

**Joint  
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)  
and  
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

**SSAC Members Present:** Mitzi Naucler, Chair; Terri Fackrell, Vice Chair; Kay McDonald, Care Planning Committee (CPC) Chair; Lee Strandberg; and Holly Bollman.

**DSAC Members Present:**; Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Chair; Michelle Giammona, Membership and Nominating Committee (MNC) Chair; Suzanne Lazaro, Issues and Advocacy Committee (IAC) Chair; and Richard Montgomery.

**Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Operations Council Members Present:** Sandy Potter.

**Guests:** Robynn Pease; Gena Sellers; Naomi Hirsh, Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care; Hanna Shafer, Benton County Hazard and Mitigation Coordinator; and Scott Kruger, Benton County Environmental Health Program Manager.

**Members Absent** Allison Hobgood, DSAC Vice Chair; Bill Turner, SSAC member; Dawn Rustom, ADRC Operations Council; and Jasper Smith, ADRC Operations Council.

**Staff:** Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) and Community Services Program (CSP) Director; Ryan Vogt, Community Services Consortium (CSC) and Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Executive Director; Bernadette Handley, Meals on Wheels (MOW) Supervisor; Kim Cooper, SDS Executive Assistant; and Terri Sharpe, SDS Administrative Assistant.

**1. Welcome, Introductions, and Additions to the Agenda:** *(DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald)*

DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the October 1, 2024 Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting minutes made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Michelle Giammona. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Community Services Consortium (CSC) and Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Transition Update:** *(CSC and OCWCOG Executive Director Ryan Vogt)*

OCWCOG and CSC have been in discussion for some time on how the two organizations could partner more closely to provide a seamless transition for consumers when looking for services.

- When CSC's Executive Director Pegge McGuire announced her retirement the Board of Directors (BOD) of the two agencies came to an agreement on:
  - They would appoint one Executive Director who would oversee the two agencies and provide the vision and direction to ensure they are making forward momentum on making it easier for people to access services.
  - The organizations would stay as two separated legal entities.
  - Each agency would have their own Agency Director.

Where CSC and OCWCOG are today:

- The new position of Executive Director over the two agencies was offered to OCWCOG Executive Director Ryan Vogt who accepted and is now the CSC and OCWCOG Executive Director.
- CSC's Deputy Director Kayla Hatley has been promoted to CSC's Agency Director.
- OCWCOG has posted the position of Agency Director and hopes to have interviews come January 2025.
- Currently, CSC and OCWCOG are under one roof in the Corvallis office.

**4. DSAC Approval of Gena Sellers's DSAC Membership:** *(Membership and Nominating Committee (MNC) Chair Michelle Giammona)*

ACTION: Motion to approve Gena Sellers's DSAC Membership Application and send to the OCWCOG Board of Directors made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Richard Montgomery. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Care Planning Committee (CPC) Report:** *(CPC Chair Kay McDonald)*

The Care Planning Committee met on November 5th where they heard from:

- Heidi Durrett, CSP Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator on differences of volunteerism, pre and post pandemic.
  - Historically, volunteers view their contributions as an extension of their job, with retirees devoting many hours and days as if it were their job.
  - Post pandemic, individuals want to devote fewer hours, with focus on one job and being part of the solution rather than solving the problem.
  - In response, OCWCOG created an orientation manual, onboarding and training processes, with appreciation acknowledgements.
- SDS Program Supervisor Andrea Turner and AmeriCorps Seniors Eligibility Specialist Taylor Thorn reported on OCWCOG's de-escalation training.
  - Five staff members volunteered to take the training with the Crisis Prevention Institute that provided training based on a trauma informed approach.
  - The training assists staff in managing their own stress and trauma response.
  - Teaches staff how to recognize distress signals from consumers.
  - Teaches staff how to address high risk behaviors and how to appropriately respond.
  - The frequency of these highly charged emotional responses is increasing, particularly at the Corvallis office.
    - In response, the leadership team, the Safety Committee, and the reception staff are developing a plan to identify when a consumer is best served telephonically.
- Program Director Randi Moore provided agency updates on:
  - The 2025 Area Plan: Surveys are being sent to the underserved population, the general population, MOW volunteers, and family caregivers to gather data on barriers that are being experienced and how SDS can help fill the gaps and barriers.
  - Tribal Meet and Greet Event where Title III and Title VI Directors came together from across the State to discuss their programs and how they might partner more to serve Tribal Elders.

Update:

- Program Director Moore said the surveys have gone out and the response is minimal. They will be sending out a reminder asking for people to participate.
- The Family Caregiver survey will go out in July 2025 and will be the building blocks of how they work on the Family Caregiver program for the next four years.
  - Naomi Hirsh suggested SDS and Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care doing a collaborative Family Caregiving survey.
  - Program Director Moore shared that the survey will be going to SDS's Family Caregiver program participants. She will send Ms. Hirsh a draft of the survey.

ACTION: Program Director Randi Moore will send Naomi Hirsh a draft of the Family Caregiver survey.

ACTION: Program Director Randi Moore will check to see if DSAC Chair/NESS Executive Director Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald received the Family Caregiver survey.

- Terri Fackrell offered to send out any requests for public input on surveys in Corvallis Community Center's newsletter.

**6. Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee (MOWAC) Report:** *(MOW Supervisor Bernadette Handley)*

Meal Sites:

- There have been lots of improvements and changes happening on the coast.
- A part-time relief backup manager has been hired to promote in person dining.
- Lincoln City – MOW partnered with churches and community groups to offer Thanksgiving meals.
- Newport – MOW partnered with churches and the Salvation Army to provide Holiday meals.
- Siletz meal site has opened again serving MOW on Tuesday and Thursdays through the Community Center and serving one dining room meal on Thursdays.
- Toledo – In person dining is open on Fridays.
- Waldport – The meal site continues to offer in person dining and has partnered with Washington Federal to do programming around scams and financial concerns. This has been well received, and MOW is hoping to get this model at other meal sites.
- Albany – They are continuing to increase their dining room attendance, but it is still low. Their delivered meals increased and now have 275 – 300 meals going out.
- Corvallis – There are approximately 150-175 meals being delivered.
- Brownsville – The community dining room is still not open. They are looking at different options such as a new location in Brownsville or partnering with Lebanon's Meal Center and transporting folks there.
- Lebanon – Serves 15 -25 in person meals per day.
- Mill City – They have a robust in-person dining room and have done some small partnering with the Culinary Arts program at the High School.
- Sweet Home – Their in-person dining room attendance is increasing. They are in the process of piloting a gluten free meal option for one of their consumers. MOW is in discussion with TRIO, their contracted food provider, to explore more of the medically tailored meals.
- Emergency meals will be going out within the next two weeks.
- Program Director Moore has put in for a grant for emergency meals with the hope to expand them to the community diners and to include water with them.
- Program Director Moore has put in for a separate grant for go bags for MOW consumers.

- Paws and Claws is ramping up again. They are trying to recruit volunteers to act as representative ambassadors in each county to promote the program.

In General:

- On average, MOW is serving approximately 1,200 home delivered meals, which is up from 1,100.
- The dining room count is down but they are serving more meals which means they have a more consistent base of people.
- A MOW food delivery truck was stolen out of the Salem parking lot as it was being loaded. It has been reported to the police.

Q & A:

- Q – Could MOW Supervisor Handley enlighten everyone on the Paws and Claws program?

A – Two years ago, MOW partnered with PetSmart, along with funding from Meals on Wheels of America to supplement food and supplies for MOW consumers' cats and dogs. Last year MOW received a grant to expand the program to include other personal pets, not just dogs and cats. They are also looking at partnering with vets and boarding facilities. The idea is to have an ambassador in each county to promote the program.

- Q – Where is MOW at with using reusable containers.

A – SDS applied for a grant for funding to pilot using a reusable container out of the Corvallis site. They will be partnering with Cornerstone and hope to replicate this in other communities over time.

**ACTION:** Program Director Randi Moore will keep Scot Kruger, Benton County Environmental Health Program Manager, abreast of the pilot program of MOW using reusable containers.

## 7. Issues and Advocacy Committee (IAC) Report: *(IAC Chair Suzanne Lazaro)*

Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) held their Quarterly meeting on October 15, 2024.

- Presentations included:
  - Older Americans Act (OAA) 101.
  - The History and Purpose of DSACs.
- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) Advisory Councils Breakout Session:
  - The AAAs are working on their Area Plans and surveys.
  - AAAs are preparing for the Legislative session.
  - Recruitment.
  - Group advocating focus ideas:
    - Financial Resilience for People with Disabilities.
    - Housing Accessibility and Availability.
    - Homestead Act for Seniors
    - Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)
    - Tax Credits
    - Accessible Parking (Rogue Valley COG is doing a lot of work in this area).
    - Invite the President of the Home Builders Association and the Director of the Veteran's Association to give a presentation.
- DSAC History Highlights:
  - Established in 1989 with the passage of SB875

- In 2005 the Disability Commission was formalized under Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS).
- In 2016 started working with AAAs and their Advisory Boards.
- Presently there is a State Coordinator for DSAC.
- Oregon Disability Commission advises:
  - ODHS
  - The Governor
  - Legislators
  - Local Agencies
  - Businesses
- Upcoming Legislative Activity Calendar
  - O4AD provides legislative advocacy support for Senior and Disability Services.
  - O4AD's Legislative Update:
    - Governor's Budget
    - Description of this year's legislative long session.
    - Organizational Days start on January 13th.
    - Daily Floor Session starts on March 10th.
    - Last day of session is June 29th.
  - IAC Chair Lazaro will find out what O4AD will be advocating for and then schedule Capitol visits, emails, and letters to Representatives.
  - There will be Legislative Zoom meetings, information on how to access the Capitol, and Advocacy Training from O4AD.

ACTION: IAC Chair Suzanne Lazaro will forward the Legislative Updates, along with Legislative Zoom meetings dates, and the Advocacy Training date to SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe to email to everyone.

Q & A:

- Q - Scott Kruger requested any information IAC Chair Lazaro could pass along to him on how legislation is going with Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and regulations with sewage disposal systems. His jurisdiction is for rural, not urban.
- A – IAC Chair Lazaro's understanding is that there is little specificity for local governments in how they set limits. Backs with community input. The idea is to incorporate local building standards as they are. This is a reason the State advocacy group would like to invite the Home Builders Association to learn what issues they experience. ADU's are an opportunity to add more housing but it needs to be more accessible to those we serve. This is practical and they could collaborate with the county and city.
- Terri Fackrell heard that the County does not have ADUs yet and feels that it would be very beneficial and helpful in rural communities.
- IAC Chair Lazaro said there are restrictions in density in the county but if the counties do not have ADUs yet for rural communities then this is an advocacy issue. She will find out more about County vs City ADUs.
- Program Director Moore shared that O4AD is planning on doing a one-page white paper for each AAA that highlights each individual AAA strengths, demographic and regional information. Each AAA was asked to do a survey that will be, hopefully, shared during the legislative session when the IAC does their legislative visits.

- IAC Chair Lazaro shared that in the past, the IAC had consumer portfolios that they shared during their legislative visits that were very effective.
- Mitzi Naucler shared that CSC is completing a report on the three counties that include demographic and income information that would be important to SDS and if we could get an electronic copy of the report when it is finalized, that would be interesting in sharing as well.

**8. Executive Committee Report:** *(SSAC Chair Mitzi Fitzgerald and DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald)*

The Executive Committee met on November 19, 2025.

ACTION: Motion to approve the 2025 Joint SSAC-DSAC Meeting Schedule made by Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, seconded by Terri Fackrell. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. Other Business and Announcements:**

N/A

**10. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

*Meeting Minutes was recorded by Terri Sharpe.*