

**Local Government Advisory Committee
Room 473, Human Services Building, Salem
February 10, 2006
Minutes**

ATTENDING

Susan Allan	DHS – Public Health
Ben Boswell	Wallowa County Commissioner
Janet Carlson	Marion County Commissioner
Joe Corsiglia	Columbia County Commissioner
Ron Dodge	Polk County Commissioner
Linda Fleming	CLHO
David Foster	Oregon Housing and Community Services
Gordon Fultz	Association of Oregon Counties
Bob Furlow	Blue Mountain Recovery Center
Bruce Goldberg	DHS – Director
Sharon Guidera	Assoc. of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs
Bill Hall	Lincoln County Commissioner
John Hartner	Oregon Assoc. of Community Corrections Directors
Tony Howell	League of Oregon Cities
Chuck Hurliman	Tillamook County Commissioner
Chris Johnson	Yamhill County Health and Human Services
Linda Modrell	Chair, Benton County Commissioner
Madeline Olson	DHS – Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Fariborz Pakseresht	DHS – Administrative Services
Anne Peltier	Conference of Local Health Officials
Lynn Read	DHS – Office of Medical Assistance Program
Clyde Saiki	DHS – Deputy Director
John Swanson	DHS – Finance and Policy Analysis
James Toews	DHS – Seniors and People with Disabilities
Bill Wagner	Cascades West Council of Governments
Gillian Wesenberg	Coalition of County Children and Families Commissions
Jacqueline Zimmer	OR Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Linda Modrell called the meeting to order and roundtable introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & AGENDA

The minutes from January 2006 were reviewed and approved.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

There were no additional agenda items.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bruce Goldberg reported on the budget, giving a recap of the agency's shortfall. At the January E-Board meeting, Bruce presented an overview of the budget situation and a plan to have a balanced budget by June 30, 2007. Factors that could affect the DHS budget in the future include the federal Budget Reconciliation Bill – a five-year plan to decrease spending particularly in the human services arena – and the President's proposed budget for the next fiscal year. It is unclear at this point, what the total effect to the DHS budget will be.

As the human services need has increased beyond what was predicted, there is also more revenue than the state had anticipated. The Legislative Fiscal Office and the Budget and Management Office are looking at exactly how much is available and from what sources.

The DHS Caseload Forecasting Workgroup, comprised of four legislators, DHS staff, Legislative Fiscal Office staff and Budget and Management staff met for the first time on February 15. They are charged with monitoring the Department's caseload forecasts efforts.

State Controller John Radford was asked to put together a group to look at how the Department is doing with regard to revenue accounting, cost allocation, banking, internal controls, etc. This group started its work in December and will report back in March with its initial short-term recommendations, and then they will look at additional recommendations for the longer run.

Jim Scherzinger was asked to work for DHS on a temporary basis. He will function as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) on an interim basis, help hire a permanent CFO, and assist in aligning the department's fiscal operation.

Additionally, a group of experts, primarily from the private sector, is being put together to advise Bruce Goldberg and Jim Scherzinger on how the department can become better accountable for its fiscal operation. Bruce welcomes name suggestions for this group.

COUNTY INVOLVEMENT IN DHS BUDGET ISSUES

Gordon Fultz, Linda Fleming and Clyde Saiki recently met to discuss the county involvement in the DHS budget process. One of the things talked about is the Department's effort to be transparent. People are having some honest dialog about the budget, how it is put together, where the money goes, and how decisions are made. They also discussed looking at the service delivery system, in its entirety, as a total delivery system.

It was decided to form a workgroup. The workgroup will meet on March 2 for the purpose of putting together a recommendation to bring back to LGAC for input and feedback.

DHS STRATEGIES/LEVEL OF SERVICES FOR A&D TREATMENT

Chris Johnson discussed the issue of the decline in funding for A&D treatment. Because it is not a mandated Medicaid service, and because there are no mandated state or federal caseloads, funding for the A&D programs has suffered severe cuts. Most of the A&D clients were on OHP Standard. When OHP Standard was cut, there was never any replacement for that funding.

A&D programs are in serious need due to the rising epidemic of meth use and some counties are talking about different ways to fund treatment.

Bruce Goldberg suggested that we need to do a better job about showing what gets done using the dollars that are spent in A&D, what affect it has on the communities, and what the affects are if A&D funding is cut. Bruce suggested that a subgroup of LGAC could analyze the data, answer the aforementioned questions, make a case and move forward.

OSH MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Madeline Olson presented a briefing on the Oregon State Hospital Master Plan Phase I. Phase I work found that many of the buildings on Center Street are not adequate for psychiatric treatment. In some cases, portions of the building are seismically unsafe. The Legislature allocated a small amount of money for the next phase of the research, which was to look at what is necessary for the future – not just what kinds of buildings are needed for the future – but what kind of a system of mental health services is needed. The report will be released to the Governor's Office by the end of the month, and then to the public once the Governor's Office has reviewed it. When the report is widely released it will be available on the Department's website.

Another area of growth in Oregon is the population of people who are aging. The number of aging Oregonians is expected to increase more rapidly than the population as a whole. Add to that the number of people who have been patients or consumers of mental health services for much of their adult lives; as they age, their needs will be different than they are now. The report is expected to include recommendations about working with this population.

The next meeting is March 10, 2006.

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

County of Residency Issue/Coordination of Care

County Involvement in the DHS Budget Process Update – Gordon Fultz/Linda Fleming/Clyde Saiki

Forecasting – Judy Mohr-Peterson

Making a Difference – Trish Neiworth

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.