

**People with Disabilities Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2005**

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**Participants:** (X = Attended; E = Excused; A = Absent)

<b>Members</b>				<b>Attendants</b>	
X	Peggie Beck	X	Scott Lay		Stacey Benavides
X	Jack Benson	X	Ruth McEwen		Avi Cooper
X	Jan Campbell	X	James Naegele		Jon Croghan
X	Donna Crawford	X	Dayle Niemie		Donalda Hill
X	Tonita Croghan	X	Karen Showers		Ann Lightner
X	Reta Griffith	X	Mike Volpe		Sarah Long
E	Susan Grimes			X	Glenna Niemie
X	Kathryn Jenness				Nicole Pare'
<b>Staff</b>				<b>Speakers</b>	
Morgen Brodie, Becky Murphy, Marc Overbeck				James Toews Cathy Cooper	
<b>Public/Guests</b>				Brenda Sheppard	
				Jane-ellen Weindanz	

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## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ruth McEwen.

Introductions were made.

## Agenda Review

The agenda was reviewed and no changes were made.

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## **October Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed and there were no corrections.

Jack Benson mentioned how much he appreciated seeing the Executive Committee meeting minutes, which were included in the packet members received.

**MOTION: Approve October minutes as distributed. *Passed.*** (James Naegele/Peggie Beck)

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to send out the electronic version of the Executive Minutes.

## **Follow-up Action Items from October Meetings**

Becky went through the PDAC “To Do List” and responded to questions about the list. Ruth will attend the November 10, 2005, EWT meeting, and afterwards will discuss with members whether this is a group that PDAC wants to participate in. A response was received from Naomi Sacks on the SPL rule group and Susan will be attending their first meeting on December 6, 2005. Lori Nelson informed Becky of the plan/process about complaints; Becky requested the appropriate SPD person to inform her when a process is in place about complaints and possible copies to the local DSACs. Several items are still pending.

## **EPD Update (Brenda Sheppard)**

Brenda introduced herself and let members know she looked forward to the feedback that PDAC will be providing around the EPD Program. Brenda noted that Scott and Dayle are serving as members of an advisory committee on EPD Client Contribution. Morgen noted that Scott has volunteered to serve as a “liaison” or an “ambassador” from the group around EPD. Scott will coordinate discussion, including the sharing of ideas among members, and will serve as a spokesperson for

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PDAC regarding EPD. He emphasized the importance of members informing him of their ideas and concerns so he can speak for the whole group. It was requested PDAC, especially Ruth, be informed of all actions, etc. Brenda expressed her desire that she could use the group to give her specific feedback on various topics. Brenda can be reached at Brenda.D.Sheppard@state.or.us. Her phone number is 503-947-5204.

### **DHS/SPD Update / ODC Update (James Toews/Cathy Cooper)**

James spoke to the group about multiple issues that were coming up in the process of transitioning ODC over to DHS, including old contracts, prior liabilities, and past responsibilities. James spoke with the Governor's office and had promised to talk with PDAC before moving forward. One idea that may emerge is that ODC may become a more formal coalition of various advocacy groups, and the purpose of ODC would then have as its focus a broad-based agenda for people with disabilities and the establishment of a legislative agenda. James acknowledged that there have been a lot of issues and questions from PDAC members about how it would all work if PDAC did become ODC, and at this point there are no clear pathways for any one approach. James indicated he is attempting to meet with all the various advocacy groups for people with disabilities. He indicated that a final approach is multiple steps away.

James clarified that if the ODC became a cross-disability group, then PDAC would continue to be a strong and functioning group, and the other groups could mutually share in the costs of operating ODC under such auspices. Until it is clear what is actually happening, James doesn't plan to send forward the applications for ODC. James indicated that the Governor's office would be an active player in this process and its implementation.

James responded to members' questions about the new director, indicating that he will be a "quick study" on long-term care and other issues, and expressed a desire that he could come to a PDAC meeting in the relatively near future.

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**ACTION ITEM:** Cathy Cooper will make an inquiry about Dr. Bruce Goldberg attending the February meeting of PDAC.

## **MMA Update (Jane-ellen Weindanz, MMA Project Manager)**

Jane-ellen said that CMS is in the process of sending out all of the remaining letters to dual-eligible clients--the letter is bright yellow, and the final letters will be sent out by November 15, 2005. 29,000 clients were auto-enrolled in Oregon; these individuals will get letters from their providers explaining the benefits included in those plans. DHS is following up with a "high-level" letter explaining that DHS will generally not be paying for prescription drugs any longer, and directing them that they can call their case worker rather than calling the 1-800-MEDICARE number.

The ID cards, which should reach everyone by December 31, 2005, will be followed with another letter to DHS clients explaining their responsibilities under MMA. Jane-ellen's unit is completing their series of trainings today. There is a concern that many people still have not been reached, and will follow-up with an additional training in Portland and also do some video trainings. Mailings went out to all staff in DD, MH, and SPD, including all the long-term care providers, DD Brokerages, AAAs, etc. The local offices will be contacting every dual-eligible client who is not in a Medicaid Advantage Plan.

James indicated that his caseworker told him yesterday that she is still confused, and didn't know how to provide good information. Jane-ellen indicated caseworkers and others are supposed to use the resources of Jane-ellen and her team in order to get a clear understanding on how to assist clients. Jane-ellen emphasized that it does not work to keep referring people to the toll-free Medicare number. She clarified that SHIBA is not the point-of-contact for dual-eligible clients; SHIBA is

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the point of contact for the “general population.” The number for DHS clients, case managers, and others inside the DHS system is 877-585-0007 for overall questions. Jane-ellen also said that every EPD client will get a personal call from Central Office staff to assist them in walking through what they need.

### **Public Input (three-minutes per person limit)**

None.

### **MIG Update (Mike Volpe/Scott Lay)**

Mike gave a brief report on the MIG meetings he and Scott have attended. It was felt that Travis Wall, the MIG manager, had very little knowledge regarding the EPD program before he came on board, but his willingness to come up to speed is appreciated. The strategic plan is on the fast track, the first draft is due the end of November and the final draft is due by the end of December.

Scott believes that enhancing the EPD program to allow more consumers to better use the program may happen as a result of the MIG. However, anything to do with EI probably won't happen. There are not enough funds to reinstate EI, and the program has been concluded. Mike and Scott will send out the draft when it is received.

Ruth reminded both Mike and Scott that they should also fill out a liaison report form and send it to Becky.

## **Subcommittees**

### **MMA**

James reported he contacted Medicare, and was referred to the SHIBA office and to a booklet he had received. He appreciated Jane-ellen's clarification that dual-eligibles only pay the co-pay.

Ruth sent an E-mail to Jane-ellen regarding MMA training and the need to make certain that people with disabilities are included. Jane-ellen will forward the E-mail to appropriate staff.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff will send out a copy of the MMA E-mail.

### **EPD/EI**

Scott reported sending out lots of E-mails asking for guidance from the group on EPD but has received no feedback. Please review the information/materials and give Scott feedback, including any questions and concerns.

Scott believes there is a need to have the same kind of ambassador relationship from PDAC to other programs within DHS.

### **Language/Training**

Marc went over the group's decisions. Becky E-mailed the group about a conference call with Marita Baragli, Joe Hesting, and Lori Nelson; members should send available dates and times to Becky. Marc's help was requested for more

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specific questions to ask. After the conference call, there will be discussion on next steps—including the possibility of drafting a position paper.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to add Jan to the subcommittee and send the appropriate information.

## **New Issues**

Since the ODC decisions are taking longer than expected, elections and the expansion of the Executive Committee was revisited.

## **Next Meeting Items**

- Elections: The elections/nominations process will be discussed in December; nominations will be made at the January meeting; and elections will be part of the February meeting.
- Program areas that need an ambassador.
- Liaison reports and the process.
- Upcoming rules with Mary Lee Fay.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff will work on stretching the meeting to 2 ½-3 hours in December.

## **Adjourned**