

**Joint
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)
and
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)
Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

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

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

Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Members Present: Dawn Rustrum.

Guests: Gena Sellers and Mimi Chen.

Members Absent: Lee Strandberg.

Staff: Bernadette Hadley, Meals on Wheels Supervisor; and Terri Sharpe, SDS Administrative Assistant.

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

DSAC Chair 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 3, 2023 Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting minutes made by Richard Montgomery, seconded by Terri Fackrell. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Membership and Nominating Committee (MNC) Update: *(MNC Chair Michelle Giammona)*

SSAC Vice Chair and Care Planning Committee Chair Robynn Pease has resigned from the Councils. Ms. Pease has accepted the position as Ombudsman for the University of South Carolina and has relocated to Columbia, South Carolina. Ms. Pease is still planning on staying connected to the Councils and will attend meetings as her time allows. She has been a great asset.

- **SSAC Vice Chair:**
The Membership and Nominating Committee recommends and has approved SSAC member Terri Fackrell as Ms. Pease's replacement for SSAC Vice Chair for the remainder of her term which ends June 30, 2025. Ms. Fackrell has graciously accepted the role.
- **Care Planning Committee Chair:**
SSAC member Kay McDonald has graciously accepted the role of the Care Planning Committee Chair. There are no term limits for Committee Chairs.

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

The Care Planning Committee met on January 9th where they heard from:

- SDS Manager Lauren Fontanarosa who presented on the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Efficiency Project.
 - The ADRC is the front gate to all SDS services and programs made up of a team of five.
 - Preference is to answer phone calls live rather than returning voicemails.
 - Currently, the pathway in which people are routed to the person they need to speak with isn't always the most efficient and SDS Manager Fontanarosa would like to improve this.
 - SDS Manager Fontanarosa asked for volunteers to call the different routes to see what their experiences were and then provide feedback to her.
 - Manager Fontanarosa will provide an update once she receives the feedback.
- Older Adults Behavioral Health Initiative (OABHI) Supervisor Lucy Zammarelli presented on social vulnerability and what happens after a disaster.
 - The most important thing for people to have before a disaster is emergency training and preparedness.
 - Immediate responders are FEMA and the Red Cross.
 - Collaboration between the Federal responders and City, County, and State Emergency Operations.
 - Emotional and graphic timeline of the crisis.
 - Special populations to consider in a disaster:
 - Older Adults
 - People with disabilities
 - People with mental health conditions.
 - People whose first language is not English.
 - Recovery resources and references.
The bottom line is to provide people safety, security, and sanitation.
- Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) Executive Director Phil Warnock presented disaster planning work for Area Agencies on Aging (AAA).
 - O4AD is in the process of developing a handbook on emergency preparedness which came about through the Administration on Community Living (ACL) and FEMA wanting to offer training opportunities around emergency preparedness for older adults.
 - This led to questions on how prepared the AAAs are for an emergency and are there any gaps.
 - The emergency preparedness handbook is estimated to be ready in April, 2024.
 - The collaboration between O4AD, ACL, and FEMA created a valuable relationship.
- Program Director Randi Moore provided an agency update.
 - De-escalation training is being given to five staff members who will then be qualified to train the remaining staff and community partners.
 - Came about by Case Managers feeling at risk and vulnerable when being out in the community and in consumers' residences.
 - Goals and objectives for 2025 Area Plan are underway.
 - Oregon Project Independence Medicaid (OPIM)
 - Oregon Health Authority (OHA) expanded OPI which now includes Medicaid.
 - Looking at April, 2024 for implementation.
 - Program Director Moore provided a farewell tribute to past CPC Chair Robynn Pease.

For more detailed information please see the [January Care Planning Committee meeting minutes](#).

5. Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee (MOWAC) Report: (MOW Supervisor Bernadette)

Community Dining Program:

- Siletz Community Tribal Center:

- Has been closed for lack of volunteers but is looking to open in March, 2024.
- Toledo:
 - Open on Fridays.
 - Serves approximately 10 diners.
- Newport:
 - Open on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays.
 - Serves approximately 20 diners.
 - To incorporate different folks to try out the community dining center, a community birthday celebration is held monthly.
- Lincoln City:
 - Not open due to a lack of volunteers.
 - SDS hired a new Volunteer Coordinator who has recruited some individuals.
 - Tomorrow, MOW Supervisor Hadley will be discussing opening Lincoln City's community dining.
- Waldport:
 - Closes in person dining in the Spring due to the Farmers Market and lack of parking.
 - The meal site Manager, Nicole Person, will be a guest chef to enhance the program.
 - She will coordinate with local vendors in highlighting their products as a farm to table dining.
 - Will serve approximately 19 diners but hopes to increase participation from Yachats and surrounding areas.
 - Hot meals for Meals on Wheels consumers will continue to be served by TRIO.
- Corvallis:
 - Open one day a week.
 - Serves less than five diners.
 - Exploring new meal sites that are more inviting and looking at changing the days opened.
- Albany:
 - Minimal participants.
 - Limited parking which is farther away.
 - Exploring other facilities that are warmer and more inviting.
- Brownsville:
 - Open one day a week.
 - Serves approximately six diners.
 - Low volunteerism.
 - The sheriff's department is working with MOW in helping them with meal deliveries on their rural routes.
- Lebanon:
 - Open five days a week.
 - Serves approximately 15 diners.
- Sweet Home – Serves approximately 10 diners.
- Mill City:
 - Open Tuesday and Thursdays serving approximately 40 diners.
 - Mill City is both in Marion County and Linn County so MOW created a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NorthWest Senior and Disability Services, Oregon Cascades, West Council of Governments, and Lane Council of Governments where they can all serve their consumers in the most accessible way and then do vendor cross pay.
 - This is with community dining as well as MOW home delivered meals.

To increase community dining participation, MOW is looking for different models such as:

- Going to where the folks are and incorporate themselves there rather than having a standalone place where people come.

- Have more engaging and robust dining opportunities such as partnering with senior centers in meal preparation.

Meals Served:

- Current year served 276,775 meals. This is up about 37,000 from the previous year.
- Clients increase from 1,869 to 2,402 with over a 500 person increase.

Connections Café is the new logo and brand for the community dining program. They are working with a graphic designer for the logo.

MOW purchased a new van for the coast for meal deliveries. This is a transport van that has been retro fitted with insulated containers.

MOW is in negotiations with TRIO for a five-year contract.

- Looking at a five-week cycle menu.
- Robust variety and will interject seasonal menus.
- Culturally specific menu items.
- Specials each month that will have activities around.
- Increase fruit and vegetables.

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

IAC Chair Suzanne Lazaro gave an update on the Oregon Associations on Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) January 10, 2024 Quarterly Meeting that covered:

- Senior Centers presentation by Center 50+ Director Marilyn Blair's that was inspired by Ball University's "The Seven Dimensions of Wellness Theory" where seniors are helping seniors and is volunteer driven.
- Volunteer recruitment that the Councils might apply to campaigns.
- Bi-partisan Federal Senate Bill 99:
 - Was passed last year providing Medicare part B which will pay for Marriage and Family/Child Counselor (MFCC) for mental health support.
 - Currently there is low enrollment by consumers due to MFCC's having low enrollment.
 - Advocacy for the IAC would be to increase enrollment from the providers, therapists, and counselors. IAC Chair Lazaro would like to work with the CPC on this.

ACTION: Issues and Advocacy Committee Chair Suzanne Lazaro would like to work with the Care Planning Committee on advocacy to increase enrollment into the Marriage and Family/Child Counselor program by providers, therapists, and counselors.

- Reauthorization of the Older American's Act (OAA) in 2025
 - Advocacy needed for all OAA services.
 - AAAs need to be modified so they get paid for providing services.
 - Biden administration authorized more support for formal and informal caregivers, yet there is still a shortage. This is an ongoing advocacy issue.
- The Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion (READI) for Disasters Act:
 - A Bill protecting the rights of disaster-impacted people with disabilities.
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocacy:
 - NorthWest Senior and Disability Services is working on deaf and hard of hearing advocacy.
- Disabled Parking Improvements:
 - Several AAAs are working on disabled parking permits.
 - [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking- Parking](#)
 - [Parking Placard pamphlets – Current](#)

- [Parking Placard pamphlets – New Draft](#)
- [Disability Health & Employment Equity Coalition](#) Senate Bill 576
 - Recorded in 2025 by Rogue Valley (RV) COG Advocate John Curtis.
 - The policy will allow employed people with disabilities on Medicaid to keep their benefits regardless of earnings or possessions.
- [Lifelong Housing Certification Replication Project](#):
 - RV COG has created a three-level housing certification process.
 - If one is interested in facilitating one or more meetings with staff and advisory committee the RV COG will provide lifelong housing resources, customized templates, and consultation as needed.
- [Options for People to Address Loneliness \(OPAL\) Program](#):
 - Started with RV COG in 2020.
 - Provides consumers with six one-hour one-on-one sessions where Counselors assist participants in feeling less isolated.
- READI for Disaster Act <https://disasterstrategies.org/reaadi-for-disasters-act-a-summary/>

Q&A:

Older Adult Behavioral Health (OABH) Specialist /CPC Chair Kay McDonald, in response to the Medicare expansion for behavioral health reimbursement, shared that Medicare reimbursement for behavioral health was limited to licensed clinical social workers and licensed clinical psychologists. This created a huge gap in older adults being able to access behavioral health services. As of January 2024 they expanded providers of behavioral health to include licensed professional counselors and licensed marriage and family therapist. However, the pool of providers willing to accept Medicare reimbursement is low because the amount of reimbursement is quite low, and the paperwork is voluminous. Providers are more interested in accepting Medicaid versus Medicare for behavioral health services. There are metrics in the medical realm as well as the behavioral health realm that are connected to funding. OABH Specialist/ CPC Chair McDonald pointed out that there are more behavioral health services with Medicaid than with Medicare.

IAC Chair Lazaro questioned if advocacy should happen statewide on the Federal level for more equality between Medicare and Medicaid.

OABHS McDonald said yes, starting with Medicare at the Federal level.

SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler noted that there are many consumers that are dual eligible and would benefit from both Medicaid and Medicare.

ACTION: DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald would like to add to the April Joint SSAC-DSAC agenda more discussion on Federal Senate Bill 99 and the discrepancy in pay and paperwork between Medicare and Medicaid.

ACTION: IAC Chair Suzanne Lazaro would like to advocate for more equality between Medicaid and Medicare requirements for Marriage and Family/Child Counselor providers.

For more detailed information please see IAC Chair Lazaro's [Joint SSAC-DSAC IAC Report](#).

7. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met in November to discuss the 2024 goals for the Advisory Councils.

- Development of goals and objectives for the 2025 Area Plan development.
 - Discuss additional focus areas outside of the State mandated focus areas.

- With the current Area Plan the Councils adopted Financial Wellness (homelessness was included in this) and Transportation as additional focus areas.
 - DSAC Chair Molnar-Fitzgerald would like to see Homelessness, Transportation, and Financial Wellness as three separate focus areas.
 - Would like the Councils to put together a directory that could be used to refer people for housing.
- Updates on the Area Plans focus areas will be given at the Joint SSAC-DSAC meetings.

ACTION: DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald requested that the April Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting's agenda include discussion on the 2025 Area Plans focus areas on Financial Wellness, Housing, and Transportation.

- **Recruitment Strategies:**

- Council members mentor new recruits.
- Incentives offered to Consumer Council members.
- Membership and Nominating Committee develop a recruitment plan.
- Distribute flyers (with point of contact on flyer).
- Schedule presentations on Council membership at the MOW community dining sites.
- Target the hearing-impaired community.

ACTION: MOW Supervisory Bernadette Handley will schedule presentations on SSAC and DSAC recruitment at the Community Dining sites and SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucner will be the presenter.

- Gena Sellers offered to be a sign language interpreter for anyone who is hearing impaired.
- Need to connect with deaf folks letting them know that there is ASL interpretation at the meetings.

ACTION: SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucner requested the April Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting be hybrid.

ACTION: Motion to approve the 2024 Joint SSAC-DSAC Meeting Schedule made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Allison Hobgood. Motion passed unanimously.

For more detailed information please see the [Executive Committee meeting minutes](#).

Reminder that one does not need to be a member of a committee to participate in a meeting.

8. Other Business and Announcements:

N/A

9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

Meeting Minutes was recorded by Terri Sharpe.