



# City of Lake Oswego 50-Plus Advisory Board

Thursday, May 8, 2008  
8:30 a.m.

## Members 2007-2008:

Janine Dunphy, Chair  
MaryLou Webb, Vice Chair  
Nanci Cummings  
Daniel Baer  
Caryl Lindemaier  
Ardis Stevenson  
Kathy Long Holland  
Vacant  
Vacant

**Santiam Room**  
**West End Building (WEB)**  
4101 Kruse Way

For Information: 503-675-6407

Councilor McPeak, City Council Liaison  
Kim Gilmer, PR Director  
Vacant, ACC Manager  
Teresa O'Halloran, ACC Admin

## Approved Minutes

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- I. Roll Call  
Present: Janine Dunphy, MaryLou Webb, Daniel Baer, Caryl Lindemaier, Ardis Stevenson, Nanci Cummings, Kathy Long Holland, Councilor McPeak, City Council Liaison, Kim Gilmer, PR Director, Teresa O'Halloran, ACC Admin.  
Guest: Karla Rathburn
  - II. Approval of Minutes 4/10  
Janine Dunphy asked for a motion to approve the minutes  
Daniel Baer made a motion, Nanci Cummings seconded the motion  
Minutes approved with an additional clarification under Old Business regarding LUBA
  - III. Open Public Communications - None
  - IV. Old business
    - A. Volunteer Project Update  
Two meetings have taken place thus far with various people in the community including representatives from churches and other organizations, ie: Love Inc. and Life by Design. The McVey South Shore area will be the pilot project this fall with a larger, community wide event planned for spring. Caryl reported that the key elements for this project are:
      - Committee work... a working committee. The first project is designed to happen in the fall in the McVey South Shore area; one day of volunteer service.
      - Marketing/Communication – perhaps branding the entire effort. Media support.
      - What is the name, what do we call this project so that it is easily identifiable in the community.
      - Sponsorship – how do we approach and sell the concept
      - Logistics – supplies, coordination of volunteers, transportation, etc...
- This fall event will be the spring board for a larger community wide event to be held next spring. We needed a pilot project before the larger project. The Life by Design group is willing to

continue to work as advisors of the program, but the 50+ will lead the programs. All participants will most likely be from the Lake Oswego area.

The 50+ Board is the driver of this project because it is part of the 2008 work plan. All of the members of this board, who are interested, will be involved and given minutes and updates. Members of this board may participate in any capacity, however as a unit, this board will be guiding and keeping everything on track. We are the supervisors of the project. Individually you may get more involved if you desire.

Life by Design: Kim Gilmer met with Karen Shimada and she was pretty certain that there are monies available for larger projects in the community. However in order to get these grants we need some experience in order to help explain and promote the programs efficiently. We just don't have the information currently to write up these grants.

Life by Design is interested in life long learning and leadership programs, etc...while this board is organizing these work events, Life by Design will be planning training programs out in the community as well as the Adult Community Center.

We need to make sure that we do not dampen the momentum with the liability issues or criteria for participation. It shouldn't be limited and should include anyone who can come and anyone who needs help, like a modern day barn rising.

Eventually there will be a group of presentations that will go out into the community with our message (yet to be determined).

#### B. Status of the Medicare Access project

About two weeks ago, Janine Dunphy, Councilor McPeak and Dan Baer met with a group to discuss Medicare access and it included many of the major medical groups in the area.. See Attachment A included at the end of the minutes.

The discussion began with a summary of all the issues which led up to this project. It is a complicated issue that includes many rules regarding how reimbursements happen and the factors involved – part of law. Reimbursements are based upon the cost of care in 1968. Medical malpractice issues also impact the overall picture. There are number of legislative issues regarding this topic being discussed. It is a very complex issue. Our group is focusing on one small part of this large issue; a resource to easily identify those doctors in the community who do accept Medicare patients. Legacy and Providence are open to Medicare patients – this is a part of their standard policies within their organizations. The thought was that it is some of the smaller physician clinics and groups that are closed to Medicare patients. Cascade is also closed to Medicare patients. The issue still remains; what is available for Medicare patients who want to find a physician in the area.

#### Solutions discussion:

Those medical groups, who do accept patients, could have a single, central scheduling number of physicians who take Medicare. They pledge to investigate this solution within their groups.

Hospital physician referrals lists could perhaps include those who take Medicare – it was suggested that this option is not feasible.

It was suggested that the city of Lake Oswego, through the ACC, could manage the numbers and the list of Medicare physicians. Kim suggested this option may not be feasible and that more information is needed.

Kaiser offered to look into changing their policies to admit non-group members to allow unaffiliated patients to use their facilities to aid in this problem. This would be private pay Medicare patients who would not otherwise have Kaiser Insurance.

No new meetings are scheduled. OHSU will be informed of the commitment that Legacy and Providence have made.

It was a great meeting and was nice to see these groups coming together to assist in the problems our citizens are experiencing.

Trends – fewer and fewer physicians are accepting Medicare over time. Those who do not accept it now, will probably not be accepting it in the future.

Dan consulted two databases; one was the AMA and found 18 physician and 8 interns. The other was a directory of physicians accepting Blue Cross, and found only 8 physicians listed; some of which Dan recognizes as not being around anymore. Because the list is so short, perhaps we could take 20% of list and have a Board member to start the initial effort and see if these people would be interested in working with us to update our list every 6 months, or so and whether or not having the ACC keep this list updates would even work.

Perhaps just having the phone numbers of these medical groups who accept Medicare is something the ACC would like to have to give out to clients.

We need to come up with the questions to ask them, it isn't as simple as "Do you accept Medicare". Or is it? This is open for future discussion.

Dan provided a summary of Physicians in Oregon; they tend to fall into three categories. 1. Physicians accepting No Medicare 50%; 2. Physicians open to Medicare w/o restrictions 15%, 3. Physicians who accept some Medicare, depending of what the insurance coverage is 35%.

It would be great if we could get a good database started for the ACC, which would help the ACC in providing information to its clients.

Dan will refine the lists and Kathy Long Holland will make the calls. The board will review the results at the June meeting.

How does the federal government track who accepts Medicare? Dan suggested that we look into how business licenses are granted because they may have the information regarding acceptance of Medicare.

Kim will talk to Richard Seals, Finance Director, regarding what information is available through the business license process that could help us with Medicare information.

### C. Oakridge Park Project - Appeal

Anyone who testified originally at the Development Review Commission hearing for the project can provide written testimony to the Land Use Board of Appeals. Kim will check if whether or not Ardis and Janine's testimony falls under this rule.

## V. New Business

### A. Sponsoring Public Presentation of Medicare Access as a Joint project with Oregon Medical Association (OMA)

Scott Gallant, Associate Executive Director of OMA appeared willing to have a public forum on the larger issues of tort reform along with the Medicare issues. The hope is that this board or the city of Lake Oswego would sponsor such a public meeting to encourage legislative discussions or change.

Councilor McPeak commented that the community could benefit from such a meeting and it could be televised. But it would have to be even handed, so there would have to be representatives of the "other side". The other side is probably the insurance industry. For the city to sponsor something, both sides must be represented.

This could bring together a real dialogue. What does all of this mean to individuals?

Kim will talk to Alex McIntyre, City Manager if this is something we as a city would host, through this board. Filming it? Discussing the logistics and the politics of such an event? Councilor McPeak, Dan and Janine offered to go with Kim to talk to him. Kim thought this was a good idea. Kim will coordinate this meeting.

#### B. ACC Manager Recruitment Status Report

114 applications were received nationwide and interviews will begin next Friday. There are five candidates. Kim reported that the City is looking for someone with strong managerial experience, networking skills and prior experience working with seniors or parks and recreation. The ideal candidate needs to understand social services issues as well as an awareness of the changing needs and desires of people 50+. The salary is currently under review. The panel will include city staff and professionals in the field from other communities. The goal is to have someone on board by mid-June.

C. Set Next Meeting Date, June 12, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

D. Adjourn

#### References:

50+ Meeting Minutes Draft 4/10/08

Updated 2008 Work Plan

## Attachment A

### Notes from Medicare Access meeting, April 18, 2008 by Dan Baer

#### Present

John Ulwelling, President, Foundation for Medical Excellence  
Barry Egner, Medical Director, Foundation for Medical Excellence  
Scott Gallant, the Associate Executive Director, Oregon Medical Association  
Sharon Higgins, MD, Medical Director, Kaiser Permanente  
Scot Gedger, Director of Westside Operations, Providence Medical Group  
???, Portland Clinic  
Jack Cioffi, MD, Medical Director, Legacy Health System  
Ellie McPeak, Councilor, Lake Oswego City Council  
Janine Dunphy, Chair, Lake Oswego 50+ Advisory Board  
Dan Baer, MD, Member, Lake Oswego 50+ Advisory Board

The group discussed the problem of access for patients with Medicare insurance. Approximately 50% of Oregon primary care physicians have restrictions or do not accept new Medicare patients. Many physicians will not continue to see patients when they become Medicare insured. The reasons for, extent of the problem and the future outlook were discussed.

Smaller physician groups and solo practitioners are less likely to accept new Medicare patients than larger groups.

The group focused on mechanisms for providing information to patients about which local physicians were likely to accept new patients. Solutions about the larger problem of Medicare access are beyond the scope of this group.

#### Possible solutions discussed were:

- Medical groups could have a single phone number for information about physicians in that group who accept Medicare patients.

**Assessment** - This is a feasible solution.

- Hospital physician referral offices could have information about physicians on their staffs who accept Medicare patients.

**Assessment** - This is not practical because the situation changes so quickly and small groups and solo practitioners would be reluctant to have their names on an availability list.

- The City of Lake Oswego could provide the phone numbers of medical groups that participate in the Medicare information system described above.

**Assessment** - This is feasible.

- The City of Lake Oswego could maintain a list of Lake Oswego physicians, who accept Medicare patients,

**Assessment** - This is feasible. There are 25 primary care physicians in Lake Oswego, many of whom practice in groups.

#### Action

- Legacy and Providence Medical Groups will investigate having a single phone number for information about their physicians who accept Medicare patients.
- They will explore the idea of having a single phone number which would provide information about both of their groups.

- Kaiser Permanente will explore the possibility of accepting a number of fee for service Medicare patients.
- Lake Oswego will investigate having a source of information about Lake Oswego primary care physicians who are open to new Medicare patients.
- Participants will be kept informed of actions taken.
- No further meetings are planned.