

**Joint  
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)  
and  
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)  
Meeting  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

**SSAC Members Present:** Bob Daley, Chair; Saleem Noorani, Vice Chair; Catherine Skiens; Suzanne Lazaro; Carolyn Mendez-Luck; Mark McNabb; Suzette Boydston; Doris Lamb; Robynn Pease; Lee Strandberg; and Janet Shinner.

**DSAC Members Present:** Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Chair; Pete Rickey; Jann Glenn; Lee Lazaro.

**Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Members Present:** Pat Shirley and Sandy Potter.

**Guests:** Mitzi Naucler; Jenna Bates; Kath Schonau; Don Taylor; Getsi Paredes; Cecelia DeAnda, Elders' Program Coordinator; and Anita Bailor, Elders' Program Director.

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County; Mike Volpe, DSAC Vice Chair; Curtis Miller; Bill Turner; Anne Brett; Suzanne Brean; Clark Brean; Carolyn Fry; Rusty Burton; Edythe James; Jasper Smith; and Marilyn Winter.

**Staff:** Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director Randi Moore; SDS Program Support Supervisor Ann Johnson; Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett; Community Services Program (CSP) Manager Jennifer Moore; and SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe.

**1. Welcome, Introductions, and Additions to the Agenda:**

SSAC Chair Bob Daley called the meeting to order at 11:02 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the December 5, 2017 Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting minutes made by SSAC Vice Chair Saleem Noorani, seconded by Suzanne Lazaro. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Ratification of Care Planning Committee Chair (Bob Daley, SSAC Chair):**

**ACTION:** Motion to approve ratification of Robynn Pease as Chair of the Care Planning Committee made by Suzette Boydston, seconded by Ms. Lazaro. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Issues and Advocacy Committee (IAC) Report (Suzanne Lazaro, IAC Co-Chair):**

IAC Co-Chair Lazaro gave the IAC report to the Councils. The IAC had separate meetings with Representative Andy Olson, Representative Dan Rayfield, and Senator Arnie Roblan where the IAC shared that they will continue to advocate for *Oregon Project Independence (OPI)*, *Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS)*, and affordable housing, regardless of the results of Measure 101 and would like the support from the Legislators as well. They also shared their concern with the new formula that decreases Medicaid funding to Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) *RideLine* Brokerage. Representative Rayfield expressed support for these programs as a priority regardless of the results of Measure 101. He also shared his enthusiasm about a proposal that would change recording fees from \$25 to \$75 with the additional income being applied to affordable housing initiatives.

In January, the IAC met with NorthWest Senior and Disability Services (NWSDS) Advisory Council in Salem along with NWSDS Director Rodney Schroeder where they exchanged information on State and Federal issues. Concern was expressed on the number of Legislators leaving that were strong advocates for SDS issues. There was talk of IAC expanding on the *LTSS* and *OPI* consumer profiles

with NWSDS Advisory Councils. NWSDS has a large advocate group and both NWSDS and the IAC is looking forward to working together and combining resources.

The IAC met with the new Department of Human Services (DHS) Director, Fariborz Pakseresht, Representative Olson, and Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) Director Ashley Carson-Cottingham. DHS Director Pakseresht comes with much experience and familiarity in DHS. Some of his concerns are with the safety, quality of service, and sufficient number of care providers in Memory Care facilities. In regards to the *Secretary of State Audit*, he does not feel it is accurate in its entirety. However, he does agree with the recommendations that home care workers need better training and better tracking methods with faster reimbursement. There is concern with where the money will come from. APD Director Carson-Cottingham informed the IAC that many people in facilities would have been displaced with the changes in the client assessment for eligibility, but those that did not have a place to stay were provided waivers until housing became available.

In January, a couple of SSAC-DSAC members, along with Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett, attended the Access Benton County meeting. Feedback was given regarding accessibility to medical centers and clinics as part of an analysis being jointly performed by Benton County Health Department and Oregon Health and Sciences University Office of Disability and Health.

With Measure 101 passing, IAC will add *OPI* as one of their line items in advocating for, along with other issues, such as more training for home care workers.

The Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) quarterly meeting will take place next Tuesday, February 13th, at the Salem Convention Center, with morning discussions on *Options Counseling, Evidence-Based Mental Health, and Information and Referral Programs*. IAC Representatives will hold a meeting on Tuesday afternoon. The Day at the Capitol will take place the following day, Wednesday, February 14th with talking points provided. Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett is in the process of setting up meetings with Legislators from the tri-County Region. Reimbursement for mileage and parking will be provided. Anyone interested should contact Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett, or SDS Support Supervisor Ann Johnson. At the moment only IAC Co-Chairs Lazaro and Mike Volpe are signed up to attend.

SSAC Chair Daley expressed appreciation to IAC Co-Chairs Lazaro and Volpe for their time commitment in attending these meetings.

- 5. *Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee (MOWAC) Report (Catherine Skiens, MOWAC Chair):*** MOWAC Chair Catherine Skiens gave an update to the Councils on the MOWAC. The MOWAC last met in Sweet Home on January 29th. Anita Lengacher, the new MOW Supervisor, was present for everyone to meet. There are new site managers in both Newport and Albany, and all the kitchens are presently working well. From July 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 there were 97,473 meals served in the tri-County Region, on par with last year at this time.

MOWAC Chair Skiens stated that the Request for Proposal (RFP), a five-year contract to provide the meals for MOW, will be coming up. She encouraged anyone interested in reviewing the proposals to join the RFP Committee. The process is extremely involved, but very interesting. It's about a three-month process.

Ms. Boydston reminded everyone that the work of SSAC stems from the statute of the *Older Americans Act (OAA)* with MOW being a large part of their responsibility. Because there have been budgetary problems in the past she recommended they receive reports on MOW on a regular basis. CSP Manager Jennifer Moore will work with MOWAC Chair Skiens on what the reports will look like.

Lee Strandberg announced that the Rotary Club of Corvallis, along with OCWCOG, will be doing another *Tapas and Treasures* fundraiser for MOW at Garland Nursery this summer. Last year, they raised over \$10,000. Due to parking issues they limited the number of tickets sold to 150, but will be working with Trillium and Dial-a-Bus to eliminate the problem this year. They will limit the price of a

ticket to \$50 and use corporate donations to help pay for the event. For marketing purposes, he would like to include the number of people that are served meals, the number of meals served, and a brief description of the need for meals over the last couple of years, along with the trend.

The next MOWAC meeting is in Brownsville on Tuesday, March 20th, from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm with lunch following. Anyone interested should email MOWAC Chair Skiens or Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett so they can alert the site manager to order the correct number of meals. Ms. Lazaro suggested letting everyone know when the meetings are so they can decide whether to attend on a month-to-month basis.

#### **6. Care Planning Committee (CPC) Report (Lisa Bennett, Community Program Support Coordinator):**

Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett gave the CPC report to the Councils. At the last CPC meeting SDS Case Manager Bonnie Barron provided a training session on the *Client Assessment Planning System (CAPS)* that Case Managers, throughout the State, use when assessing a person who is interested in receiving services. This would include in-home, assisted living, adult foster home, or adult nursing facility services. The State recently revised *CAPS* making it more consistent, as well as changing the rule of frequency of need for assistance. Instead of going from need of assistance one time per month, the consumer must need assistance one time per week over four weeks, thus making it harder for people to qualify for services.

There was a large turnout for the meeting with great discussion.

#### **7. Changes for In-Home Consumers: Hours Allocation for Household Tasks (Randi Moore, SDS Director):**

SDS Director Randi Moore said the State will start providing monthly data on the effects of the *CAPS* changes to those consumers that have been affected by having their in-home caregivers hours reduced based on the times study, as well as the service priority level changes based on the new frequency rule.

SDS Director Moore went over the numbers APD Director Carson-Cottingham shared for October-November 2017. Statewide APD reassessed 4,500 participants in which 214 were not determined to meet level of care based on the frequency changes. Out of the 214, a small number transitioned to *OPI*, 69% transitioned to other programs like *Stateline Personal Care*, 12 individuals transitioned to the *Extended Waivered Eligibility*, and 96 people did not meet criteria and did not enroll in any other program. SDS Director Moore would like, by the next meeting, to provide written data for the quarter as well as some local numbers.

Time studies were done for in-home consumers on how long it takes for a person to bathe and dress. Those numbers were reassessed and reevaluated which have had the bigger impact on consumers and Case Managers. APD, Statewide, assessed 2,320 individuals from October – November 2017. Out of those people, 80% - 1,865 people had a reduction in hours. Of those individuals, an average reduction was 16 hours per service period which amounts to 32 hours per month.

SDS Director Moore reminded people that the consumer can always talk to their Case Manager and request an *Exception Process* to get more hours.

APD has had some input from legal representation about some concern of the October changes. At this point in time, anyone who has requested a hearing because of a reassessment due to the October changes, and if they have had a reduction or a closure, will now have their benefits reissued. It is unclear, however, that if the consumer is denied their request for more hours, who will have to pay for the overpayment of benefits received during the hearing timespan. SDS Director Moore will keep everyone abreast on this as she hears more.

Janet Shinner noted that when a client in a Community Care Facility gets reassessed at a lower level of care, the facility is still giving the consumer the higher level of care, but now at the lower level of care pay. This is resulting in facilities losing about a third of their income.

Due to time constraints, SSAC Chair Daley suggested putting this topic on the CPC agenda.

## 8. Break for Lunch

### 9. *Area Plan* Updates (Lisa Bennett, Community and Program Support Coordinator):

Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett gave an update on the *Area Plan* to the Councils and led them in discussion for their input. The *Area Plan* is a 4-year plan that OCWCOG is required by the State to provide. SDS staff, per the Councils' request, chose two issues, Elder Rights and Legal Assistance – the best cost-effective methods to increase public education regarding abuse; and Native American Elders – improve communication and outreach services with Tribal Elders; that they would like feedback from the Councils on.

- 1) Elder Rights and Legal Assistance - Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett said there is a small amount of money that SDS has available and would like to use toward increasing public awareness on elder abuse and people with disabilities. SDS Director Moore said there is about \$6,800 for the biennium from the *OAA Fund Title*. In the past, SDS purchased purple grocery bags with "Report Elder Abuse" and the phone number, on the side, put literature in the bags, and handed them out at farmers' markets. She questioned whether this was the right market. With the results of the *Secretary of State Audit*, should they be educating consumers on their safety and recognition of abuse? With May being *Elder Abuse Awareness Month* they could possibly focus on the month of May or do something long-term. The money is for two years and it's at the discretion of the Councils if they want to spend it all at once or over the course of the two years. Suggestions from the Councils included:
  - Talking to the editors of the local newspapers of all three Counties and running a story in the Sunday paper on elder abuse with examples of incidences of elder abuse, definitions of elder abuse, how to help, where to go to help or volunteer, and links to learn more about elder abuse.
  - Contact radio stations that provide free broadcasting and provide a segment on elder abuse (possibly having Commissioner Bill Hall do the talking).
  - Grocery bags with the definitions of elder abuse on the outside and information inside. This could be written materials or CD's.
  - Provide, with every *MOW* meal delivered, information on how elder abuse is identified and a phone number to call.
  - Provide links to free online training.
  - Provide training to professionals.
  - Mandate elder abuse training requirements for caregivers.
  - University students conducting public service announcements.
  - Provide training to those consumers that are not part of the STEPS program.
  - Train volunteers to speak on SDS's behalf to different groups of all social economic arenas (similar to the *Gatekeeper Program*).
  - Do pre-movie advertising on what elder abuse is.
  - Print the definition of elder abuse on small cards to be distributed.
  - Provide an announcement or training in churches.
  - Provide examples of what a caregiver relationship should look like.

Due to time constraints SDS Director Moore and Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett will discuss this further on what the next steps will be.

- 2) Native American Elders - improving communication and outreach services with the Tribal Community. Siletz Tribe representatives gave the Councils an overview of what services Tribal Elders already receive which include: chore work services, such as assisting with heavy chores; assistance with personal care management (hours determined by an assessment and the care provider chosen by the consumer); work experience in which the Elder finds their own work and is paid a stipend of \$15 per hour; transportation to monthly meetings and events; and firewood.

Doris Lamb asked if the Elders would be interested in someone talking to them about elder abuse at one of their monthly meetings. Elders' Program Director Anita Bailor said they would be interested and other topics as well. There is also a newsletter that goes out to over 880 Elders which would be another way of getting information to them.

SDS Director Moore asked the Councils how they would like to move forward in their goals in building a better relationship with the Tribal Community. Lee Lazaro suggested partnering with the Tribal Councils in applying for package grants that covers transportation and other senior needs. He would be willing to work on that with Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett. The Tribal Representatives said there was a need for better transportation and they would like to hear more. Medical transportation is covered on a first come first served basis with limited resources.

Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett said she and Elders' Program Director Bailor talked about having the next Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting in Siletz. Unfortunately, the next meeting is scheduled for April which is not a good month for the Tribe, but they are working on a different date. Mr. Lazaro suggested part of the meeting should be devoted to a needs assessment on how OCWCOG can help the Tribe. This would help the Councils direct their activities toward meeting those needs. Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett said she will be meeting with Elders' Program Director Bailor and her staff outside of the Joint Council meetings as well in determining the Tribal needs.

Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett asked for a motion to approve the annual updates of the *Area Plan*.

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the annual updates to the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' Senior and Disability Services *Area Plan* made by Mr. Strandberg, seconded by SSAC Chair Daley. Motion passed unanimously.

DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald suggested addressing updates to the *Area Plan* more often.

**10. Older Americans Month Outreach (Randi Moore, SDS Director and Bob Daley, SSAC Chair):**

SDS Director Moore announced *Older Americans Month* is in May and asked the Councils what they would like to do this year in its recognition. In the past OCWCOG has written a letter that has been sent out to its member governments, letting them know *Older Americans Month* is coming and, if they would like, have OCWCOG leadership attend one of their Council meetings where a proclamation is read and information about the services SDS provide are shared. SDS Director Moore suggested having people around the table and representation from constituents if they decided to do the proclamations at City Council meetings or Commissioner meetings. The letter to the member governments could come from both the Councils and the Executive Director of OCWCOG. Displays could also be set up in courthouses during *Older Americans Month*. She stated there is advocacy money to work with.

Suggestions from the Councils included:

- Develop profiles of older Americans.
- Have the newspapers run a story on *Older Americans Month* and include profiles of older Americans.
- Proclamation to City Governments with local Advisory Council members representing their communities to remind people of the importance of the funding to older people. Also, having a newspaper journalist in attendance as well as a volunteer who is a recipient of OAA dollars.

SSAC Chair Daley reminded the Councils they were doing two outreaches in May and they need to acknowledge how to address that. SDS Director Moore said a lot of the outreach will be done by staff members, but creating ideas and writing a letter could be done by the Councils. If OCWCOG would like Council members to reach out to member governments then, with staff support, volunteers would go out.

Carolyn Mendez-Luck said Oregon State University has a gerontology club and will more than likely be doing something for *Older Americans Month*. She will provide the faculty contact to Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett.

Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett asked for any volunteers interested in going to a government meeting where a proclamation would be read (member governments are listed at the bottom of the agenda). DSAC Chair Molnar-Fitzgerald volunteered for Lincoln City, Ms. Lamb for Newport and Toledo, Robynn Pease, Ms. Lazaro, and Mr. Lazaro for Corvallis and Benton County. DSAC Chair Daley volunteered to go where needed.

DSAC Chair Molnar Fitzgerald asked for a list of what the OAA provides. SDS Director Moore will send her a list of the seven Titles represented in the OAA.

#### **11. Announcements:**

Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett proposed switching the next meeting of the Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting to May rather than April. The bylaws dictate certain things that have to be done in May such as approving the contracts for Monitoring and Review and nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs for the Councils. There is also the possibility of having the Council meeting in Siletz in May. The CPC meeting would then take place in March, as regularly scheduled, and then again in April with the Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting following in May. This was agreed to by the Councils. Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett will let everyone know by March what the plan is.

Ms. Mendez-Luck reminded everyone that back in December she circulated the announcement for the *Oregon Tax Check Off for Alzheimer's Research Fund*. Applications are invited for a one-year project of up to \$20,000. The letter of intent is due this Friday, February 9th. She will try to put together a letter of intent by Friday and if she hears back for a request for a full proposal, that would be due in April. She will make the letter of intent something that will be of interest to the Councils, yet general enough to get past the letter of intent stage. From there, Ms. Mendez-Luck and the Councils can fine tune the full proposal. She will keep everyone apprised. Jenna Bates offered letters of support from the IHN-CCOs.

Ms. Bates announced she brought handouts of the IHN CCO's pilot studies. They are doing strategic planning now and meet every other Thursday from 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm at the Walnut Building. Anyone that can positively impact the health and welfare of those on Medicaid in our three Counties is welcome to come.

#### **12. Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:29 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

*Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe.*