

**Joint  
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC),  
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)  
and  
Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Operations Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

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

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

**Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Operations Council Members Present:** Sandy Potter; Jasper Smith; and Dawn Rustrum.

**Guests:** Robynn Pease, University of South Carolina; Naomi Hirsh, Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care; Phil Warnock, Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) Executive Director; Nicole Palmateer-Hazelbaker, O4AD Lobbyist; Kindra Oliver, Lebanon Senior Center; and Shyle Ruder, Fair Housing Council of Oregon Education and Outreach Director.

**Members Absent** Allison Hobgood and Bill Turner.

**Staff:** Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) and Community Services Program (CSP) Director; Heather Schermerhorn, SDS Program Manager; Heidi Durrett, Meals on Wheels (MOW) Administrative Supervisor; Scott Harper, MOW Operations Supervisor; Kim Cooper, SDS Executive Assistant; and Terri Sharpe, SDS Administrative Assistant.

**1. Welcome, Introductions, and Additions to the Agenda:** *(SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler)*

SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

**ACTION:** Motion to approve December 10, 2024 Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting minutes made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Lee Strandberg. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Legislative Preview for the 2025 Session:** *(O4AD Lobbyist Nicole Palmateer-Hazelbaker and O4AD Executive Director Phil Warnock)*

O4AD Lobbyist Nicole Palmateer-Hazelbaker - Legislative session 2025:

- The Legislative session started on Tuesday, January 21st and will end on June 29th.
- Calendar:
  - February 21st will be the last day for a bill to be dropped (over 2,000 bills have been dropped as of now).
  - February 25th is the last day to introduce a bill.
  - March 21st is the deadline for getting bills heard and action taken.
  - Bills that are in a Joint Committee in Revenue or Rules do not have a deadline.
    - The Department of Human Services (DHS) has numerous bills that will affect budgets which will send them to Ways and Means.

- In the past, a bill would have a public hearing in the Policy Committee, then moved to Ways and Means, then have another public hearing. Now a bill only has one public hearing (*this has been catching a lot of advocates off guard*).
- O4AD follows between 300-400 bills.
- Senate Bill 844, around accessible housing is up tomorrow.
  - O4AD is paying attention to it but not leading the charge on it.
  - A lot of advocates are interested in it.
- Informational Hearings:
  - This is general information with no action taken. Action on the budgets will come after the May Revenue Forecast.
  - The Health Authority will hold their informational hearings in front of Ways and Means this week.
  - The DHS will hold their informational hearings in a couple of weeks.
    - Senate Bill 130 (an O4AD bill) was heard last week. The bill establishes a task force on the recruitment and retention of Case Managers and Adult Protective Services (*great hearing and caught the attention of the Committee*).
- O4AD's bill on Caseload Forecasting and Workload Modeling is currently in drafting.
- Transportation:
  - Oregon has been experiencing steep revenue growth and forecasters are now predicting that it will continue to rise but not as fast.
  - Due to the past revenue growth, the number of asks is large.
  - The Transportation Package is under consideration with an ask in billions of dollars.
  - There is a strong sense that Oregon needs to step back and take care of the maintenance that is due. There are a number of projects that already have been funded that have not been done.
- O4AD website <http://www.o4ad.org/>:
  - Sign up for the Legislative Newsletter that comes out once a week.
  - Find information on:
    - Bill Tracking.
    - Calendar that identifies what bills are coming up.

O4AD Executive Director Phil Warnock:

- On the Federal level, O4AD is closely monitoring the pauses and un-pauses, court orders, injunctions, and restraining orders... More to come.

Q & A:

- Q – What is the March 21st deadline?  
A – It is a post-work session deadline. A policy bill sitting in Committee must have a work session (a committee meeting where they will vote on the bill) posted to the agenda that day or the bill will die. It needs to be out of the Chamber by April 9th.
- Q - What can advocates do within the different agencies across the State?  
A - Legislators are not talking about budgets until May. May 14th is the Revenue Forecast in which the budget is built on. When DHS presents, there will be one day for the public hearing on the budget. This is when advocates should submit written testimony and or sign up to speak. Unfortunately, the real conversation on budgets happens behind closed doors. Advocates should get in touch with their legislators.

DHS's budget is not looking at reductions, which is a great place to be in. As other proposals come in, O4AD will look to see how they will impact the budget since DHS is taken as one package.

Q – A subcomponent of Advocates across the State have decided to work together on certain issues. It would be a benefit to the group if they had advance notice in order to organize and give a presentation from the different agencies across the State. Would O4AD Lobbyist Palmateer-Hazelbaker be willing to help them with that?

A – It would be dependent on who the groups are since O4AD is strategic on where they will weigh in on coalitions, but she is always happy to have that conversation. The advocates should continue to work through Kim Hunt, NorthWest Senior and Disability Services (NWSDS), who keeps O4AD Lobbyist Palmateer-Hazelbaker up to date.

O4AD's Spring Quarterly meeting:

- When - April 10th.
- Where - Salem's Convention Center.
- A shuttle will be provided from the Capitol and Convention Center.
- O4AD would like to see more Advisory Councils and Advocates attend.
- As a part of O4AD's strategic planning goals, O4AD is working to develop an annual report that legislators will be able to consume, have reference to, and is meaningful.
- There will be "leave behind one pagers" that will let legislators know what individual Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are doing as well as one pagers on what the network of AAA are doing. This is in the final development but will be completed in order to be used in this session.

Program Director Moore would like to see a strong show of advocacy at the O4AD Quarterly meeting. The Coastal communities need to be represented as well as Linn and Benton Counties. If anyone needs help with transportation or lodging expenses they should contact Program Director Moore for help.

ACTION: Council members who would like to attend the O4AD's Spring Quarterly meeting on April 10th and need help with expenses should contact Program Director Moore [moore@ocwcog.org](mailto:moore@ocwcog.org).

O4AD Executive Director Warnock acknowledged and thank Program Director Moore for pulling together the Health Promotions Evidence programs listening session. This is the first step in building out O4AD's program Oregon Wellness Network which will impact consumers in positive ways.

#### **4. Oregon Project Independence-Medicaid (OPI-M) Program Updates: (SDS Program Manager Heather Schermerhorn)**

Oregon Project Independence Medicaid (OPI-M)

- What OPI-M is:
  - Medicaid – helps pay for a service benefit without the restrictions and limitations.
  - OPI-M is trying to get at the flexibility that Oregon Project Independence (OPI) has but offers more supports in hours and more ancillary services in wrap-around supports. Medicaid helps pay for services without the barriers the OPI consumers have.
  - OPI-M has been under development for two years.
  - SDS started offering the program, using a roll out method, across the State last summer in counties with a waitlist.
  - Because SDS does not have a waitlist they were able to offer OPI-M to their OPI recipients.
  - The latter half of last year, OPI-M was offered to OPI recipients in batches to allow Case Managers to get used to the new program.
  - Currently, SDS has 120 individuals who have transitioned from OPI to OPI-M.
- Benefits of OPI-M:
  - No monthly fees or invoices regardless of income.
  - Expand care in one's home to enable them to stay in their home longer.
  - Other services:
    - Home modifications to make one's home more accessible.

- Technology.
- Home delivered meals.
- Caregiver training.
- Emergency response systems.
- Other supports to help you stay in your home.
- You may no longer have to be on the waitlist or be put on a waitlist again for lack of OPI funding.
- One's heirs will not need to pay anything from their estate (no estate recovery).
- The [Service Program Options – Comparison Chart](#):
  - Compares OPI-M with SDS's other service programs.

Where are we currently:

- State is getting ready to offer OPI-M to the public this Spring.
- OCWCOG started offering it to their consumers who are on Medicaid at their renewal assessment.

Q & A:

- Q – Is OPI-M covered by Healthier Oregon and if not, why not?  
A – Healthier Oregon is the Oregon Medicaid benefit that is related to folks who are non-citizens. At this time it does not cover OPI-M but is not sure why. She will get back to Jasper Smith on this. Healthier Oregon folks can access full Medicaid long-term care services but not OPI-M.

ACTION: SDS Program Manager Heather Schermerhorn will get back to Jasper Smith regarding why Healthier Oregon consumers cannot access OPI-M.

Q - If a person over 65 with a Developmental Disabilities (DD) diagnosis and is not receiving DD services could they access OPI-M?

A – Yes, if a person is over 65 they meet the age requirements and are able to access OPI-M.

Program Director Randi Moore shared that she is concerned on the clarity over the State plans on how they will continue to fund OPI-M along with its sustainability since we are overspent in the OPI budget.

ACTION: Program Director Randi Moore will provide future updates to the Councils on how OPI-M is moving forward.

O4AD Executive Director Warnock feels confident there are funds available for OPI-Classic and OPI-M for the remainder of this biennium. Next biennium there will be reason for concern. O4AD will be heavily advocating with the Legislature and the Governor's office to fund adequately. More updates on this will come.

## **5. Monitor and Review Committee (MRC) Older Americans Act (OAA) Contract Reviews Update** *(Monitor and Review Committee)*

The Monitor and Review Committee (MRC) resumed the OAA Contract review visits. On October 10th and October 21st, Program Director Randi Moore and MRC members Mitzi Naucler, Richard Montgomery, and Lee Strandberg conducted monitor and review visits at Grace Center for Adult Day Services and Corvallis Community Center (C3) respectively.

- Grace Center for Adult Day Services:
  - The Grace Center does a phenomenal job in providing senior citizens and people with disabilities with a place to go with activities for the day as well as giving a break to the caregiver.
  - They provide a service that others would love to have.

- One issue is making people more aware of what they do and better known to the public.
- Would like to invite Grace Center Director Rene Knight to come present to the Councils.
- Grace Center has many Oregon State University student internships that Program Director Moore would like to tap into.
- The OAA money awarded to Grace Center is used specifically for family's use of the Center.

**ACTION:** Program Director Randi Moore will invite Grace Center Director Rene Knight to come present to the Councils at a future Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting.

- Corvallis Community Center (C3):
  - C3 Director Terri Fackrell gave a presentation.
  - The use of the facility is used well.
  - Programs are taught in person as well as virtually for all types of individuals to have access.
  - A drum session that involves kids was taking place which is an important aspect in connecting youth with elders.
  - The facility is being used by a lot of people with a variety of programs.
  - A need C3 has is in maintaining staffing for the number of programs and people they serve.
  - They are doing good work.

Naomi Hirsch, Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care shared that Lumina collaborates with both the Grace Center and C3. Lumina holds their Powerful Tools for Caregivers class at the Grace Center and at C3 they are putting on a Caregiver luncheon. Ms. Hirsch also shared that she spoke at a class at OSU and afterwards there were three students who wanted to intern with Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care.

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

The Care Planning Committee met on January 14th where they heard from:

- SDS Licensing and Monitoring Specialist Beth Meany-Hoffman who shared information regarding the Adult Foster Home (AFH) program.
  - The AFH program began in Oregon in 1972 with Oregon being the first State to relocate residents from a nursing facility to a consumer driven facility such as an AFH.
  - The AFH is a single-family residence that offers 24-hour care with the goal of people being independent and to make choices in a homelike setting.
  - Two types of homes:
    - Limited Home – one individual receiving care.
    - Commercial Homes – accept private pay or Medicaid pay residents.
      - ❖ Special Need Homes – for residents who require a higher need of care.
  - There has been a significant drop in AFH going from 75 – 50 in last five years due to:
    - Covid.
    - Restrictions and rules.
    - Lack of caregivers.
    - Providers retiring.
    - Availability of homes.
  - Recruitment Process:
    - SDS is working with Salem in advertising and Linn Benton Community College and other organizations in educating the public about AFH.
  - Requirements for an AFH provider are:
    - House (difficult and expensive in today's market).

- Two months of operating costs.
- Responsible for maintaining the home and up to code with all rules and regulations.
- SDS Program Manager Rachel Sine presented on the payment structure of AFH.
  - Payment structure is regulated by the State of Oregon.
  - Union represented.
  - Two types of homes:
    - Traditional AFH.
    - Specialized Contracted AFH.
  - Base rate per individual per month is \$2,120.
    - Providers have the opportunity for a \$386 add on per month.
      - ❖ Resident would need to have 100% assistance for activities of daily living or;
      - ❖ Complicated medication needs, or;
      - ❖ Acute behavioral needs.
      - ❖ Add ons must be approved by Central Office.
      - ❖ 56% of AFH have exceptions (add ons).
      - ❖ The percentage of higher needs individuals is increasing.
      - ❖ Discrepancy between what DD homes and Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) homes are paid.
        - A specialized contract home is paid \$4,800 per individual per month where a DD home is paid \$6,700 per individual per month.
        - In an attempt to right this discrepancy this was taken to the legislature which failed but out of it came a rate and wage study which has been provided to the Oregon Legislature.
        - Final report has been sent to Legislature.
- Agenda topics and presentation for the 2025 Care Planning Committee meetings were discussed.
  - There was a lot of interest around disaster planning and emergency preparedness.

For more information please see the [January Care Planning Meeting Minutes](#).

The next Care Planning Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 starting at 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**7. Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee (MOWAC) Report:** *(MOW Administrative Supervisor Heidi Durrett and MOW Operations Supervisor Scott Harper)*

With the resignation of former MOW Supervisor Bernadett Handley, it was determined that there were two aspects of the MOW program that needed attention; operations and administration. It was decided to split the Supervisor role:

- MOW Administrative Supervisor:
  - Heidi Durrett, former CSP Volunteer Coordinator has moved up to the MOW Administrative Supervisor position.
- MOW Operations Supervisor:
  - Scott Harper, former MOW Supervisor has returned to Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) as the MOW Operations Supervisor.

MOW Administrative Supervisor Heidi Durrett's update:

- Currently launching a fundraising campaign called *Love and Nourish*.
  - This will be a social media internet ran campaign.

- Great opportunity for people to have a way to give to seniors and let them know what the needs are.
  - The number of meals served increase every month (December 29,000 meals were served in the three-county region).
  - It is important that people are aware that the landscape of meals is changing, and the number of meals needed is changing.
- Volunteer survey was completed in December:
  - 400 MOW volunteers were surveyed on:
    - Their level of happiness with the MOW organization as a whole.
    - How MOW was supporting them.
    - How effective the new on boarding process of new volunteers was.
  - 60% participated in the survey.
    - Very high enjoyment of the process and volunteering with MOW.
    - Things to improve on:
      - ❖ Sustainability
- High school came to a meal site to observe what MOW does and afterward a few kids came and filled out applications to work during the summer.

MOW Operations Supervisor Scott Harper's update:

- Safety - This time of year, with the weather, it is important to look at safety.
  - Blizzard boxes are out to MOW consumers.
  - Volunteers' safety when delivering meals.
  - Keeping an eye on consumers in regard to other adverse effects such as heating.
- MOW has some infrastructure grants to update some sites to keep production moving smoothly.

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

O4AD Winter Quarterly Virtual meeting:

- There is interest in advocacy collaboration throughout the State.
  - Currently they are in the process of identifying issues to advocate for on all levels of government.
    - Two areas of interest are emergency services and housing.
  - After O4AD Lobbyist Palmateer-Hazelbaker's Friday updates, NWSDS Advisory Council and Public Affairs Specialist Kim Hunt will initiate a meeting twice a month for advocates throughout the State (more details to follow).
  - IAC Chair Lazaro would like to see more representations from others at the meetings.
    - This is an opportunity for collaborative work and organizing.
    - Ideas will be helpful.
    - Having a larger body of people signing on will be more impactful.

ACTION: IAC Chair Lazaro will ask NWSDS Advisory Council and Public Affairs Specialist Kim Hunt to include the Friday Advocate meeting invitation to all Advisory Council members.

- Remembrance of Ruth McEwen – Ruth McEwen was a trailblazing advocate who shaped Oregon's policies and programs for long-term care and disability services. Her strong

leadership is missed by all, and the advocates would like to honor her with their first joint advocacy effort by naming it after her.

Quarterly State DSAC Meeting:

- February 25, 2025 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.
- There will be presentations on:
  - Parking accessibility.
  - The ONE System.
  - The Bill on Diversity and Employee Equity.
  - Recruitment.

## 9. Program Updates: *(Program Director Randi Moore)*

Area Plan 2025 – 29:

- In the process of developing goals and objectives around the Area Plan focus areas.
- Will be sharing the draft Area Plan at the March 4th CPC meeting.
  - Everyone is invited to attend.
  - Program Director Moore would like everyone's input.
  - The Draft Area Plan will be on OCWCOG's website: <https://www.ocwcoq.org/> for a month for public comment before being sent to the State.

ACTION: Program Director Randi Moore will be reaching out to IAC Chair Suzanne Lazaro in regard to the Area Plan's goals.

ACTION: Program Director Randi Moore will be sharing the 2025-29 Area Plan at the March 4, 2025 Care Planning Committee meeting for everyone's input. A copy will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Listening Sessions:

- Three listening sessions were held in January, one in each county.
- The sessions were not well attended (this was common around other community partners' listening sessions)
- Lincoln County did have good turnout with emergency planning on everyone's radar.
- There will be one more virtual listening session, and information will be sent out to the Council members.

ACTION: Program Director Randi Moore will send information to the Councils regarding the upcoming virtual listening session.

Healthcare Promotion Roundtable:

- Older Americans Act (OAA) funds are used for evidence-based health programming that supports older adults and people with disabilities.
  - Most OAA money is spent in contracts to agencies like the Community Centers.
- Some of the agencies are having a difficult time with sustainability.
- SDS brought the Community Centers together for a virtual meeting where they addressed:
  - How O4AD Oregon Wellness Network, and the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) can be used to support health promotion programming for older adults.
  - How SDS can support them in billing Medicaid for those programs that can be supported by Medicaid.

- This will be a focus Area Plan goal for Health Promotion, to get the people who are providing the majority of programming together regularly to discuss how they can:
  - Not duplicate services.
  - Be efficient.
  - Work together to enable them to move the needle forward.

OCWCOG Budget:

- The process of developing the OCWCOG budget will be starting in the near future.
- SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucner, who serves on the OCWCOG Budget Committee, will be sharing information with the Councils on how the process is going this year.

Self-Monitoring:

- SDS had to do a round of self-monitoring on Nutrition Services, Health Promotion, and Legal Assistance to determine if they were in compliance with OAA and State rules regarding OAA services.
- Generally, SDS did well.

ACTION: Program Director Randi Moore will send out the Community Services and Supports Unit review tools assessment to the Councils.

Grants:

- SDS applied for three different grants with the State of Oregon.
  - Infrastructure grant – 10 of the 11 meal sites received \$25,000 each for infrastructure improvements.
  - Shelf stable meals and water– this will allow MOW to buy another round of shelf stable meals every year giving MOW recipients two rounds per year.
  - Emergency preparedness grant – received over \$170,000 which will allow MOW to buy over 1,000 go-bags for the most at risk consumers over the three-county region. MOW will try to adapt the bags to meet the needs of their consumers. Included in the go-bags will be:
    - Laminated go-check lists.
    - Specialized solar panel items such as cell phone chargers.
    - A local resource guide.
    - The go-bags will be bought in March and then dispersed to MOW consumers.

Lee Strandberg suggested Program Director Moore provide him with an outline of what the Council does and what the opportunities for interns would be, then he would write the letter to Oregon State University (OSU) Dean of the College of Public Health. The letter and request must be from a professor, then it goes through a Curriculum Committee.

ACTION: Program Director Randi Moore will contact Lee Strandberg regarding him writing a letter to the OSU Dean of the College of Public Health on opportunities for OSU interns working at Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG).

SSAC Vice Chair and C3 Director Terri Fackrell shared that their City Council made their strategic plan which included emergency preparedness as one of their goals. If there are ways in which C3 and OCWCOG could work together she would be happy to do so.

## **10. Other Business and Announcements:**

Terri Fackrell shared that in February, C3 will be hosting Game-Con which is a tabletop game convention with people dressing up in costumes. There were over 500 in attendance last year. This is for people 14 age and over.

Terri Fackrell also shared that Family Fun night is taking place this Friday from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at C3. This is a free event.

Holly Bollman shared that the Mennonite Village has put on their first annual community report which is available on their website. In May they will be hosting a Fraud Fighter Summit for their residents and staff. They are looking for informational vendors.

Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald suggested having our in-person Joint SSAC – DSAC April meeting at Lakeview Senior Living in Lincoln City. The meeting was held there years ago, it was a nice location, and they put on a nice luncheon for the Councils.

Program Director Moore said her concern is with technology. We now need to have technology so we can offer a hybrid meeting so everyone can be involved. She was thinking of Siletz's meal site since they are back open. Her and SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will discuss this and get back to her.

## **11. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 am.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.  
*(This will be a hybrid meeting. Meeting location to be determined)*

*Meeting Minutes was recorded by Terri Sharpe.*