlines the outcomes of the House and Senate budget resolutions, which include \$14 or \$15 billion targets for Medicaid.

Janet Carlson reported that during a recent legislative conference in D.C. She met with Senator Smith's Aging Committee staff for a discussion on Medicaid concerns. She referred to handout #9, which summarizes the President's budget and county funding. Carlson is a member of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Health and Human Services Subcommittee. As such, she would be happy to take LGAC or AOC Committee proposals or resolutions forward.

OTHER ITEMS

David Foster reported on the Community Services Block Grant, as requested at March meeting. Current allocations for all but ten of the counties are at the minimum level, or \$150 thousand. The total allocation for Oregon is \$5 million.

Foster also reported on the Community Development Block Grant. The Administration is proposing combining 18 community development programs into one program under Commerce, which will have significant implications for local governments and the social support infrastructure.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

DHS Budget/Legislative Update

Federal Budget Update

County Contract Update

MMA Update

Children's Initiative Issues/Contracts

Child Welfare Issues Update – National Center for Child Abuse Report

Decision Grid/Training Outline

OSH Master Plan

NEXT MEETING

Date: May 13, 2005

Time: 9:00 – Noon

Location: Room 473, Human Services Building

Approved minutes are available on the LGAC web page:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/aboutdhs/govrelations/localgov/meetings/lgac/main.shtml>

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