MEETING: Disability Services Advisory Council

DATE: Friday, July 18th, 2014

TIME: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: 2nd Floor Large Conference Room
Senior & Disabled Services
1015 Willamette St.
Eugene, OR

CONTACT: Kate Scott, 541-682-4137

AGENDA

12:30 p.m. 1. Call to Order Ed Necker
12:31 p.m. 2. Self-Introductions Ed Necker
12:35 p.m. 3. Consideration of Meeting Agenda Ed Necker
12:40 p.m. 4. Consideration of the Minutes of the May DSAC Meeting (Attachment) Ed Necker
12:45 p.m. 5. LCOG Reports
   a. Senior Services Advisory Council Andy
   b. ADRC general Rachel
   c. ADRC Operations Council Ed, Diane, Rachel

- OVER -
1:15 p.m.  6. Information Items
   a. Chair’s Report  Ed Necker
   b. Committee Reports
      (1) Advocacy Committee  Cmt Mbr

1:25 p.m.  7. Other Reports and Announcements
   a. Oregon Project Independence Pilot  Kate Scott
   b. DSAC Recruitment Discussion  Kate Scott
      a. Timeline
      b. Outreach planning
      c. Attendance

1:55 p.m.  8. Next Council Meeting Agenda planning  All

1:59 p.m.  9. Reminder of Next Council Meeting  Chairperson

Friday, September 19, 2014
12:30 p.m.
LOCATION:
Senior & Disabled Services
1015 Willamette
Eugene, OR 97401

2:00 p.m.  10. Adjourn  Chairperson
MINUTES
DISABILITY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Friday, May 16, 2014
12:30 – 2 p.m.
2nd Floor Conference Room—Senior & Disabled Services
1015 Willamette Street – Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Necker, Chair; Cosette Rees, Andy Fernandez, Marianne Malott, Roxie Mayfield, Diane Rogers.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mary Beth Morrison, Tessie Bodio.

GUEST: Ed McGlone

STAFF: Kate Scott, Jody Cline.

1. Call to Order
Mr. Necker called the meeting to order at 12: 43 p.m.

2. Introductions
Those present introduced themselves.

3. Consideration of Meeting Agenda
Ms. Cline corrected the date listed on the agenda for the next meeting to July 18, added discussion of future meeting topics, and moved this item to consideration under 7. Other Reports and Announcements. Mr. Necker said Ms. Rees would be the presenter for item 8 (LTD).

   Motion: Ms. Rogers moved, seconded by Ms. Malott, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously, 6:0.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the March 21 DSAC Meeting
Ms. Rogers requested more information about the Long Term Care Committee being disbanded and replaced by the ADRC Operations Council. Ms. Cline said Rachel Jacobson staffed the council and would work with committee members to develop a job description, application form, and other documents for the group.

Ms. Rogers and Mr. Necker expressed interest in working with a short-term ad hoc committee to help establish the framework and recruitment process for the ADRC Operations Council.
Motion: Ms. Rogers moved, seconded by Ms. Malott, to approve the March 21 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 6:0.

There was a brief discussion about approving previous minutes that had been scheduled for approval at meetings that failed to achieve a quorum.

5. LCOG Reports
   a. Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)
   Mr. Fernandez reported the SSAC met May 13 and welcomed Kate Scott as its new staff person. Lacking a quorum, the group discussed contract renewals and extensions that needed timely approval and had approved each of them in principle. Staff would send the contract information with the meeting minutes to members and request an e-mail vote. The SSAC also discussed membership and the importance of recruiting people who would attend the meetings, the new ADRC Operation Council, and the Money Management Program.

6. Information Items
   a. Chair’s Report
   Mr. Necker had nothing to report.

   b. Committee Reports
      (1) ADRC Operations Council (formerly Long Term Care Committee)
   Ms. Mayfield was a member of the council but had nothing to report.

   2. Advocacy Committee
   This subcommittee was scheduled to meet immediately following the DSAC meeting.

7. Other Reports and Announcements
   Ms. Cline asked council members to offer suggestions for guest speakers or items of interest for future meetings.

   Mr. Necker commented that usually the Nominating Committee met in the spring with a membership application deadline in August and council consideration of nominees in September. The group agreed discussion of the Nominating Committee’s composition and direction should be on the July agenda.
Ms. Rogers requested an update on the ADRC Operations Council ad hoc committee she had volunteered for earlier.

Ms. Rogers asked for discussion of ways to encourage attendance at council meetings and suggested including an attention-grabbing flyer in the agenda packet that identified action items and requested notice be provided to staff if a member was unable to attend. She recommended contacting those who had been absent several times consecutively to determine their interest in continuing on the council. If people who were not interested in attending meetings were removed from the roster it would make it easier to achieve a quorum.

Ms. Cline said last year staff reviewed the attendance history and called those who had missed meetings regularly without calling. Council members thought it was a good idea to do this again and to ask people their preferred meeting day and time. They also suggested that food at meetings might encourage people to attend.

Ms. Rogers asked that minutes from the related groups (SSAC and S&DS Advocacy) be sent to DSAC members via e-mail.

Ms. Mayfield announced she would be a presenter at a June 3 conference at Lane Community College on the topic of elder abuse and she volunteered to share information from the conference at the July DSAC meeting.

Ms. Cline passed out “Save the Date” postcards announcing the June 3-5 conference “No Excuse for Adult Abuse.” Ms. Malott was interested in attending the conference and asked for information about scholarships that would make it possible for her to do so.

Ms. Rogers asked whether the conference program was on the website and said she had seen no publicity about it in local media.

8. Guest Speaker: Edward McGlone, LTD Government Relations/Cosette Rees
Ms. Rees introduced Mr. McGlone and said he was filling a critical role for LTD but since he was relatively new she would be the one presenting information about LTD’s fixed route buses, ADA Paratransit and RideSource, and the RideSource Call Center.
LTD operated 36 fixed routes for which funding was payroll tax-based, meaning that as the jobless rate increased revenues decreased. Federal regulations mandated that a fixed route system provide complementary Paratransit services for people with disabilities who were unable to ride buses. The fixed route fee for riders was $1.75 and for RideSource it was $3.50, with LTD subsidizing fixed route rides at $3 per ride and Paratransit at $34 per ride.

Ms. Malott commented that many people mistakenly thought RideSource was for anyone with a disability and not limited to those unable to use fixed route buses. This prompted a conversation about temporary and conditional eligibility for RideSource and LTD’s efforts to work with individuals to meet their different needs for accommodation. Ms. Rees emphasized that LTD was a transportation provider and because it was not in the business of determining people’s medical needs eligibility assessments were done by its partners Senior & Disabled Services, Alternative Work Concepts, and White Bird. The assessment looked not just at transportation needs but identified other community services that might be available to the individual. Assessments had to be conducted within 21 days and while doing it more quickly had been possible previously, the Affordable Care Act had made an additional 72,000 people eligible for services, and assessments were taking most of the allowable time.

Regarding rural services, Ms. Rees reported that LTD funded the Diamond Express which provided rides to and from Oakridge. In Florence the fixed route Rhody Express operated with a complementary Paratransit service. She noted that as the transportation brokerage for Lane County, all calls for service came through the RideSource Call Center. Many retired people used services in Florence. Oakridge had a large number of low-income residents and few local services so transportation to Eugene was critical for access to education and jobs.

LTD did not provide service between Eugene and Florence, partly because Florence businesses were opposed to participating in the payroll tax. The private Porter Stage operated between Eugene and Florence and the casino also ran a bus from Eugene. Ms. Rees said the Porter Stage buses were wheelchair accessible and she thought the casino bus was as well.

In 2008 LTD began providing service for eligible medical appointments of Medicaid and Oregon Health Plan clients. LTD contracted with 22 private providers that included taxi and ambulance companies to provide this service, with the RideSource Call Center scheduling and dispatching the rides. Other community programs included one providing transportation to medical
appointments for veterans and the Crucial Connections program that helped individuals with urgent and short-term transportation needs who did not qualify for other programs. These programs were funded through the discretionary grant process, involved small amounts of money, and were well used. The RideSource Call Center worked with White Bird to provide transportation for people who were homeless or had mental health issues that prevented them from using fixed route buses. Another program provided transportation to the Pearl Buck preschool for children of people with disabilities.

Ms. Rees spoke about LTD’s fixed route system being innovative and highly accessible. Mobility International-hosted groups visiting from other countries were impressed by the level of accessibility that local people took for granted. LTD’s commitment to accessibility predated the ADA and in fact had been the first transit system in the U.S. had become fully accessible in 1985.

Through Alternative Work Concepts, the Transit Host program provided hosts who met and guided people using fixed route buses to their next bus. Alternative Work Concepts providing travel training to help people learn how to use the fixed route system. Individualized training sessions were available for people who used mobility devices. The goal of these programs was to help people be more independent and have a better quality of life.

Ms. Malott brought up issues related to service animals and people mistakenly thinking companion or therapy animals were part of the accommodations guaranteed by the ADA. Ms. Rees clarified that only service animals received preferred treatment but that other animals could be brought on the bus in a pet carrier. She emphasized the importance of educating people about rules relating to animals on public transportation. Whether an animal was a trained service animal and what tasks it had been trained for were the only two questions a bus driver was allowed to ask a rider.

Ms. Rees commented that LTD consulted with people with disabilities when designing new facilities or stations to ensure the layout and amenities were as accommodating as possible. LTD’s Accessible Transportation Committee was an active group that included people with a variety of disabilities as well as service providers and agency representatives. It reviewed service and policy changes and held LTD to a high level of accountability and accessibility.

Ms. Rees cited a Portland State demographic study that anticipated 30 percent of Oregon’s population by 2030 would be comprised of the elderly and people with
disabilities which would have a huge impact on all services. Council members requested access to this study.

Ms. Rees continued by saying in the past ten years, the number of RideSource trips had increased by 100 percent, making it important to identify dedicated funding for that service to avoid competition between fixed route and Paratransit for limited funding.

Ms. Rees encouraged council members to become involved with the Accessible Transportation Committee, to participate in Transit Day at the Capitol in April, and to write to their legislators about the importance of transportation. She concluded by saying LTD was reflective of an active, empowered, and vocal community and unfortunately lacked adequate resources to provide everything the community deserved. Community partnerships were critical components of LTD services. Council members thanked her for an informative presentation.

Mr. Fernandez identified EmX service as a politically charged issue about which he would like to have more discussion. Opponents of EmX maintained it would have a negative impact on seniors and people with disabilities and he was particularly interested in exploring that claim further. Ms. Rogers asked that this be a topic on the next meeting agenda.

9. Next DSAC meeting
The next DSAC meeting was scheduled for July 18, 2014, at 12:30 p.m. at Senior & Disabled Services, 1015 Willamette Street.

10. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

(Recorded by Mary Feldman)