

DISABILITY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 7, 2017

DSAC Members Present: Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Chair; Mike Volpe, Vice Chair; Lee Lazaro; Jann Glenn; and Edythe James.

Guests: Cathy Savage; Bob Daley; Doris Lamb; Carolyn Fry; Marilyn Winter; Sandy Potter; Suanne Jackson; Mitzi Naucler; Jim Smith; Kath Schonau; Don Taylor; Marie Laper; and Victoria Short.

Members Absent: Suzanne Brean; Pete Rickey; and Rusty Burton.

Staff: Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director Dave Toler; Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett; SDS Program Manager Mary Kay Fitzmorris; and SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe.

1. Welcome, Introductions (Mike Volpe, Vice Chair):

Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 1:39 pm. Introductions were made, including guests.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

Approval of the DSAC December 6, 2016 meeting minutes was tabled to the March 7, 2017 DSAC meeting.

3. Chair's Report (Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, DSAC Chair):

Molnar-Fitzgerald gave the Council an overview on the North End Senior Solutions (NESS) Club in Lincoln City. This is a non-profit adult day service whose mission is to keep seniors and people with disabilities living at home. They are the first Medicaid provider on the Coast.

Their 2017 Medicaid certification includes new requirements like assisted living and other community based housing services with focus on person centered care. To revise and justify the new rules, the Oregon Department of Human Services, at the Adult Day Service State level, is forming a Rules to the Advisory Committee (RAC). Medicare providers for Adult Day Services and members of the Oregon Association of Adult Day Services are asked to contribute. This will take place in March and Chair Molnar-Fitzgerald will be participating.

One provision of the new rule is providing opportunities for people with disabilities to gain employment in the community. Unfortunately, NESS does not have this in place but Marie Laper, a Mental Health Specialist, has been contributing several ideas for job opportunities.

The NESS Club now has enough willing participants to start their own Advisory Committee, which is State required. The Committee, who is the voice of the club, is made up of four participants and their families who report to the Board.

Since the beginning of the year they have had five inquiries into the Club with two new enrollments.

The NESS Club received a grant from Siletz for \$2,850 with the majority of the money going toward nutrition. They also received \$350 for caregiving training and additional grant money to reimburse volunteer drivers. The NESS Club is partnering with Senior Companion.

With the support of OCWCOG's Meals on Wheels program, they have had frozen meals delivered to them so their participants don't miss out on meals on the days they are at the NESS Club.

The NESS Club was started by Molnar-Fitzgerald and based on a family model. They are located at the Odd Fellow's Hall and Chair Molnar-Fitzgerald invited everyone to stop by, take a look around, and have lunch.

4. Access Benton County, History, and Future (Jim Smith, Access Benton County, and Lee Lazaro, DSAC Member):

Jim Smith gave a brief history and a look at the future of *Access Benton County* (ABC) to the Council. ABC started out, about 30 years ago, as a club called *Oregon Architectural Barriers Council Corvallis Chapter* and changed its name to *Access Benton County* when they were the last Chapter left in the State of Oregon. Over the course of the years there have been around 50 individuals connected with ABC.

As a club, they have invited organizations and individuals to come and speak; they consult with officials of the City of Corvallis in regards to people with disabilities or their advocates; and for many years they have hosted annual holiday luncheons to celebrate what they have done in the past year.

Their core objectives are: advocating for access improvements where needed; honoring excellence in in advocacy or for those that stand out in excellence with handicap accessibility; and asking for change and improvement for those with disabilities. ABC is a way of educating participants to better serve people with disabilities.

Currently they looking for a day to meet. There are about 10 people that attend the meetings. Mr. Smith expressed that everybody is welcomed; there is no formal induction to take part and one does not have to have a disability. They are currently meeting at the Senior Center in Corvallis. If anyone is interested in

learning more about ABC, wish to attend a meeting, or would like to receive the minutes of the meetings, they should contact him at 541-990- 6364.

Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett asked the group if they feel there is a need to address physical barriers for people with disabilities in any of the other counties besides Benton. ABC is going through a change and trying to decide if there is a future for this organization and a possibility of going multi-county. They would like more people to join in.

Lee Lazaro asked if there was any way DSAC and ABC could work together to broaden the outreach of ABC to include more than Benton County and broaden the membership.

SDS Director Dave Toler said SDS is opened to helping the organization of ADC grow and regionalize.

5. Adjournment:

The DSAC Meeting was adjourned at 2:17 pm.
The Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe.
The next meeting will be on March 7, 2017.