

**Joint  
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)  
and  
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)  
Meeting  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, June 3, 2025**

**SSAC Members Present:** Mitzi Naucler, Chair; Kay McDonald, Care Planning Committee (CPC) Chair; Bill Turner; Mimi Chen; and Holly Bollman.

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

**Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Members Present:** Sandy Potter and Jasper Smith.

**Guests:** Robynn Pease and Naomi Hirsch.

**Members Absent:** Allison Hobgood, DSAC Vice Chair; Terri Fackrell, SSAC Vice Chair; Lee Strandberg, SSAC; Dawn Rustrum ADRC.

**Staff:** Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) and Community Services Programs (CSP) Director; Paul Egbert, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Agency Director; Heidi Durrett, Meals on Wheels (MOW) Administrative Supervisor; 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 10:01 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

**ACTION:** Motion to approve April 1, 2025, Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting minutes made by Michelle Giammona seconded by Richard Montgomery. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Introduction of OCWCOG Agency Director Paul Egbert** *(OCWCOG Agency Director Paul Egbert)*

Paul Egbert is OCWCOG's new Agency Director, as of two months ago.

- His first exposure to OCWCOG was when he worked with the agency around Leadership Development.
- His past 27 years has been working with the State Government in a variety of membership and leadership roles.
- His last role with the State was running a Leadership Development Program for State Executives and employees at all levels.
- He is very grateful to have been given this job opportunity and is impressed with the staff in their compassion and work. The region is being well served, and he is happy to be a part of it.
- Thanks were given to the Council members for all they do and hopes to meet them all at the next in-person Council meeting.

- Program Director Randi Moore shared that this group of Council members have been with OCWCOG through the good times and bad and do amazing tireless work and advocacy for the people OCWCOG serves. She hopes that the OCWCOG Board of Directors and Agency Director Egbert will work closely with them.
- More formal introductions were made to OCWCOG Agency Director Egbert.

**4. SSAC Membership Renewal Approval and Election of SSAC Chair and Vice Chair:**  
(SSAC-DSAC Membership and Nominating Committee (MNC) Chair Michelle Giammona)

- **SSAC Membership Renewal** - Membership is for a two-year term. Members that are up for renewal are:
  - Mitzi Naucler
  - Holly Bollman

ACTION: Motion to approve the renewal of SSAC membership for Mitzi Naucler and Holly Bollman and send to the OCWCOG Board of Directors for approval made by Bill Turner, seconded by Kay McDonald. Motion passed unanimously.

- **SSAC Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

ACTION: Motion to approve Mitzi Naucler for SSAC Chair and Terri Fackrell as SSAC Vice Chair for their second consecutive term for 2025-27 and send to the OCWCOG Board of Directors made by Holly Bollman, seconded by Kay McDonald. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. DSAC Membership Renewal Approval and Election of DSAC Chair and Vice Chair:**  
(SSAC-DSAC MNC Chair Michelle Giammona)

- **DSAC Membership Renewal** - Membership is for a two-year term. Members that are up for renewal are:
  - Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald

ACTION: Motion to approve the renewal of DSAC membership for Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald and send to the OCWCOG Board of Directors for approval made by Michelle Giammona, seconded by Richard Montgomery. Motion passed unanimously.

- **DSAC Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

ACTION: Motion to approve Michelle Giammona for DSAC Chair and Gena Sellers as DSAC Vice Chair for 2025-27 and send to the OCWCOG Board of Directors made by Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, seconded by Suzanne Lazaro. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. DSAC Approval of Naomi Hirsch's DSAC Membership Application:** (SSAC-DSAC MNC Chair Michelle Giammona)

ACTION: Motion to approve the DSAC membership application of Naomi Hirsch and send it to OCWCOG Board of Directors for approval made by Michelle Giammona, seconded by Suzanne Lazaro. Motion passed unanimously.

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

The CPC met on May 6, 2025, with the theme of the meeting covering Emergency Preparedness. They heard from the following guest speakers:

- Lincoln County Public Health (LCPH) Specialist Marianne Seifert who shared information on:
  - The collaboration of Lincoln and Benton Counties in developing an Adaptation Plan that identified the hazards that are expected to worsen with climate change.
  - Staff and Community Partners who were brought together to create the 2025 Lincoln Climate Action Plan.
  - Pacific Homes Beach Club Emergency Preparedness Committee implemented workshops which created:
    - Bingo Cards - that can be placed on the fridge with tips about power outages and contact information.
    - Block Captain system - to enable people to check on each other.
    - Name that Hazard game - that is geared toward promoting discussion between people about hazards to reduce the fear of hazards.
  - A partnership was formed with Oregon State University Professor Valerie Berseth in creating Emergency Preparedness workshops including conversations about disaster due stress and building social connections.
  - LCPH Specialist Seifert shared that the US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy wrote a book called *Together* that is about the healing power of social connection.
- LCPH Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator Danial Norton, who has spent 23 years in the US Coast Guard focused on emergency preparedness, spoke to the CPC on specific issues when planning for emergency preparedness that include:
  - Identifying the risks for the area, such as not being able to access one's health care.
  - List of needs.
  - Making a plan in identifying one's shelter and evacuation plan.
    - Determining one's breaking point as to when to evacuate.
  - Communication – suggest out of state contact for all family members and a neighbor to contact.
    - Identify block captains and emergency buddies.
  - Supplies:
    - Valley Residents – One should have two weeks of supplies or more.
    - Coastal Residents – One should have four weeks of supplies or more.
  - Disruptions – try to maintain a routine to minimize stress.
  - During a disaster the scammers come out who target the most vulnerable.
  - Public Health can provide information and help.
- Benton County Climate and Health Coordinator John Pegg, who has an extensive background in emergency management as well as a prior fire paramedic, spoke on:
  - Collaborative development between Lincoln and Benton Counties for an Adaptation Plan.
  - The difference between emergency preparedness and resiliency.
    - Emergency preparedness focuses on minimizing exposure to emergencies and managing them when they do occur.
    - Resiliency focuses on building community capacity to recover from and adapt to challenges caused by emergencies and disasters.
  - Community resources and key strategies of the Climate Health Adaptation Plan.
    - Outreach to the community is being done through social media and community events.
- Program Director Randi Moore provided information about a grant through the State of Oregon from unused American Rescue Plan funds. It is being used to purchase:
  - Over 1,000 emergency go bags/kits.
  - Solar powered items to supplement the kits.

- Go books – with pockets to put important papers in.
- Developing three levels of trainings and presentations for this Fall.
  - First Level:
    - ❖ Two 90-minute presentations – one for Linn and Benton Counties and the other for Lincoln County for community partners and anyone else who wishes to attend. Emergency kits will be provided at these presentations.
  - Second Level:
    - ❖ Virtual training for SDS staff regarding the emergency kits and how to present them to consumers.
  - Third Level:
    - ❖ Workshops will take place in each of the tri-counties in the Spring of 2026 to assist older people and people with disabilities and anyone who serves this population, in completing their go-bags.
    - ❖ Program Director Moore suggested developing a workshop in developing these trainings.
- May was Older Americans Month:
  - Eight events were planned across the region.

For more detailed information please see the [Care Planning Committee May Minutes](#).

**8. Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee (MOWAC) Report:** *(Meals on Wheels (MOW) Administrative Supervisor Heidi Durrett)*

- The Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee (MOWAC).
  - A required committee that disbanded during COVID made up of volunteers who act as liaisons between the MOW program and the communities they serve.
  - MOW Administrative Supervisor Durrett is looking at ways to relaunch it.
  - Recruitment is underway for MOWAC positions with the hope of recruiting someone from each community that serves meals. That person would then take the role as Community Advisor.
    - The Community Advisor would be someone well connected in their community.
    - Would participate in marketing MOW in their community.
      - ❖ Awareness of what MOW does in the community.
      - ❖ How to access meals.
      - ❖ Contacts.
      - ❖ Participate in community events to enable MOW to have a presence in the community.
    - Find active people in communities with an interest in elder care services.
    - Participate in tabling events in the community.
      - ❖ The Community Advisor would help people they encounter understand their involvement in MOW whether as a volunteer, a funder, or community support.
  - Three ways to participate:
    - Volunteer.
    - Join the MOW funding team.
    - Join the MOW outreach team.

MOW Administrative Supervisor Durrett feels this work can bring the communities back to the MOW program.

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

IAC Chair Suzanne Lazaro shared that with all the changes going on in the Federal Government and a lot of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) program funding coming from the Federal Government, today's report will be more focused on Federal issues.

- Kim Hunt, NorthWest Senior and Disability Services (NWSDS) Advisory Council and Public Affairs Specialist forwarded a letter that she had written on behalf of NWSDS addressing the concern of the Older Americans Act (OAA) funding being cut dramatically as well as being moved to various agencies that lacked the competency in administering the program.
- IAC Chair Lazaro was going to propose that the SSAC and DSAC follow suit in writing their own letter.
- As of this morning, the USAging Legislative Update came out stating that in the President's proposed budget the OAA funding will stay level and the movement of the Agency into various other agencies will not take place.
- The bad news is this has not yet been approved and there is still the possibility that funding could be reduced. The budget has cut funding for several aging programs that include:
  - Disease self-monitoring programs.
  - Fall prevention programs.
  - Alzheimer's grants.
  - Housing related funding for low-income seniors and possibly disabled individuals.
  - As of now there are deep cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) that passed the House and are in front of the Senate.
- IAC Chair Lazaro proposed that OCWCOG puts forth the recommendation to our statewide advocacy organization, Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD), to help lead in creating profiles of potential people who would be affected by decreased funding in many of these programs.
  - This is a marketing strategy that Oregon Representatives could share with their colleagues across the aisle.
  - No matter how much the budget changes, profiles will be a stable marketing tool to use.
- Program Director Moore shared that SDS still has the profiles of consumers that had been used years ago but she felt they were too outdated. She supports IAC Chair Lazaro's proposal in engaging O4AD in creating a template and having a statewide packet, but she would like to have profiles of SDS's own consumers as well.
- IAC Chair Lazaro suggested having typical consumers from both rural and urban areas statewide for the statewide packet and including OCWCOG's consumer profiles as well.

ACTION: Motion to reach out to O4AD for a statewide advocacy tool to be created that would have client profiles that could be used for future advocacy effort made by Richard Montgomery, seconded by Michelle Giammona. Motion passed unanimously.

## 10. SDS and CSP Program Updates: (Program Director Randi Moore)

Federal Funding:

- Program Director Moore reiterated what IAC Chair Lazaro had said regarding Federal funding.
  - Messages from the Federal Government are freighting but nothing is set in stone and continue to change.
  - News was OAA funding was being cut in the President's initial budget, but everything is back in as of Friday.
  - The Administration on Community Living, the department that manages the OAA funding, has been disband.
    - Advocates on the National level prevented the break-up of the OAA agency into multiple departments and is now going to the Administration for Children and Families and will be flat funded, a big win for advocacies.
  - Medicaid funding:

- The Big Beautiful Bill (BBB) has drastic cuts. It was passed in the House but still has to go through the Senate.
- OCWCOG's Budget Meeting:
  - In Oregon, the expansion of Medicaid consumers would be the people most at risk, not SDS's Long-term Services and Supports consumers.
- Benton County Developmental Diversity (BCDD) Program Manager Jasper Smith shared that the cuts in some of BCDD areas shift more responsibility to the States to bear the costs of them and then the question is how the State will prioritize funding.
  - BCDD Program Manager Smith feels the expansion population is the main target of getting cut which BCDD is a part of.
  - People in the expansion population, the Federal Government does a 90% match rate on all their services including their long-term care services. So dropping from a 90 to a 60 percent match is a big hit to the State.
  - Most of the cuts will take place in two years and they are not cutting all Medicaid funding.

2025-29 Area Plan:

- The State sent the 2025-29 Area Plan back with some minor changes that included setting time frames on the Area Plan goals and language on how SDS would reach more underserved consumers. Staff amended the edits and sent the draft back to the State. Program Director Moore feels they will be moving forward with final 2025-29 Area Plan soon.

The OPB's "Think Out Loud" radio talk show is coming to Newport to do a live audience show on aging in Oregon. The event will take place on Tuesday, June 10th at the Newport 60+ Activity Center from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. Program Director Moore will be on the panel where OPB's host Dave Miller will interview members of the community for a discussion about healthy aging and support for people to thrive as they age.

ACTION: Program Director Moore will send out the Think Out Loud Aging Event flyer to the group.

**11. Other Business and Announcements:**

N/A

**12. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21am.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

*Meeting Minutes was recorded by Terri Sharpe.*