

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

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

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

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

**Guests:** Jenny Cokeley, Oregon Home Care Commission (OHCC) Interim Executive Director; Gena Sellers, Laronda Harvey; Mimi Chen; and Scott Kruger, Benton County Government.

**Members Absent:** SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucier; Lee Strandberg; and Bill Turner.

**Staff:** Kim Cooper, Senior and Disability Services (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 10:03 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

- October Hybrid Meeting: The October 1, 2024 Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the June 4, 2024 Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting minutes made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Michelle Giammona. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Oregon Home Care Commission (OHCC) Presentation:** *(OHCC Interim Executive Director Jenny Cokeley)*

OHCC Interim Executive Director Jenny Cokeley gave a [PowerPoint](#) presentation on an overview of the OHCC which included:

- Who they are and their focus.
  - The OHCC consists of nine commissioners appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate who serve up to three, three-year terms.
  - Focus is on:
    - Provider & Consumer training
    - Safety
    - Advocacy & Outreach
    - Workforce Development
    - Customer Support
    - Collective Bargaining

- Who they support.
  - The OHCC works across programs and with a diversity of populations that include:
    - Aging and People with Disabilities
    - Developmental Disability Services
    - Oregon Health Authority Medicaid
- Partnerships:
  - OHCC has many partnerships with the consumers at the center of what they do.
- What they do.
  - Advocate and outreach
  - Provider training:
    - OHCC provides voluntary training and certifications.
      - Certification programs for higher wages which can range from \$0.25 - \$3.00 more per hour.
    - Carewell provides required (Senate Bill 1534) training.
  - Consumer training:
    - Free educational program to teach consumers how to be successful employers.
    - Statewide registries will match individual with qualified providers.
  - Safety:
  - Workforce development:
    - Webpage <https://ohccworkforce.org/>
      - Videos
      - Testimonials
      - Information on how to apply to be a part of the workforce.
    - Workforce collaborative to identify strategies to increase and retain the homecare workforce.
  - Customer support.
  - Collective Bargaining

#### Q&A

Q – The Employee Resource Connection (ERC) has great resources, but people do not want to access the program due to time. Is it possible to make the resources more widely available without having to enroll in the ERC to get the resources?

A – The ERC is a program through the Medicaid K Plan where their funding comes from. However, the OHCC is in the process of modifying some of their resources to make it available to private pay individuals.

Q – Would like to see it more accessible to go from homecare worker to personal support worker and vice versa.

A – It is in the works to get a universal provider number that will allow one to go from homecare worker to personal support and vice versa if one meets all the qualifications. But, as of now a person would have to apply to the different programs and get the required background checks. However, they would not have to retake the orientation training.

Q – There are a great number of adults who do not have access to the internet or a computer, nor do they have the navigational skills to access the registries. SDS Case Managers do provide a list of available caregivers to their consumers but what are some other ways that the OHCC can make this information available to consumers.

A – OHCC wants people to participate in the ERC where a consultant can work with that individual in finding a match on the registry. The whole idea of the registry is it is a matching service based on the specific needs and schedule of the consumer matching with a provider who is qualified to meet those needs. There is a new system in the ERC program called *Linking*

*Consumers and Providers*, for those consumers who need a bit more help, where a consultant can go into system and narrow the selection down for provider to interview.

Personal Care Attendants (PCA), Home Care Workers (HCW), and Personal Support Workers (PSW):

- There is a statewide shortage of PCAs, HCWs, and PSWs.
- The OHCC is launching a statewide workforce media campaign to recruit more PCAs, HCWs, and PSWs.
- State plan PCAs have a max of 20 hours per month but can take on additional clients for a maximum of 60 hours per month.
- The OHCC encourages providers to enroll in another provider type to pick up more hours.
- HCWs and PSWs can work up to 60 hours per month.
- There are a lot of people receiving care from PCAs as well as from ERC services.
- Family members can be a worker.
- Workers who work 40 hours a month or more are eligible to receive benefits.

**4. Senior and Disability Services Advisory Council Committee Membership:** *(DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald)*

The Senior and Disability Services Advisory Committee Membership runs from September 1st – August 31st. Council members who wish to change or add additional committees to their current committee(s) need to let SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe know. She will be sending out the committee list along with the Committee Preferences form to request any changes.

ACTION: SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will send to the Council members the list of committees that they are currently a member of and a Committee Preference form for them to fill out if they wish to change or add committees.

IAC Chair Suzanne Lazaro requested more active members to join the IAC.

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

The CPC did not meet in July due to the July 4th holiday.

The next CPC meeting is scheduled for September 10th, the second Tuesday of the month, due to Labor Day holiday. CPC Chair McDonald will not be present at the meeting and asked for any volunteers to facilitate the meeting for her.

SSAC Vice Chair Terri Fackrell volunteered.

ACTION: SSAC Vice Chair Terri Fackrell volunteered to facilitate the September 10, 2024 CPC meeting.

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

Tabled to the October 1, 2024 Joint SSAC-DSAC Meeting

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

Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) Quarterly Meeting was held on July 3, 2024.

- The Issues and Advocacy Representatives statewide met in the afternoon breakout session with discussion on:
  - Recruiting and maintaining interested advocates for all programs.
    - This is an issue with all Advisory Boards statewide.
    - Rogue Valley Council of Governments has a recruitment brochure which has been forwarded to Program Director Randi Moore.
      - The brochure could be used as a model tailored to SDS's message and focus for our area.
  - Collaboration among Advisory Boards statewide on single issues such as housing. This would entail:
    - Virtual meetings for planning.
    - Going to the Capitol to meet with Representatives from one's area.
      - Have a OCWCOG advocacy group day at the Capitol outside of the Day at the Capitol when everyone attends.
      - Reaching out to NorthWest Senior and Disability Services Advocacy group from Salem who offers support to all Advocacy groups statewide.
  - Advocacy at the Federal level.
    - Senate Bill that provides emergency response support for people with disabilities and fragile individuals is receiving bipartisan support.

**8. SDS Program Updates – Area Plan Update for FY2024: (Program Director Randi Moore)**

Tabled to the October 1, 2024 Joint SSAC-DSAC Meeting

**9. Other Business and Announcements:**

DSAC Chair Molnar-Fitzgerald shared that North End Senior Solutions (NESS), with a grant from Oregon Health Authority, is sponsoring an Emergency Preparedness event tomorrow. They are partnering with Lincoln County, Newport, 211, and other agencies to promote emergency awareness. This is being held at the Newport Samaritan for Health Education from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Disability Rights Oregon will also be there for a listening session in the morning. Everyone should stop by for a free lunch and information.

SSAC Vice Chair Fackrell shared Corvallis Community Center is hosting the Oregon Senior Games. There are still volunteer spots available. The Senior Games takes place annually and this year is a qualifying year for Nationals.

CPC Chair McDonald shared the Behavioral Health & Aging Annual Conference is being held on October 16-17th, at the Ford Alumni Center in Eugene. This year the focus is on geriatric care, mental health, substance use, and social services.

**ACTION:** CPC Chair Kay McDonald will send a flyer with the registration link to SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe to send out.

Holly Bollman shared that she is no longer with Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care. She took a position as the Director of Development & Outreach with Mennonite Village Foundation.

**10. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 1, 2024.

*Meeting Minutes was recorded by Terri Sharpe.*