

**Local Government Advisory Committee  
Room 473, Human Services Building, Salem  
June 9, 2006  
Minutes**

**ATTENDING**

Susan Allan	DHS – Public Health
Ben Boswell	Wallowa County Commissioner/AOC
Janet Carlson	Marion County Commissioner
Cathy Cooper	DHS – Senior & People with Disabilities
Bill Crowell	DHS – Office of Information Services
Gary DiCenzo	Clackamas County DHS
Ron Dodge	Polk County Commissioner
Linda Fleming	CLHO
Ramona Foley	DHS – Children, Adults & Families
David Foster	Oregon Housing and Community Services
Gordon Fultz	Association of Oregon Counties
Bruce Goldberg	DHS – Director
Sharon Guidera	Assoc. of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs
Bill Hall	Lincoln County Commissioner
John Hartner	Oregon Association of Community Corrections
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
Anne Peltier	Conference of Local Health Officials
Lynn Read	DHS – Office of Medical Assistance Program
Rob Rockstroh	Lane County Health and Human Services
Molly Rogers	Oregon Juvenile Department Directors’ Association
Clyde Saiki	DHS – Deputy Director
Jim Sellers	DHS – Office of Public Affairs
James Toews	DHS – Seniors & People with Disabilities
Wendy VanElverdinghe	Community Action Directors of Oregon
Bill Wagner	Cascades West Council of Governments
Gillian Wesenberg	Coalition of County Children and Families Commissions
Carol Wire	Oregon Commission on Children and Families

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES & AGENDA**

The minutes from May 2006 were reviewed and with the exception of the “Next Agenda Items,” the minutes were approved.

## **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no additional agenda items.

## **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Bruce Goldberg reported on the community budget information sessions that took place around the state over the last month. The sessions provided an overview on the budget process. Some of the larger meetings allowed for smaller programmatic breakout groups, i.e. CAF, SPD, Mental Health, etc. Attendance was good with audiences made up primarily of advocates and/or business partners. There were good discussions and excellent feedback at all the meetings. Attendees voiced support and recognition that DHS needs to put more dollars into mental health and alcohol and drug treatment. Attendees were clear that DHS needs to fund current systems of care and delivery systems in order to meet the needs of its clients and the department needs to look at prevention from a front-end approach e.g., alcohol and drug treatment issues also affect Child Welfare, Community Corrections, etc. A budget meeting with representatives from the Tribes of Oregon will take place on June 14.

A suggestion was made by Janet Carlson to collaborate with local advocates in order to develop better attendance. Sharon Guidera mentioned that there are extensive planning processes, which draw good public participation. The hope is that DHS uses those plans to help guide the DHS budget process. The director advised that these meetings are not the only input DHS receives on the budget, but more public input is always helpful.

There was committee discussion about the Governor’s thoughts on the kicker and its impact on state budget.

## **Federal Deficit Reduction Act**

The final rules are not out yet regarding the requirement to provide proof of citizenship when applying or reapplying for Medicaid. DHS is working with federal and state lawmakers on the implementation of this requirement. DHS is looking at being able to match the state’s vital statistics data with Medicaid enrollment data and have the feds approve matches as verification for citizenship. If approved, this will help clients who were born in Oregon. DHS is looking for

ways to comply with this requirement that will not adversely impact our clients. Oregon is also working with other states on this issue.

### **AOC SPRING CONFERENCE**

Gordon Fultz gave highlights of the AOC Spring Conference held in Pendleton attended by more than 50 county commissioners. Attendees reviewed and assessed where the Association is currently and where it is going, validated its mission and goals, and reaffirmed the Association's vision.

Janet Carlson, AOC Human Services Committee chair, and Lisa Nato, AOC Public Safety Committee chair, held a joint meeting to discuss mental illness in the correctional system and early intervention for the zero-to-three age group and the growing problems created by these interrelated issues.

Ken Rocco and Theresa McHugh from the Legislative Fiscal Office gave a presentation on state budgeting. Dr. Susan Allan gave a presentation on what a county commissioner's role is during a public health emergency – not only the internal county response, but a crisis communication plan, multi-county responses and how to coordinate with adjoining counties.

A Harvard School of Business professor spoke on the Oregon Business Plan via videoconference regarding the larger economic picture and things states could do to prepare themselves for the future. This presentation was taped. Copies are available by contacting Gordon Fultz.

The AOC Human Services Committee meeting will be held today at 12:30 p.m. Discussion will be around a joint legislative strategy.

### **COUNTY CONTRACTS UPDATE**

Gordon Fultz advised the group that work is still in progress on the contracts. There is a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AOC and DHS that is currently under review by DHS. Individual counties will have an opportunity to sign the MOU.

### **OREGON ASSET BUILDERS CONVERGENCE REPORT**

David Foster presented information on personal asset building. In order for people to thrive, they need:

- 1) Initiative (income);
- 2) Assets (material items that can be converted to cash);

- a) Common assets such as community, culture, infrastructure, etc.
- b) Personal asset building - human capital development (good education, good values, etc.) and financial capital development (savings, home equity, etc.);
- 3) Risk Management (ability to manage catastrophic events) and
- 4) Luck. All factors combined = Thrive. Poverty is our word for the state of non-thriving.

Having adequate human and financial capital will allow people to capitalize on opportunities and manage the day-to-day bumps in life. People in the U.S. take for granted things like education, stable families, and the tools that are in place to develop those personal assets.

Government is not being consistent with policies. Of the federal subsidies more than 33% goes to the top 1% of wealthy Americans and less than 5% goes to the 60% at the lower end of the wealth spectrum. A key point of personal assets was missed relating to those who are not middle class or upper income. That began to change 15 years ago when Professor Michael Sherraden, University of Washington, wrote the book “Assets of the Poor.” Government has set up all of the social policies so that people who are poor have to exhaust all of their assets before they receive any assistance. This places those people in a very vulnerable position making it unlikely that they will ever be able to escape poverty.

The Oregon Asset Builders Convergence held in April brought all of the experts together with Professor Sherraden as the keynote speaker. The focus was on home ownership, micro-enterprise development, and individual development accounts. The focus that came out of the conference is to share what asset building is about, successfully finished the third year of an adult asset building strategy pilot focused through the Individual Development Account (IDA) initiative and start taking that to scale over the next couple of years, and at an adult level asset building which will help people to build human and financial capital to thrive. There is also a lot of interest in developing children and youth asset building strategies. The group will try using public policy and financial incentives to get encourage the development of human and financial capital.

### **STATE POLICY DIRECTION**

At the May meeting Chris Johnson presented a draft paper entitled “Incorporating Local Data into Forecasting” along with his recommendations. Since the last meeting, Chris Johnson, Bill Wagner, David Foster, and Linda Fleming worked

together and presented their recommendations on this subject and what the next steps should be.

The first recommendation was that a small workgroup look at data from the counties that DHS may not have.

An example is data on seniors and disability services. Bill Wagner spoke to this example explaining that the forecast for seniors appears to be decreasing; however the need is not completely reflected. The levels of impairment 17 through 12 were eliminated from services and are no longer included in the forecast.

The second recommendation is to have another small workgroup to look at the interface between Child Welfare and county programs such as Mental Health, Alcohol & Drug and Public Health.

The Child Welfare and county programs need an on-going dialog with a group of local providers on the issue of interface and how to work together more effectively (process issues). For example, only one targeted case management activity for a client can be billed in a single month. Bruce Goldberg and Clyde Saiki will take this to Cabinet and decide on how to make that happen, what the representation needs to be, and report back to LGAC.

Bruce Goldberg explained that caseload forecasts tend to mirror what has happened as a result of policy decisions, forecasting, and caseload forecasts are a management tool. The department needs to look at eligibility vs. enrollment, policy decisions, and funding levels. Bruce will talk with Judy Mohr-Peterson, Forecasting Unit Administrator, to see how the department can move this forward. Bruce suggested that Chris Johnson, Linda Fleming, David Foster and Bill Wagner meet with Judy Mohr-Peterson and discuss this issue.

### **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Director's Report – Bruce Goldberg

AOC Human Services Report – Janet Carlson

Governor's Council on A&D Abuse Programs Report and How DHS is Responding to Recommendations to Increase Capacity and How to Pay for It – Tony Howell

Strategies for Implementing Systems of Care – Sharon Guidera

State Budget Picture – Ken Rocco & Theresa McHugh (presentation made at AOC Pendleton meeting)

Report on Forecasting Committee's progress – Judy Mohr-Peterson  
Oregon Benchmarks – Rita Conrad, Progress Board  
County of Residence Update – Ramona Foley, Jim Edge, Bob Nikkel  
Juvenile Justice & Parole & Probation – Rob Rockstroh & John Hartner  
Two-on-One, Oregon Helps – David Foster

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.  
The next LGAC meeting is July 14, 2006.