

**Joint
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)
and
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)
Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 7, 2017**

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

DSAC Members Present: Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Chair; Mike Volpe, Vice Chair; Lee Lazaro; Jann Glenn; Pete Rickey; and Edythe James.

ADRC Members Present: Sandy Potter and Suanne Jackson.

Guests: Mitzi Naucner; Carolyn Fry; Cathy Savage; Marilyn Winter; Don Taylor; Marie Laper; Robynn Pease; and Kath Schonau.

Members Absent: Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County; Bill Turner; Dani Marlow; Suzanne Brean; and Rusty Burton.

Staff: Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director Dave Toler; Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett; SDS Program Manager Mary Kay Fitzmorris; and SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Additions to the Agenda (Bob Daley, SSAC Chair):
Chair Bob Daley called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm. Introductions were made, including guests.

2. Approval of Minutes:

ACTION: Motion to approve the December 6, 2016 SSAC/DSAC Joint meeting minutes with the following revisions: 1) under agenda item 5, advising the Director; strike "Samaritan is taking over the Hospital to Home Program at the Albany Hospital," with the sentence reading "and now Samaritan is taking over the evidence based Living Well Programs;" 2) under agenda item 6, Member Report; change Associate Professor to Assistant Professor made by Lee Strandberg, seconded by Lee Lazaro. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Member Report (Carolyn Mendez-Luck, SSAC Member):

At the December Joint Council meeting, Carolyn Mendez-Luck gave an overview of her research on aging related health disparity and long-term care. Due to time

restraints Mendez-Luck was unable to go over the results of her research which she shared with the Councils today.

To recap, Mendez-Luck has worked with Latino communities for about 20 years with different populations in Mexico, East Los Angeles, and Oregon. A lot of her work has been qualitative research, based around interviews with caregivers and some care receivers. One of her studies in Oregon involved interviewing Native Americans from a tribal community, a Latino community in the Willamette Valley, and a mixed community that was mostly Latino in NE Portland. Another research project involved not only interviewing caregivers and elders (care receivers), but also going into the homes and observing them to see what goes on in the home. Interviews were also done with people in the community asking them what healthy living means to them; the good parts along with the barriers.

Findings with the Latino community showed exercise and physical activity revolved around being engaged with family and having a social network. Physical activity was built into their daily lives, like walking and dancing, rather than structured exercise like going to a gym. Findings also revealed there were cultural beliefs around exercising; for instance, going out in the rain was not a healthy thing to do so it kept them from going outdoors.

Through the interviewing process Mendez-Luck also found there is a strong need for social connectedness and being bound to others. Caregivers saw they were protecting the elder by giving them companionship and protecting them from isolation and loneliness. The elder is the center of the family.

Mendez-Luck also looked at the social roles for caregivers and some of the social expectations around giving care.

- Machismo is the role of being macho and assigned to the male in the house. He is considered the breadwinner and head of the household as well as being the major decision maker.
- Marianismo is the feminine role assigned to the mother of the household. She is submissive and self-sacrificing to the needs of the family. This role is fashioned after the Virgin Mary in the Catholic religion.
- Respeto is respect, the deference shown to older adults.

Caregiving findings showed, with all the communities studied, Latinos felt caregiving at home was superior to institutional care. Care should be done at home because there is no substitution for the love and warmth received by family members, regardless if they could get better care in a facility. Because of this the institutionalization of older Latinos is delayed. In speaking with the elders they would rather their family care for them as well.

Mendez-Luck summarized the way Latinos could age in a healthy way would be by supporting interpersonal relationships, providing care and support in the home and encouraging and building on activities already embedded in their daily lives. Oregon has a small Latino population, but it is growing.

SDS Director Dave Toler thanked Ms. Mendez-Luck for her work and said he would like to use her research to better inform, culturally, SDS's caregivers. He asked if they could look at a follow up to this study, the receptiveness of some training for family caregivers, and provide them skills in coping better and providing better care to their family. Mendez-Luck said she has asked caregivers what they could use or would like to see and the most common response is education and training. Toler questioned what type of training and the best way to deliver it (workshop or classes). He would like additional information on this. Mendez-Luck suggested first looking at what the literature says and then deciding what research they would want to do.

Suzette Boydston suggested they look at the concept of training the trainer. There are lots of opportunities in Oregon for family caregiving training, but they would need to consider the training that is able to address certain communities. AARP has a new report called the *Oregon Caregiver Respite Work Group* that is available on www.actionaarp.org/oregonrespite as a resource. Daley suggested contacting the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, as they might also be a resource.

4. April Meeting Location (Janet Shinner, SSAC Member):

Janet Shinner and the staff at Lakeview will be hosting the April 4th Advisory Council meeting in Lincoln City. They will provide a traditional Oregon Coast lunch of fish and chips, and chowder. After the meeting, tours of the Lakeview Memory Care will be given, and they will also share their *Never-too-Late* technology which is a 72-inch TV that interacts with the residents and helps with behavior.

5. Issues and Advocacy Committee Chairs' Report (Mike Volpe and Suzanne Lazaro, Co-Chairs):

Issues and Advocacy Committee Co-Chair and DSAC Vice Chair Mike Volpe and Saleem Noorani attended the *O4AD Advocacy Boot Camp* at the Capital this year. They received a binder of information that includes the Legislature process, members of the Legislatures, and how to advocate with Legislators (anyone who would like copy should let Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett know). At the *Boot Camp* they talked about the Governor's recommended budget (which is dependent on raising additional revenue), cuts to *Oregon Project Independence* (OPI), and the elimination of the pilot project *OPI for Younger People with Disabilities*.

Issues and Advocacy Committee Co-Chair Suzanne Lazaro went over the ad hoc work being done by the Issues and Advocacy Committee:

- S. Lazaro, Volpe, and Bennett wrote a letter to the Legislators in our three-County Region stating the importance of OPI and Medicaid services.
- Lazaro, Volpe, Noorani, and Bennett put together portfolios on five SDS consumers who are using OPI funding or Medicaid services. A picture was taken of each consumer with a paragraph describing what their disability is, how the services allow them to stay in their home, and the benefits that are derived from staying in their home. The portfolios will be used as advocacy tools when meeting with Legislators. They are still looking for a representative from Linn County to do a portfolio on. Senator Arnie Roblan showed a lot of interest in the portfolios. Toler suggested possibly using the consumers from the portfolios to testify during the hearing for OPI or for future hearings.
- S. Lazaro and Volpe developed talking points about OPI and Medicaid, but would like to add to the list at the next Issues and Advocacy meeting. The list will be distributed to the Council members for when they send their emails out to Legislators and write letters to the editors.
- Volpe would like to write a follow up letter to Legislators to congratulate the newly elected ones and continue communication with the ones that were reelected.
- Bennett announced the next Issues and Advocacy meeting is February 21st from 1:30 - 3:00 pm, where they will get more in depth on these issues.
- S. Lazaro and Volpe are formulating a plan to get advocates from the Councils to meet in the Capital, once a month, with the 12 Senators and Representatives who represent Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties.

6. Oregon DHS Aging and People with Disabilities Cost Cutting – Revisions to Service Priority Levels (SDS Director Dave Toler):

As a Director for an AAA, the Aging and People with Disabilities role is to implement the cost cutting and revisions to service priority levels by April 1, 2017. This will change the eligibility criteria, lifting the bar higher for Medicaid services as well for OPI. The eight core Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) is the assessment used to determine eligibility for the programs. The positive side is it will add clearer definition to what makes one eligible. Currently there is no specific number on how many times a person needs assistance to qualify, but the new rules will make it a minimum of four times a month.

The downside of this revision is this does not include the number of times a person needs assistance with Service Plan needs which include eating, dressing, food preparation, etc. where assistance is usually required multiple times per day. Once a consumer is declared ineligible than these services will stop.

Of most concern are people in adult foster homes and assisted living facilities; they will lose their Medicaid services as well as their homes. OCWCOG's SDS Case Managers will be helping these people find housing, but because they will no longer be on SDS's services, SDS will not get paid, limiting the time to assist them.

Carolyn Fry asked if an impact analysis on these reductions has been done, has it been presented, and what are the Legislators responses to it. Toler said that SDS is the contractor to deliver services for APD, but they are also advocates for their consumers. He has vocalized his concern and has suggested looking at what the impacts will be and how it will cost the tax payers more money rather than save money. He was asked to write a letter for O4AD, which has been submitted, with a conversation scheduled for next week. The APD needs to cut expenses because the Legislature told them to; they need to convince the Legislature that it is not a good idea. Toler did suggest, as an alternative, to shave hours of service plans. That way no one would completely lose their services. The response back was they were considering it, but may be doing that at a later date.

When asked what the Councils could do, Toler suggested advocating as individuals and as a group. Fry asked Toler to provide talking points on what to say when advocating and to whom.

Shinner thanked Toler for his clarity in presenting this to Senator Roblan. She is terrified for the ten people in her community that will not pass eligibility and do not have families to rely on. Both Shinner and her organization wants to advocate and do whatever they can to get their voice out there.

Toler is not sure how quickly reassessment will happen. He will let everyone know when he finds out. No one will be grandfathered in, everyone has to be treated the same.

Daley encouraged everyone to come to the Issues and Advocacy meeting where they will go into more depth on this issue.

Strandberg suggested bringing this issue to the media in Portland.

Action Items:

- Doris Lamb, Fry, and Shinner will take the lead on contacting the media to cover this issue. Bennett will add this to the Issues and Advocacy's meeting agenda.
- Toler's talking points. Suzanne is concerned about the gap of the cognitive care oversight. Volpe would like to find out how many people will be cut.

Toler said the quote was 550 statewide from facilities only; he can run the numbers regionally and by County.

- There is a Transition Plan where they can utilize Medicaid funds for first and last month's rent for someone who is displaced. Funds can be spent on modifications as well; however the Transition Plan has not been approved yet.
- Daley suggested talking further about doing an impact study which can be discussed at the Issues and Advocacy meeting.
- Toler said the Association Quarterly is meeting next week and advocates from all over the State will be there. This will be a good time to strategize on what might work statewide as well as locally.
- Toler thanked everyone for serving on the Councils and for all the advocating and work they do.

7. Announcements:

Boydston shared the flyer *Forum on Aging in Rural Oregon*. This is the first conference on this subject and she feels this would be an excellent conference to attend. Mr. Daley asked that if anyone does attend to please keep the Councils informed.

Bennett asked that if anyone sees anything they think would be of interest to Councils to please send the information to her and she will get it out to the Council members.

Strandberg shared the Oregonian had article on Medicaid in Oregon in this past Sunday's paper. There was a map that showed each County and the percentage of people on Medicaid.

8. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 7, 2017.