



1400 Queen Ave SE • Suite 201 • Albany, OR 97322
(541) 967-8720 • FAX (541) 967-6123

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FULL BOARD AGENDA

September 17, 2015

Approximately 1:30 p.m.

(Immediately following the State of the Region Summit)

Samaritan Center
605 Mullins Dr.
Lebanon, OR 97355

An Executive Session may be called as deemed necessary by the Chair, pursuant to ORS 192.660

PLEASE NOTE: Please call Terri Sharpe, at (541) 812-2006, no later than Noon on Tuesday, September 15 to confirm your attendance.

1. Welcome and Introductions (Chair)
(1:30 – 1:35 p.m.)

2. Public Comment
(1:35 – 1:40 p.m.)

Floor will be open to the public for comment.

3. Consent Calendar (Chair)
(1:40 – 1:45 p.m.)

a. Approval of July 16, 2015 Full Board Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1, Page 3).

ACTION: Motion to approve Consent Calendar.

4. Memo of Understanding between the OCWCOG and the United Way of Benton and Lincoln Counties and between the OCWCOG and the United Way of Linn County (Chair)
(1:45 – 1:55 p.m.)

The Chairs of OCWCOG, United Way of Benton and Lincoln Counties and the United Way of Linn County will be presented with a Memo of Understanding to be signed, forming an Alliance committing the organizations in working together as efficiently and effectively as possible. (Attachment 2, Page 9 and Attachment 3, Page 11).

ACTION: Signing of the Memo of Understanding between OCWCOG and the United Way of Benton and Lincoln Counties; and between OCWCOG and the United Way of Linn County.

5. Transitioning the Senior Services Foundation back to OCWCOG (Fred Abousleman)

(1:55 – 2:10 p.m.)

Staff will provide an overview on transitioning the Senior Services Foundation back to the COG.

Action: Motion to bring the Senior Services Foundation back to COG, and have the Executive Committee members as well as other interested Board members assume short-term leadership over the Foundation.

6. COG Update, Policy and Regional Developments (Fred Abousleman)

(2:10 – 2:20 p.m.)

The Executive Director will provide an update on the latest policy and regional developments.

ACTION: Information and report only.

7. Program Update Question and Answers (All Program Directors)

(2:20 – 2:25 p.m.)

Staff will be available to answer any questions from the Board on the program updates (Attachment 4, Page 13 and Attachment 5, Page 15)

ACTION: Information and report only.

8. Update on 501C3 Actions (Fred Abousleman)

(2:25 – 2:30 p.m.)

Staff will update the Board on progress with the Community Development Corporation.

ACTION: Information only.

9. Information Sharing

(2:30 – 2:50 p.m.)

Representatives from each member jurisdiction can share recent major events and activities with their Board colleagues.

10. Other Business

(2:50 – 2:55 p.m.)

11. Adjournment

(3:00 p.m.)

The meeting locations are wheelchair accessible. If you need special assistance please contact Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments at (541) 967-8720, forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FULL BOARD MINUTES
July 16, 2015**

- MEMBERS:** Mayor Sharon Konopa, Albany; Commissioner Anne Schuster, Benton County; Councilor Mike Caughey, Harrisburg; Councilor Ron Thexton, Monroe; Councilor Debbie Nuber, Scio; Councilor Jeffrey Goodwin, Sweet Home; Councilor Jim Lepin, Millersburg; and, Mayor A.J. Mattila, Depoe Bay.
- VIDEO:** Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County; Councilor Dean Sawyer, Newport; Councilor Chester Noreikis, Lincoln City; and, Port Commissioner Walter Chuck, Port of Newport.
- STAFF:** Deputy Director Lydia George; Program Manager Mary Kay Fitzmorris; Network Operations Specialist Troy Grover; CED Program Director Charlie Mitchell; Human Resources Manager Eric Wolke; Program Supervisor Ann Johnson; Program Manager Randi Moore; Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett; Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe; and, Transportation Options Coordinator Tarah Campi.
- GUESTS:** Chair Mike Volpe, Disability Services Advisory Council; Vice-Chair Catherine Skiens, Senior Services Advisory Council; Rusty Burton, Disability Services Advisory Council; Margaret Wells, Senior Service Advisory Council; Cara Walter, *State of the Region* Fellow; Cathy Savage, Homecare Provider; Teri Jefferson, Homecare Provider; Sara Hartstein, Regional Tobacco Prevention Partnership; Kacey Urrutia, Regional Tobacco Prevention Partnership; Cathy Savage, Regional Tobacco Prevention Partnership; and Alicia Griggs, Regional Tobacco Prevention Partnership.

Chair Sharon Konopa called the Full Board meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. on July 16, 2015 in Albany, Oregon.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began with introductions of those present.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar made by Commissioner Bill Hall, seconded by Commissioner Anne Schuster. Motion passed unanimously. Items approved were: 1) Approval of the May 21, 2015 Full Board Meeting Minutes; 2) Approval of the Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC) Membership for Margaret Wells of Lincoln County; 3) Approval of Disability Services Advisory Council Membership (DSAC) for Lee Lazaro of Benton County; and, 4) Approval of the Renewal of Membership for SSAC & DSAC Members.

4. Regional Tobacco Prevention Partnership Presentation

Sara Hartstein, Representative from the Regional Tobacco Prevention Partnership presented background, benefits, and strategies of the Regional Tobacco Prevention Partnership (RTPP). RTPP

is a project consortium between Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties Public Health Departments, Inter-Community Health Network/Community Care Organization (IHN/CCO), and many community partners. Their focus is on tobacco use across different demographics that included Veteran's, seniors, people with disabilities, and people with low income and social economic status.

Ms. Hartstein gave a synopsis about what having a tobacco free property policy might look like for the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (COG). Deputy Director Lydia George inquired how other social service agencies handle monitoring a smoke free campus. Ms. Hartstein stated educational awareness about the policy and reminders to the public about tobacco-free property.

Commissioner Shuster inquired about tobacco-free policies and who sets them. Ms. Hartstein stated that policies are made at multiple levels. The State has the Clean Air Act which states that no tobacco products can be used inside public buildings or within 10 feet of any access to the building, which also includes electronic smoking devices. However, cities, counties, and other establishments can enact their own tobacco-free property policy that is stricter than the State law.

Councilor Ron Thexton inquired about grants available. Ms. Hartstein stated that all counties and tribes in Oregon are eligible for the Tobacco Prevention Education Program grant, which is available annually. The SPArC grant will also be available next year.

Councilor Debbie Nuber inquired about assistance from one's physician and insurance companies with the help of tobacco cessation. Ms. Hartstein said that insurance companies must provide at least \$500 toward tobacco cessation.

Chair Konopa thanked Ms. Hartstein and her team for the work they are doing.

5. Proclamation to Recommit to Full Implementation of the ADA

On behalf of the DSAC, Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett brought forth the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Proclamation for Board adoption. This is the 25th anniversary for ADA and many changes have occurred across the country due to the Act. Ms. Bennett provided a sample proclamation for those who wished to take a copy back to their jurisdiction.

DSAC Chair Mike Volpe stated there are many great successes with ADA, but there is still room for improvement. People are still looking for employment and adequate housing, and there are still businesses that are inaccessible to the disabled. Chair Volpe provided a little history of the ADA and thanked the Board for their support.

Chair Konopa requested Ms. Bennett send an electronic version of the proclamation to each city's Mayor, Chair, or Commissioner along with a statement that COG's Board of Directors adopted the ADA Proclamation, and recommends it be read.

Motion to adopt the Americans with Disabilities Act Proclamation made by Commissioner Schuster, seconded by Councilor Jim Lepin. Motion passed unanimously.

6. State of the Region Presentation

Transportation Options Coordinator Tarah Campi provided an overview of the *State of the Region* Project to the Board. The Project is a yearlong effort and will culminate in September at the

Regional Summit. Data presented takes a look at economic indicators and demographic trends throughout the three counties. This is an inaugural event for COG with invitations going out to all Board Members, elected officials, and business leaders throughout the three counties.

The *State of the Region* Summit will be held Thursday, September 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Samaritan Center in Lebanon. The Full Board meeting will take place at the same location immediately following the Summit.

7. Report on the Health and Transportation Forum and Community and Economic Development (CED) Program Updates

CED Director Charlie Mitchell, provided a brief report on the *Health and Transportation Forum*, an event highlighting the linkages between Transportation and Health and an update on the status of the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), which is expected to be completed in September.

CED Director Mitchell said there has also been a lot of discussion around expanding the service at the Eugene airport. Mitchell stated they are just beginning pilot work, with the help of an Oregon State University grad student, and are looking at mid- or late-fall before they have more information around the issues and strategies of the project. If it is decided to move forward, Lane, Douglas, and Coos Counties will need to be engaged in the discussions.

Councilor Chester Noreikis questioned whether the number of Rideline trips increasing from 6,500 to 12,300 trips per month over a two month period was sustainable. CED Director Mitchell said they will staff according to the demand. Councilman Noreikis asked if there is funding to accommodate this increase. CED Director Mitchell responded yes, because funding is based on participation and enrollees.

Commissioner Schuster stated Highway 20 is a problem, and would like to see it on the *Health and Transportation Forum's* agenda soon. CED Director Mitchell said that money has been set aside to conduct a Highway 20 corridor study. They are looking at putting in a center rumble strip on Highway 34 and he suspects the same will happen with Highway 20.

Chair Konopa is concerned with the number of fatalities that are occurring on both Highways 20 and 34. Evidently this is a statewide issue due to distracted drivers and speed, and not the transportation system. Safety is a major concern, but unfortunately transportation funding at both the state and federal levels is not happening.

8. COG Update, Policy, and Regional Developments

Deputy Director Lydia George was available to answer any questions on Executive Director Fred Abousleman's report. Deputy Director George pointed out the attached sample letter to the Legislature, signed by Chair Konopa, thanking them for their support for programs that serve seniors and people with disabilities, and also encouraging them to continue to fund the Options Counseling Program.

Counselor Noreikis inquired if the Ford Family Foundation was receptive of the proposals and suggestions from Executive Director Abousleman when he met with them. Deputy Director George concurred that they were, and Executive Director Abousleman would be happy to provide a more detailed report on the discussion at the September meeting.

Deputy Director George reported that COG continues to be visible in the communities and building stronger partnerships in order to provide better services to the region.

Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Program Updates

Community Programs Manager Randi Moore, provided an overview of the Legislative process for the SDS budget allocations. Overall this was a positive session for them with the majority of their programs being funded at the same level as last year, with the exception the *Gatekeeper Program* and *Options Counseling*. With the increase in advocacy and with the help of Chair Konopa's letter, they were able to bring *Options Counseling* back in the budget through the Christmas Tree Bill. Unfortunately, the *Gatekeeper Program* was not added back in the budget. Sequestration mitigated funds, which will help keep the Older Americans Act funding stable for the next biennium.

DSAC Chair Volpe asked if they would try to bring the *Gatekeeper Program* back in the next session. Community Programs Manager Moore stated that it is hard to quantify the work, and they plan to continue getting the information out into the communities through other avenues. DSAC Chair Volpe shared the success on continued funding for *Oregon Project Independence*.

Commissioner Schuster asked how sequestration affected the programs. Community Programs Manager Moore said State sequestration mitigation was restored back in the budget for this next biennium, so they will be able to continue the programs with the same level of funding.

Community Programs Manager Moore thanked everyone for their continued support in advocating for funding *Options Counseling*.

9. Information Sharing

Lincoln City - Councilor Noreikis said the Lincoln City Library Program has been very successful this summer. Use of the Community Center has increased, as well as the Hospitality Industry Occupancy levels. Economically, the City is looking very healthy.

Port of Newport – Port Commissioner Chuck reported that the Salmon Commission put on a well attended salmon event last week, and they will also be sponsoring a tuna cook off the first week in August. Negotiations with the State and their prospective shipping client is going well, and several grant applications are looking favorable.

Lincoln County - Commissioner Bill Hall said the County is spending a lot of time in contract negotiations and that four of their five bargaining units' contracts are expiring. The Commissioner is looking forward to the Lincoln County Fair held on August 13th – 15th.

Newport - Councilor Dean Sawyer said the City's hospitality occupancy levels are up. The City donated four city lots to Habitat to Humanity. Councilor Sawyer also reported the sad news of the passing of Judge Hills who had worked for Lincoln County for 42 years. The City recently passed a smoke free ordinance banning smoking in city parks.

Albany - Chair Konopa asked Commissioner Hall if Lincoln County's revenue was up on their lodging tax from the previous year. Commissioner Hall did not know for sure, but knew they budgeted for a small increase in the two to three percent range. Chair Konopa stated that Albany was up 17 percent.

Depoe Bay - Mayor Mattila said that tourism is up and he is looking forward to a great summer.

Harrisburg - Councilor Caughey said the City is in the process of conducting a water study, researching ways of improving water quality. Their Fourth of July celebration was successful with 17,000 plus people in attendance. The third weekend in August the City will host their second annual harvest fest. There are concerts in the park every Tuesday night through July, and movies in the park every Friday night through August.

Scio - Councilor Nuber said they will be hosting a Reggae Festival July 24th – 26th, and that they are in the process of planning a two day festival celebrating Scio's 150th birthday.

Councilor Caughey shared that Harrisburg is also celebrating its 150th birthday next year and was incorporated on the same day as Scio.

Sweet Home - Councilor Jeffrey Goodwin reported that their Sportsman Holiday was held last weekend that included fireworks and a parade. The Oregon Jamboree will take place on July 31st this year.

Benton County - Commissioner Schuster said that this will be her first fair in Corvallis as a Commissioner and she gets to judge a baby contest. She feels there is real progress with their Health Department and Law Enforcement working together. She is involved in the Regional Accelerated Innovator Network (RAIN), and is working on the Homeless Oversight Committee.

Monroe - Councilor Thexton reported that the City recently passed their budget, and they are working on the Monroe Fest for September.

Millersburg - Councilor Lepin said language for the Utility Project in Millersburg has been drafted and finalized. The City continues to grow with 80 homes built in the last year. There has been an increase in crime recently, primarily car break ins, so the city included an invitation, in the residents' water bill, to attend a crime prevention forum.

SSAC - Vice Chair Catherine Skiens shared that the Linn County Fair started yesterday and encouraged everyone to attend. Members from the SSAC and DSAC meet with Representative Andy Olson once a month, and Representative Dan Rayfield has also committed to meeting with them once month.

Chair Konopa asked if Senator Sara Gelser will be meeting with them too. Chair Konopa suggested Deputy Director George reach out to the Senator to see if she would be willing to do this as well.

DSAC - Chair Volpe said he enjoys meeting with Representative Olson and finds him to be more relaxed, with more time to spend with them, when they meet outside of Salem. Chair Volpe will also speak with Senator Gelser in regards to meeting with the group from the Advisory Councils.

Albany - Chair Konopa said that Albany is experiencing a lot of commercial development. There are a couple of restoration projects taking place downtown, and Lowes and Winco are coming in. The concerts are doing well with *Three Dog Night* playing in a couple weeks. The big concert will be at the Arts and Air Show the third weekend in August with Chris Daughtry playing. The concerts are free, with donations accepted.

10. Other Business

Deputy Director George introduced the new Human Resources Manager Eric Wolke, and said that General Administration is now fully staffed.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Minutes by Terri Sharpe



STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL ALLIANCE

between

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG)

and

The United Way of Linn County (UWLC)

I. PARTIES

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (hereafter “OCWCOG”) and the United Way of Linn County (hereafter “UWLC”) to establish a professional alliance between OCWCOG and UWLC.

II. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In an effort to develop practical and meaningful collaborations with other non-profit, professional, and/or associations and organizations that are engaged in furthering improvements to public health and community engagement, OCWCOG hereby recognizes UWLC as a professional alliance.

OCWCOG acknowledges that UWLC's mission is to increase the organized capacity of people to care for one another. In other words, UWLC amplifies the good work being done by social service agencies, while also leading and challenging the community to dig out and remove the root causes of our most pressing problems.

UWLC acknowledges that OCWCOG's mission is to foster cross jurisdictional, cost effective, and efficient regional solutions to local governments in providing service to their constituents. OCWCOG is a leader in promoting and coordinating such efforts at the regional level.

OCWCOG and UWLC jointly strive to promote, support, and advance the missions and goals of each association and to work together whenever possible and appropriate. To this end, this Statement of Alliance constitutes a pledge to work together on shared joint goals.

III. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

The rights and privileges of OCWCOG and UWLC as a professional alliance shall include:

1. Receiving invitations to attend sponsored events, such as conferences.
2. Participating, by invitation, in an advisory capacity to applicable projects, provided each association's expertise is comparable and relevant to the project.
3. Participating in presentations given to applicable audiences where appropriate.
4. Distributing general information, sensitive, but unclassified data, announcements, press releases, articles, etc., as deemed suitable by each association.

IV. OBLIGATIONS

The obligations of OCWCOG and UWLC, as a professional alliance shall include:

1. Participating in sponsored events, conferences, or online meetings, and contributing in projects and/or presentations, as requested.
2. Distributing relevant items, via websites or other venues as deemed suitable.
3. Collaborating, when appropriate, in the development of local, regional, state, and Federal policies and standards furthering the objectives of improved information sharing for the betterment of our communities and.
4. Agreeing, when appropriate, to jointly pursue funding for the betterment of our communities and populations.

V. EFFECT OF THIS AGREEMENT

This MOU is a formal expression of the purpose and intent of the concerned Parties and is not intended, nor should it be construed, to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law, equity, or otherwise, by any third party against the Parties, their parent agencies, or the officers, employees, agents, or contractors thereof.

A. Dissolution of the Alliance Partnership

The professional alliance established above shall persist as long as it provides a basis for working together and can be ended by either party if it determines that its continuation is no longer in the best interest.

B. Cost

There is no cost associated with becoming or maintaining a professional alliance and both associations will pay all its own costs for travel and other expenses to attend meetings and general discussions pertaining to the other association.

C. Other Privileges and Obligations

No other rights, privileges, or obligations other than those specifically defined in this MOU will be granted to, or be the responsibility of UWLC or OCWCOG, as a result of this professional alliance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this MOU by the signatures of the duly authorized representatives of each on the dates indicated.

Joe Vincent, Board President
 UWLC
 United Way of Linn County

DATE

Honorable Sharon Konopa, Chair
 OCWCOG
 Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments

DATE



STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL ALLIANCE



between

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG)

and

The United Way of Benton & Lincoln Counties (UWBLC)

I. PARTIES

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (hereafter "OCWCOG") and the United Way of Benton & Lincoln Counties (hereafter "UWBLC") to establish a professional alliance between OCWCOG and UWBLC.

II. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In an effort to develop practical and meaningful collaborations with other non-profit, professional, and/or associations and organizations that are engaged in furthering improvements to public health and community engagement, OCWCOG hereby recognizes UWBLC as a professional alliance.

OCWCOG acknowledges that UWBLC's mission is to increase the organized capacity of people to care for one another. In other words, UWBLC amplifies the good work being done by social service agencies, while also leading and challenging the community to dig out and remove the root causes of our most pressing problems.

UWBLC acknowledges that OCWCOG's mission is to foster cross jurisdictional, cost effective, and efficient regional solutions to local governments in providing service to their constituents. OCWCOG is a leader in promoting and coordinating such efforts at the regional level.

OCWCOG and UWBLC jointly strive to promote, support, and advance the missions and goals of each association and to work together whenever possible and appropriate. To this end, this Statement of Alliance constitutes a pledge to work together on shared joint goals.

III. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

The rights and privileges of OCWCOG and UWBLC as a professional alliance shall include:

1. Receiving invitations to attend sponsored events, such as conferences.
2. Participating, by invitation, in an advisory capacity to applicable projects, provided each association's expertise is comparable and relevant to the project.
3. Participating in presentations given to applicable audiences where appropriate.
4. Distributing general information, sensitive, but unclassified data, announcements, press releases, articles, etc., as deemed suitable by each association.

IV. OBLIGATIONS

The obligations of OCWCOG and UWBLC, as a professional alliance shall include:

- 1. Participating in sponsored events, conferences, or online meetings, and contributing in projects and/or presentations, as requested.
- 2. Distributing relevant items, via websites or other venues as deemed suitable.
- 3. Collaborating, when appropriate, in the development of local, regional, state, and Federal policies and standards furthering the objectives of improved information sharing for the betterment of our communities and.
- 4. Agreeing, when appropriate, to jointly pursue funding for the betterment of our communities and populations.

V. EFFECT OF THIS AGREEMENT

This MOU is a formal expression of the purpose and intent of the concerned Parties and is not intended, nor should it be construed, to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law, equity, or otherwise, by any third party against the Parties, their parent agencies, or the officers, employees, agents, or contractors thereof.

A. Dissolution of the Alliance Partnership

The professional alliance established above shall persist as long as it provides a basis for working together and can be ended by either party if it determines that its continuation is no longer in the best interest.

B. Cost

There is no cost associated with becoming or maintaining a professional alliance and both associations will pay all its own costs for travel and other expenses to attend meetings and general discussions pertaining to the other association.

C. Other Privileges and Obligations

No other rights, privileges, or obligations other than those specifically defined in this MOU will be granted to, or be the responsibility of UWBLC or OCWCOG, as a result of this professional alliance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this MOU by the signatures of the duly authorized representatives of each on the dates indicated.

Aaron Manley, Board President
UWBLC
United Way of Benton & Lincoln Counties

DATE

Honorable Sharon Konopa, Chair
OCWCOG
Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments

DATE



1400 Queen Ave SE • Suite 201 • Albany, OR 97322
 (541) 967-8720 • FAX (541) 967-6123

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 17, 2015

TO: OCWCOG Board of Directors

FROM: Charlie Mitchell, Community and Economic Development Director

RE: Community and Economic Development (CED) Program Report

Recent activities in CED are highlighted as follows:

Planning/ Transportation/ Brokerage

- **Safe Routes to School:** A third team meeting was held on August 19th in Sweet Home. Action Plan addressing goals for promoting walking and biking at Oak Heights Elementary, with District-level policy recommendations, will be completed by fall. An Action Plan for Oceanlake Elementary School in Lincoln City will also be completed by the fall. CED will be ordering approximately 125 bike helmets this quarter with ODOT funds to support transportation safety in Lincoln City. We have the potential of hosting a statewide Safe Routes event in our region in 2016. A final team meeting for Safe Routes to School in Sweet Home is set for September 22. Walk and Bike to School Day will be October 7.
- **Transportation Options:** We are gearing up for fall outreach including the third-annual statewide Oregon Drive Less Challenge, coming up October 5-18.
- **RideLine Brokerage:** Our efforts were recognized during an Inter-Community Health Network (IHN) celebration in Albany recently as a “Health Hero.” Over 8,000 community members have been served and over 250,000 trips for service have been provided in the two years since coordination through the Coordinated Care Organization (CCO).
- **Linn County Special/Rural Transportation:** CED Senior Planner, Mark Volmert has retired as of September 1; the Special Transportation Fund (STF) contract between the COG and Linn County will end at that time.
- **CWACT:** The Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACT) held its July meeting in Toledo. The CWACT Executive Committee met August 27 at the Linn County Courthouse. Beginning in September, staffing support from the COG to the CWACT will be transitioning with Mark Volmert's retirement. The CWACT and the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) will be reviewing STIP Enhance project applications over the next several months.

Lending (Fiscal year-end)

- Linn County - Approved loan for \$250,000 – total project \$1,115,050 – projected funding in September
- Lincoln County - Loan –under review - \$135,000 – total project \$450,000 – projected funding in October
- Volume is picking up and new inquiries continue to come in with bank participation.

Economic Development

- CEDS Update: The five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the four-county Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) is complete in draft form and the document is now out for public comment and review through September 4.

Other Items

- The TGM planning grant applied for related to studying improvements in the Yachats/ Florence connection was not funded, but staff will continue to work to address issues.
- The COG will be assisting Benton County, the City of Monroe and a group of stakeholders in convening a discussion on a potential Bailey Branch trail project.
- The COG may be assisting Lincoln County with an EPA Brownfield Assessment grant.
- The COG is assisting the Port of Newport with an EDA project funding proposal to increase export freight opportunities.
- The COG plans to work with AARP with a regional “Age-Friendly Communities” initiative.
- The COG plans to use an OSU intern to help us frame a discussion related to enhancing commercial aviation services in the region.



Senior and Disability Services

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203 N Main St • Toledo, OR 97391
(541) 336-2289 • (541) 336-8103 TTY/Voice • (800) 282-6194



Area Agency on Aging

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 17, 2015

TO: OCWCOG Board of Directors

FROM: Randi Moore, Community Programs Program Manager
Marci Howard, Medicaid Programs Program Manager

RE: Senior and Disability Services Updates

Foster Grandparent Program Grant Award

The Honorable Congressman Peter DeFazio attended an event at the Albany office of Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) on August 26, to acknowledge and show his support for the *Foster Grandparent Programs* in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln, Counties. Board Chair Sharon Konopa served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Congressman DeFazio administered the Senior Corps pledge to Senior Corps volunteers entering service.

Foster Grandparent volunteers serve one-on-one as mentors and tutors to local school-aged children. The *Foster Grandparent Program* is intergenerational, providing volunteers age 55 and over the opportunity to mentor, nurture, and support children with special or exceptional needs, or who are at an academic, social, or financial disadvantage.

In-Home Program

In 2013, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) released a final rule (to become effective January 1, 2015) related to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that extended wage and overtime protections to home care workers and personal support workers. It established the requirement to pay overtime for all hours worked beyond 40 in a work week, the requirement that all hours must be paid at or above minimum wage, and the requirement that home care workers and personal support workers be paid for their travel between consumers' care settings. In August of 2015 the U.S. appeals Court overturned the previous decision, thus determining home care workers are in fact eligible for overtime.

Due to Oregon's unique in-home program serving seniors and people with physical and intellectual/developmental disabilities where service recipients are the employer for their workers, it was unclear whether the state would be considered a third-party/joint employer for home care workers and personal support workers. The DOL provided clarification that Oregon would in fact be the joint employer.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) has begun implementing changes to the in-home program, such as a 50 hour per week cap for each homecare worker per consumer and revision to live-in program criteria. Efforts to change the homecare worker payroll system (vouchers) and include travel are underway and are projected to be implemented January 2016.

As we implement these changes we will evaluate the impact to consumers and mitigate any changes to services by providing other resources and referrals.

Senior Meals/Meals on Wheels

The Senior Meals program served approximately 1,232 individuals a total of 35,102 hot meals throughout the region within the last two months. A breakdown by county is as follows:

- Linn County - Served 739 individuals 21,904 hot meals
- Benton County - Served 137 individuals 4,944 hot meals
- Lincoln County - Served 356 individuals 8,254 hot meals

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Regionally, there are 461 volunteers who served approximately 3,427 hours during July and August. A breakdown by county is as follows:

- Linn County – 135 volunteers who served 1,455 hours
- Benton County – 212 volunteers who served 1,175 hours
- Lincoln County – 114 volunteers who served 797 hours

Together, these volunteers assisted 22 different agencies across the region.

Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance Program (SHIBA)

SHIBA assisted 511 clients during July and August throughout the Linn, Benton, and Lincoln County area. A breakdown by county is as follows:

- Linn County – 302 clients assisted
- Benton County - 94 clients assisted
- Lincoln County - 115 clients assisted

Medicare Classes – 50 individuals from across the region enrolled.