

**Local Government Advisory Committee  
Room 473, Human Services Building, Salem  
May 13, 2005  
Minutes**

**ATTENDING**

Cindy Becker	DHS – Deputy Director
Joe Corsiglia	Columbia County Commissioner
Gina Firman	Assoc. of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs
Irene Fischer-Davidson	Clackamas County Human Services
Ramona Foley	DHS – Children Adults and Families
Dave Foster	Oregon Housing and Community Services
Gordon Fultz	Association of Oregon Counties
Robert Furlow	Douglas County Health and Socials Services
Bill Hall	Lincoln County Commissioner
Debra Herrli	DHS – OIS/SSI
Tony Howell	League of Oregon Cities
Mickey Lansing	Oregon Commission on Children and Families
Linda Modrell	Benton County Board of Commissioners
Bob Nikkel	DHS – OMHAS
Patty O’Sullivan	DHS – Legislative Relations Coordinator
Mary Shortall	Multnomah County Area Agencies on Aging
James Toews	DHS – Seniors and People with Disabilities
Wendy VanElverdinghe	Community Action Directors of Oregon
Bill Wagner	Cascade West Council of Governments
Gary Weeks	DHS – Director
Gillian Wesenberg	Douglas County Commission on Children and Families

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Linda Modrell**

The meeting was called to order and roundtable introductions were made. The April 8, 2005 minutes were approved.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Gary Weeks**

Gary updated the group on the Department’s budget. DHS presented its rebalance plan (HB 5077) yesterday, which took about 3½ hours. It will be the final rebalance of the 2003-05 budget and will set the stage for the re-shoot exercise that is next week. The rebalance plan will now go to the full Ways and Means

Committee; however, with the joint Ways and Means Committee splitting to three groups recently it is unclear what path the bill will take now. We do expect that a vote meeting will be held and that they will pass the bill. The re-shoot will take the Governor's recommended budget and apply new caseload forecast numbers and the cost per case to update the numbers that were presented in the Governor's recommended budget last December. This new set of numbers will give the legislature the final DHS projections, for the 2005-07 budget.

DHS in conjunction with Attorney General Hardy Meyers is supporting a legislative package that will get caseworkers out of court and allow paralegals and lawyers represent DHS in court.

The Health Plan funding for the '05-'07 biennium seems to be about the same as last biennium.

Family Planning and Education Program (FPEP) was left out of the Governor's recommended budget. DHS is working to get the funding put back in, either as part of the re-shoot or as an add-on to the budget.

DHS continues to work with the tribes around their access to public health programs. We are working on an amendment that gives the Department the ability to contract with tribes to provide public health services.

SB88 our bill on Medicare Modernization associated with MMA. We have a couple of other bills that are kind of "must have" for us and seem to be moving. One of them is the delegation of authority to the AAA's selection into foster care. That one seems to be moving.

We have a couple of bills that are needed to implement if the Governor's budget goes through the way it is or if there are add-backs in there, but there are still reductions there's some legislation that would have to happen in order for those things to legally happen. So those are being prepared on the sidelines depending upon what reductions go through or don't go through.

DHS is watching HB 3303. There was much discussion between LGAC members and DHS staff regarding this bill.

**OSH MASTER PLAN – Bob Nikkel**

The Phase I report on the Oregon State Hospital Master Plan will be released on Monday. There will also be a joint hearing of the House Health and Human Services Committee and the Senate Health Policy Committee at the Oregon State Hospital, Brooks Conference Room, and beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Monday. Representative Dalto will chair that hearing. The report is a preliminary general framework plan. Also on Monday at 2:30 p.m. there will be a press event. KMD Architects will be on hand to answer questions about the report.

**CHILDREN’S SYSTEM CHANGE INITIATIVE – Bob Nikkel**

This was a budget note which tells DHS to integrate all of the children’s services into local managed care environments. The Department is working on finalizing the rate setting process.

**MEDICARE MODERNIZATION UPDATE – Jane Ellen Weidanz**

The Social Security Administration mailings to 264,000 Oregonians will begin on May 27, 2005 with 4-5,000 letters going out every day until mid-August. The SSA has primary responsibility for this program and they will determine eligibility beginning July 1, 2005. DHS field staff have been instructed to refer people to SSA.

DHS will then be sending out letter to the people eligible and screen them for other benefits e.g., food stamps, Medicare Savings Plan, etc.

The Department will also start providing information to the dual eligible population about the transfer from Medicaid to the Medicare Program beginning January 1, 2006.

The casework and workload issues have been addressed with the Legislature. The Department is also working on HB 3108 which would allow the Department to do an estate recovery on the clawback.

SB 88 is the Department’s bill on Medicare Modernization associated with the Medicare Modernization Act. It is in the Senate Budget Committee waiting for hearing.

**CHILD WELFARE – NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES – Ramona Foley**

Report was released on May 11, 2005; the full report can be downloaded from the DHS website at [www.oregon.gov/DHS/news/2005news/2005-0511a.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/news/2005news/2005-0511a.shtml) and was presented to the House Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Child Welfare by Wayne Holder of the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services (NRCCPS).

The report listed nine challenges facing Oregon's system:

1. Methamphetamine
2. Workload demand
3. Local influence and determination
4. Staff configuration
5. Worker authority to remove a child
6. Group decision making
7. Legal custody and in-home supervision
8. Threat of harm
9. Strengths and needs-based interventions

The report listed seven issues that are about where the nation is:

1. Policy
2. Procedure
3. Staff development
4. Supervision
5. Information systems
6. Program management
7. Quality assurance

The report recommends that DHS develop standardized practices emphasizing child safety throughout all stages of a child welfare case; improve training for child welfare workers by developing a procedures manual with clear instructions; and remove legal representation duties from child welfare staff.

**GARY WEEKS' LAST LGAC MEETING – Linda Modrell**

This was the last meeting of LGAC for Gary Weeks as he is taking a position in Olympia, WA. LGAC Chair Linda Modrell presented Gary with a gift of appreciation and thanked him for his leadership.

The next meeting of LGAC will be on June 10, 2005.

Agenda topics include:

Director of Public Health

Medicare Modernization Update

Legislative Update

Jane-Ellen Weidanz

DHS Budget and Re-shoot Update

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.