

**Local Government Advisory Committee
Room 473, Human Services Building, Salem
May 12, 2006
Minutes**

ATTENDING

Janet Carlson	Marion County Commissioner
Bill Coulombe	DHS – Health Services
Bill Crowell	DHS – Office of Information Services
Ron Dodge	Polk County Commissioner
Jim Edge	DHS – Office of Medical Assistance Programs
Linda Fleming	CLHO
Ramona Foley	DHS – Children, Adults and 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
Fariborz Pakseresht	DHS – Administrative Services
Anne Peltier	Conference of Local Health Officials
Rob Rockstroh	Lane County Health and Human Services
Molly Rogers	Oregon Juvenile Department Directors’ Association
Clyde Saiki	DHS – Deputy Director
Mary Shortall	Multnomah County Aging and Disabilities
James Toews	DHS – Office of Seniors and People with Disabilities
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 April 2006 were reviewed and approved.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

There were no additional agenda items.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bruce Goldberg reported on the Special Legislative Session that resulted in the allocation of \$53 million directly to DHS, along with \$83 million placed in a special purpose appropriation fund available through the E-Board in November. There is renewed visibility of human service needs and the fact that legislators are supporting the direction of the Department is very encouraging. There is a new and different understanding with the Legislature that when programs are cut, the needs in the communities do not go away and this puts additional strain on other resources.

Concern was expressed that the \$136 million only filled selected holes and the larger picture should include local partners and the services they provide.

The importance of human services, as well as where and how these services are delivered, needs to be understood throughout the state. Policy decisions need to be all-inclusive of state and local issues.

Federal Deficit Reduction Act

The \$136 million shortfall will change based on federal changes. One factor is the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) that contains a number of potential changes related to targeted case management and TANF. The result of those changes is unknown; the rules have yet to be written. The bill redefines targeted case management to a strictly medical model.

TANF Update

Ramona Foley discussed some of the changes to the TANF program. At a meeting of TANF advocates, concern was expressed about how to get people into the workforce, be successful and stay in the workforce if they cannot access services that have been depleted (e.g., alcohol and drug treatment, mental health services, etc.). Also discussed was the importance of education and training for these people to help them achieve better than a minimum wage job. There is a time limit of five years to comply with the federally required percentage of people working while receiving TANF, however the Department is still waiting on the regulations.

A number of documents were sent to Gordon Fultz by Ramona Foley that assisted him in drafting a letter from AOC Human Services Committee expressing their

concerns and asking for maximum flexibility. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to Bruce Goldberg.

Another provision of the Deficit Reduction Act, scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2006, will require proof of citizenship -- a certified birth certificate or passport -- when applying or reapplying for Medicaid benefits. If a birth certificate is used, photo ID will also be required. This may create many problems for the people DHS serves.

STATE POLICY DIRECTION AND IMPACT ON FORECASTING

Chris Johnson presented a draft version (Handout #1) to LGAC on “Incorporating Local Data into Forecasting.” Johnson explained that although a lot of data is used to build the DHS budget, data for several core DHS programs is not included. The data is available, although sometimes hidden. Several examples were cited from the report.

The tendency has been to count what exists, for example with the Oregon Health Plan, counting numbers versus how many people do not have health care. The Department needs to look at the need and what is being done to meet those needs with the understanding that policy decisions drive caseloads. This is also being discussed with the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) and DAS Budget and Management (BAM), which put together department budgets.

Johnson believes that the entire system needs to be viewed differently for the next cycle. Strategic thinking is necessary. Gordon Fultz, Linda Fleming and Clyde Saiki have discussed the need for laying the groundwork for human services and looking at the whole continuum, not just pieces of it. LFO is supportive of doing things differently – not philosophically, but with greater accuracy. Bruce Goldberg invited a representative from LGAC to come to the forecasting committee meeting to make a presentation.

COUNTY/LGAC IMPROVEMENT IN BUDGET PROCESS UPDATE

Gordon Fultz and Clyde Saiki gave an update on the seven-point outline of how LGAC can participate in the DHS budget development process (see attached). The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) is preparing to send out a survey using definitions that are agreeable to both state and local levels and believes that the information to be captured is what was intended. The information will depict the entire service delivery system, both state and local, and the interrelationships between the two.

AOC has a meeting scheduled for next Thursday with legislators and LFO representatives to discuss the templates for the survey. The survey is meant to capture expenditures and the number of full-time employees (FTEs). The survey should be out by the end of June early July.

COUNTY CONTRACTS UPDATE

Gordon Fultz updated the group on the status of county contracts. There is a difference in perspective between the counties' legal counsel and policy people around the issue of "safe harbor." The proposal designates the DHS staff who have the authority to provide interpretations that will be covered under the safe harbor provision.

Another piece of the negotiations is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed for each county and DHS concerning how to do business as two entities. County counsels have not agreed to this, so it will be put into an agreement between AOC and DHS.

DRINKING WATER

Linda Fleming spoke about the drinking water issue. In a previous Session there was a bill that did not go anywhere that would have charged a fee for each connection. The alternative bill would require a fee for the sanitary survey – an inspection of water systems conducted every five years. Legislative concepts are due in July.

Since the State will not be able to do anything with new EPA regulations, due to lack of funding, it is not clear what this will mean to the counties and their contracts on the Safe Drinking Water Program.

POLICY AND BUDGET PACKAGES THAT ARE NOT FUNDED

Gordon Fultz posed the question of what happens to policy and budget packages that are legitimate and needed, but not included in the Governor's budget. There is a concern that they are not dropped totally.

Bruce Goldberg explained that this becomes a question of strategy and prioritization. You must start with a common agenda and utilize one another's strengths. Discussion needs to take place on how to strategically deal with these issues individually. LGAC would be a good forum for those discussions.

AOC HUMAN SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENT

AOC Human Services is not having a full committee meeting today; instead there will be a sub-committee meeting at 1:30 p.m.

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Spring AOC Conference

AOC Human Services Report – Janet Carlson

County Residence Report

Proceed on Recommendations for Incorporating Local Data into Forecasting –
Chris Johnson

Commissions and Committees – Patty O’Sullivan

Systems of Care Approach to the Budget Process – Sharon Guidera

Two-on-One, OregonHelps, “Best Practices” – John Hartner (?)

Assets Conversions Conference – David Foster

Benchmark Process – Gordon Fultz/Rita Conrad, Progress Board

Six-Year Planning Process – Committee on Children and Families

Systems of Care for Mental Health Services with focus on Juvenile Justices
System – Rob Rockstroh

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The next LGAC meeting is June 9, 2006.