

OREGON DISABILITIES COMMISSION – EMPLOYED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday • April 20, 2009 • 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Conference Room 166 • DHS Building • 500 Summer Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Baxter

Judith Cunio

Sara Kendall

Norman Kohler

Bill Lynch

Ruth McEwen

Frank Synoground

Scott Lay

Eugene Rada

Tina Treasure

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Kathryn Weit

Doug Stone

Ron Heagy

Brian Delashmutt

Mike Volpe

Jan Campbell

Mike Oliver

Damon Terzaghi

STAFF PRESENT:

Max Brown, Advocacy Coordinator

AGENDA ITEMS:

CALL ALL TO ORDER

- Introductions
- Review Priorities

SUBCOMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

- Next Steps - Factsheet
- Washington Medicaid Buy-In Study

OTHER TOPICS

ADJOURN

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CALL TO ORDER

Bill Lynch called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Introductions

EPD Subcommittee members and staff introduced themselves. Max Brown noted that Jeff Stell could not join the group this month and update data. Bill Lynch explained that the subcommittee had other topics to address, including the direction in which the subcommittee may go.

Bill Lynch reviewed priorities identified at earlier meetings of the subcommittee. No new priority was added.

Bill reviewed the agenda. He noted that staff was asked to work with Damon Terzaghi on information regarding the State I Plan Option. Max Brown briefly discussed a power point by Gayle Arden of the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services that outlines the basic tenets of this state plan. Given that the State I Plan Option was off the table for the budget, the subcommittee determined that this was for information only purposes.

SUBCOMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

Washington Medicaid Buy-In Study

Sara Kendall discussed some of the fundamental findings of this study. In Washington, program participants contributed taxes (not income tax, but purchasing power with earned income because the state has no income tax). Further, program participants use less nutrition assistance, work more hours, and are employed for longer durations than individuals who are not in the Buy-In program.

Tim Baxter and Sara Kendall briefly addressed the offset issue affecting individuals with developmental disabilities. This referenced the earlier discussion, as Norm

Kohler noted, as to whether the tax dollars paid by program participants might exceed Medicaid services accessed by program participants.

Discussion:

The Washington study was revised, and Sara Kendall said it cost roughly \$50,000 to do internally.

The subcommittee also entertained how the study, based on economic data, may have a bearing on the philosophical issues surrounding EPD.

This study could have an impact on the department's Key Performance Measures (people with disabilities who are employed).

Next Steps with the Factsheet:

Bill Lynch then asked Sara Kendall to show the subcommittee the revised factsheet.

Sara Kendall circulated copies, and showed that Ron Heagy contributed his photo and story for the APD side. There is still a need for a DD participant. Judy Cunio was considered as a possibility, but given that her story is known, Sara Kendall and Bill Lynch thought that there may be a candidate from the Work Incentives Network to participate.

Sara Kendall also showed the flip side of the factsheet, with placeholders for data. The subcommittee listed some possible data for the flip side:

- Tax revenue
- Unemployment figures
- Measures for amount of services used, such as dollars spent per participant
- Administrative costs of the program – eligibility, training, etc.
- Amount of premiums paid (or charged) for participant fee

The subcommittee then discussed the goals of this factsheet – to raise awareness, and knowledge of the program, including replicable facts. Scott Lay and Tim

Baxter again warned of the budget crunch, and that it may not be prudent to put the program in the limelight at this time.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AND SCHEDULING

- The group then discussed action items for the next meeting. A discussion of the philosophy of the EPD program was proposed – as a way get to more pragmatic concerns, such as framing proposals or recommendations to the department. From this basic foundation, discussion can follow on topics such as the grace period, EPD vs. offsets, and issues such as retirement for EPD participants. Staff will look into getting Jeff Stell and Dale Marande or another SPD manager for this meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:50 p.m.