

**Joint
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)
and
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)
Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

SSAC Members Present: Mitzi Naucler, Chair; Terri Fackrell, Vice Chair; Holly Bollman; and Mimi Chen.

DSAC Members Present: Michelle Giammona, Chair; Suzanne Lazarro, Issues and Advocacy (IAC) Chair; Naomi Hirsch, and Richard Montgomery.

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

Guests: Marianne Seifert; Karen Dunlop; Phil Warnock, Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities(O4AD) Executive Director; and Nicole Palmateer-Hazelbaker, O4AD Lobbyist.

Members Absent: Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Past Chair; and Lee Strandberg, SSAC Member.

Staff: Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) and Community Services Programs (CSP) Director; Heidi Durrett, Meals on Wheels (MOW) Administrative Supervisor; Kim Cooper, SDS Executive Assistant; and Terri Sharpe, SDS Administrative Assistant.

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Additions to the Agenda: *(DSAC Chair Michelle Giammona)*

DSAC Chair Michelle Giammona called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

2. Approval of Minutes:

ACTION: Motion to approve December 2, 2025, Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting minutes made by Suzanne Lazaro seconded by Mimi Chen. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Legislative Preview for the 2026 Session: *(O4AD Executive Director Phil Warnock and O4AD Lobbyist Nicole Palmateer-Hazelbaker)*

O4AD Lobbyist Nicole Palmateer-Hazelbaker - Legislative & Budget Update

State Budget Overview

- Oregon operates on a biennium budgeting timeframe. They are in the middle of the 2025-27 biennium.
- The budget forecast showed there was going to be a major deficit in funding which has been revised down between \$40 to \$60 million dollars (not a lot of money in budget terms).
- Concern with the federal HR1 passed revisions in Medicaid.
 - Oregon has the third largest Medicaid program in nation.
 - Oregon has high reliance on Medicaid in the state in how Medicaid funding is used.
 - Any revisions, as in HR1 which lessens the Medicaid funding coming into the state, will have big effects this biennium.
- This is a campaign year which affects how legislators vote on program reductions.
- Tomorrow is the revenue forecast that will be used for whatever legislators choose to do with in this short session.

Oregon's Revenue Reduction Forecast Budget

- Oregon budgets on a forecast.
- Agencies were asked to submit budget reduction options to 2.5% - 5% of their total budgets.
- All agencies, including the Department of Human Services (DHS), submitted reduction proposals.
- Reduction options were prioritized internally by each agency.

O4AD's Primary Concern

- Medicaid Long-Term Services & Supports (LTSS) specific to Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) (a 10-county area that is the most populated in the state).
- Proposed reductions include core Medicaid functions federally required under Medicaid:
 - Eligibility
 - Case Management
 - Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Concern expressed that:
 - Reductions would be unworkable.
 - HR1-related changes will likely increase workload in:
 - Eligibility
 - Case Management
 - APS
- O4AD strongly opposes inclusion of these reductions.
- Majority of O4AD's time has been spent:
 - Educating legislators on required Medicaid positions.
 - Explaining operational and federal compliance impacts.
 - Highlighting anticipated increases in workload.
- Note:
 - Older Americans Act programs and Oregon Project Independence (OPI) were **not** included in proposed reductions.

Policy Landscape

- Limited policy bills this session related to LTSS.
- Bills under discussion:
 - Facility abuse prevention measures.
 - Background checks.
- Primary legislative focus remains on the budget.

Revenue & Political Considerations

- Legislature awaiting updated revenue forecast.
- Ongoing discussions regarding:
 - The "kicker" (tax rebate).
 - "Reconnect" alignment with federal tax code.
- Potential changes could:
 - Reduce or eliminate kicker payments.
 - Limit state-level alignment with federal tax cuts.
- Acknowledged political challenges given campaign season.
- Noted that much of the budget negotiation occurs outside public hearings.

O4AD

- Continues direct conversations with legislators.
- Publishes talking points and staff stories on website.
- Sends regular email updates.
- Hosts Friday legislative conference calls during session.

- Members encouraged to:
 - Sign up for email newsletter.
 - Participate in conference calls.
 - Engage legislators directly.

Q&A

- Q. Will any of this impact Medicare as well as Medicaid funding in Oregon?
- A. Medicare is fully federally funded and not an area that O4AD gets involved in.

ACTION: Director Randi Moore will find a Medicare expert to present at a future Joint SSAC – DSAC meeting.

O4AD Executive Director Phil Warnock

O4AD Quarterly Meeting Update

- Taking place on either April 14th or 15th (to be determined).
- Held at the Salem Convention Center.
- Plenary session held in the morning with Advisory Council breakout sessions held in the afternoon.
- Opportunity to talk about priorities and strategies in messaging to representatives.

Legislative Session Updates

- 35 days remaining in the short session.
- Legislative updates will be distributed once or twice weekly.
- Everyone is encouraged to subscribe via the www.o4ad.org website.

Emergency Preparedness Updates

- O4AD continues expanding emergency preparedness efforts in response to increasing climate-related events such as heat domes, ice storms, and wildfire smoke.
- O4AD, in collaboration with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Administration for Community Living developed tools and resources for the AAA network that included:
 - Emergency preparedness handbook.
 - Workbook materials.
 - Continuity of operations planning tools.
- O4AD, in collaboration with the Oregon Resource and Emergency Management (OREM) and Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) is helping ensure older adults' needs are incorporated into:
 - Mass care planning.
 - Accessibility.
 - Medication refrigeration.
 - Mobility considerations.
 - Behavioral health supports.

Tribal Engagement

- Increase focus on Title VI and Title III Nutritional programs and other resources to open a pathway for further conversations with both statewide and national partners.
 - Bring in resources to support culturally informed dementia care.
 - Address tribal-specific beliefs and considerations.

Federal Shutdown Update:

- SNAP benefits are not expected to be interrupted with this shutdown.
- Older Americans Act funding and Medicaid funding:
 - Separate funding mechanisms and drawdown processes.
 - Current assessment:
 - No anticipated impact on OAA services due to shutdown.
 - Funds already awarded and available for state drawdown.

Program Director Randi Moore

Advocacy & Outreach Materials

- O4AD is producing outreach videos highlighting:
 - Case managers.
 - Eligibility workers.
 - Adult Protective Services (APS).
- Purpose:
 - Demonstrate community impact on staffing reductions.
 - Support legislative advocacy.
- Staff participation in filming.

ACTION: O4AD Executive Director Phil Warnock will present final videos to Advisory Council once available.

O4AD Quarterly Meeting

- Financial assistance available to support member participation.

4. Community and Economic Development (CED) Introduction and Updates:

Tabled to a future meeting

5. Care Planning Committee (CPC) Report: (SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler)

The Care Planning Committee is without a Chair with the departure of Kay McDonald. Anyone interested should reach out to SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe or Programs Director Randi Moore.

CPC met on January 6, 2026 where they heard from:

- SDS Case Manager Bonnie Chasteen and SDS Program Manager Rachel Sine on the Housing Support Services (HSS).
 - SDS Case Manager Bonnie Chasteen is the only Housing Navigator for the program.
 - Currently there are 25 clients.
 - HSS only provides services to folks who are preapproved for Title 19 Medicaid services, or they are at risk of losing their eligibility of Title 19 Medicaid.
 - Responsibilities include but not limited to:
 - Coaching and mediation with landlords to maintain tenancies.
 - Case management for applications and searches for housing.
 - Direct contact needs to be made once a week with anyone in an active case.
 - HSS could use more case managers. This is a valuable service, and it is important to have support around that.
- Agenda topics for 2026:

- It was agreed that the CPC would focus on the Area Plan goals.

Please see the [January Care Planning Committee meeting minutes](#) for further details.

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

Staffing Updates:

- Report of positive movement in hiring.
- Several highly qualified new staff members onboarded.
- Noted strong candidate pool for Meal Site Manager position.

Fall & Winter Fundraising Campaign:

- Campaign concluded at approximately **\$89,000**, slightly short of the \$90,000 goal but considered successful overall.
- Secured updated donor contact information (names, phone numbers, addresses).
- Strategic shift planned:
 - Moving from traditional fundraising to legacy and planned giving.
- Tax receipts distributed last week.
- Campaign officially closed.

Quarterly Newsletter:

- First quarterly newsletter scheduled for end of March.
- Plan to publish quarterly during first year.
- Purpose:
 - Share consumer stories.
 - Highlight meal site managers.
 - Recognize volunteers.
 - Strengthen donor engagement.
- Upcoming feature:
 - Youngest volunteer (recent high school graduate; delivers meals; attends Linn-Benton Community College).
 - Oldest volunteer (in their 90s; long-time service).
- Focus on person-centered storytelling with photos.

2026 Goals – Congregate Dining Expansion

- Goal-setting process underway for 2026.
- Primary goal:
 - Increase congregate dining days at meal sites to:
 - Address ongoing social isolation post-COVID.
 - Rebuild community connections.
 - Strengthen peer support among participants.

MOWAC Update:

- Approval on the restructuring of MOWAC was approved prior to year-end.
- Appreciation expressed to contributors.
- Implementing the restructuring has slowed due to:
 - Co-supervisor for Meals on Wheels out since December.
 - Expected return in approximately one month.

- Administrative Supervisor Durrett temporarily covering dual supervisory roles.
- Acknowledged support from Program Director Moore and SDS Program Manager Heather Schermerhorn.
- Anticipated increased forward movement upon MOW Operations Supervisor Scott Harper's return.

Collaboration Discussion – Dining Initiatives

- Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care Coordinator, Naomi Hirsch expressed interest in potential collaboration between Lumina and MOW in exploring collaborative opportunities to strengthen congregate dining efforts.
 - Currently, Lumina partners with Corvallis Community Center (C3) with their caregiver luncheon.
 - Program Director Moore suggested Lumina, MOW, and C3 to get together in collaboration.
- ACTION: MOW Administrative Supervisor Heidi Durrett will reach out to Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care Coordinator Naomi Hirsch to collaborate on opportunities to strengthen congregate dining efforts.

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

O4AD Winter Quarterly Advocacy Breakout

- Consumer Profile Books and Staff Profiles are being created for advocacy.
 - Consumer profile books:
 - Long-term project for the 2027 long-term legislative session.
 - Program Director Moore has reached out to Case Managers and has names of six consumers who may be interested in being part of the consumer profiles.
 - IAC Chair Lazaro invited others to be involved in the development of the profiles.
 - Staff Profiles:
 - Profiles on critical staff being affected by proposed budget cuts in this year's short legislative session.
 - Canva account has been set up by O4AD for access to profile templates created by Kim Hunt of Northwest Senior and Disability Services.
- Discussion of Issues for Advocacy and providing Statewide support:
 - Transportation.
 - Disabled parking.
 - Compliance.

For further details please see [IAC Chair Lazaro's minutes](#).

8. Program Updates: *(Program Director Randi Moore)*

Emergency Planning:

- Was added as an area focus to the Area Plan.
- Major goal in the coming year.
- Through American Rescue Plan funds, SDS was able to purchase approximately 2,000 emergency preparedness bags for community distribution.
- Aim-4-Access was contracted to provide training to staff, community members, and community partners to ensure appropriate use of the materials.
 - One staff training session has been completed, with a second session scheduled.
 - Following completion of training, the agency will begin deploying the emergency bags to consumers.

- Community meetings will be scheduled to provide training to vulnerable adults, at which time emergency bags will be deployed to them as well.
- Exploring ways to support additional consumers through partner organizations.
- The agency plans to continue expanding emergency preparedness training and partnership efforts throughout the year.

Area Plan Updates:

- The State issued a policy transmittal asking for updates detailing accomplishments from the first year of the Area Plan.
- Draft updates will be shared with Council members for review prior to submission to the State.
- The submission deadline has been extended from the end of June to the end of July this year.

Older Americans Act (OAA) Rule Revisions:

- The OAA rules are being implemented and will require updates at the agency level to ensure compliance.
- Areas requiring review and updates include:
 - Conflict of interest policies.
 - Carry-out meal planning procedures.
 - Meal site updates.
 - Additional internal compliance areas.
- The extended deadline for the Area plan updates was provided in part to allow agencies additional time to address both the Area Plan updates and rule revisions.

ACTION: Program Director Randi Moore will provide the Area Plan draft updates for the Advisory Councils review prior to submitting them to the State.

Oregon Contractors Board Partnership:

- The Oregon Contractors Board contacted Program Director Moore regarding participation in a statewide webinar focused on aging in place.
- The agency will be working in partnership with other Area Agencies on Aging across the State to contribute to the webinar.
- The webinar is anticipated to be produced by the end of March.

ACTION: Program Director Moore will provide updates on the webinar and inform the Councils when the webinar is taking place.

9. Other Business and Announcements:

Older Americans Act (OAA) Month

- May is OAA month.
- Past ways Advisory Councils have supported OAA month.

- Ask the OCWCOG's Board of Directors to make a proclamation of OAA month and the celebration of it.
- Advertisement:
 - Newspaper ads.
 - Radio ads.
 - Movie theater ads.
- Community partners were asked if they would like to celebrate OAA month by doing an activity in which OCWCOG could help fund such as an ice cream social or providing swag to hand out.
- Program Director Moore asked for ideas for this year and if anyone would like to partner in celebrating OAA month. They could pull their resources and create an event.
 - Those opened to partnering and forming a workgroup included:
 - Naomi Hirsch with Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care.
 - Terri Fackrell with Corvallis Community Center (C3).
 - Mimi Chen with East West Dance.
 - Marianne Seifert volunteered to help.
 - Anyone else who is interested in being part of the workgroup should contact Program Director Moore.
- IAC Chair Lazaro suggested using social media to let the public know about the local events going on for OAA month.

ACTION: Program Director Randi Moore will send out a poll to a few people to draft three or four ideas for an OAA month's events, then bring it back to the Care Planning Committee.

- Mimi Chen shared that there is a workshop at OSU regarding Parkinsons and dance that she has signed up to attend. Last year she attended a training in Parkinsons and dance. Her goal is to start teaching Parkinson dancing and she invited anyone who is interested to attend. Her class is not just for people with Parkinson's but for anyone who would like to get mobile.
- Naomi Hirsch shared that she coordinated a presentation with Helen Kao, MD on Brain Health which was a big success with 170 attendees. Dr. Kao will be starting a lecture series on brain health in Albany with the Albany library. She will be sharing a flyer.
- Terri Fackrell shared events happening at Corvallis Community Center:
 - Oregon State University band is playing at C3's Senior Social Club on Wednesday, February 18th at 2:00 pm.
 - Family fun night is the first Monday of the month through May from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. This is a free event.
 - March dance for persons with disabilities and anyone else who cares to attend is being held on March 20th.
- Holly Bollman shared that in March, Mennonite Village will have its first fundraiser for a healing garden for the courtyard in their new Memory Care building. They are looking for people to come and sponsor tables.

The Willamette Valley Non-profit Association is hosting a summit for non-profit leaders who are interested in continuing their professional growth on February 12th at the YMCA.

- Next meeting: April 7, 2026 (*This will be a hybrid meeting taking place in Linn County*)

10. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am.

Meeting Minutes was recorded by Terri Sharpe.