

**Joint  
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)  
and  
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)  
Meeting  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, September 12, 2017**

**SSAC Members Present:** Bob Daley, Chair; Saleem Noorani, Vice Chair; Mark McNabb; Suzanne Lazaro; Curtis Miller; Bill Turner; Doris Lamb; Anne Brett; Carolyn Mendez-Luck; and Robynn Pease.

**DSAC Members Present:** Mike Volpe, Vice Chair; Suzanne Brean; Lee Lazaro; and Jann Glenn.

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

**Guests:** Jenna Bates; Cathy Savage; Mitzi Naucner; Kath Schonau, Don Taylor; Anita Thompson; Clark Brean; Marie Laper; and Dale Hoff.

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County; Catherine Skiens; Lee Strandberg; Suzette Boydston; Dani Marlow; Janet Shinner; Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, DSAC Chair; Edythe James; Pete Rickey; Carolyn Fry; and Rusty Burton.

**Staff:** Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Program Manager Randi Moore; Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Program Support Supervisor Ann Johnson; Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett; and SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe.

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Additions to the Agenda (Bob Daley, SSAC Chair):**  
Chair Bob Daley called the meeting to order at 11:06 am. Introductions were made, including guests.
2. **Approval of Minutes**
  - **SSAC:**  
ACTION: Motion to approve the June 6, 2017 SSAC meeting minutes made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Carolyn Mendez-Luck. Motion passed unanimously.
  - **Joint:**  
ACTION: Motion to approve the June 6, 2017 Joint meeting minutes made by Lee Lazaro, seconded by Curtis Miller. Motion passed unanimously.
  - **DSAC:**  
Tabled to the October 3, 2017 DSAC meeting due to a lack of a quorum.
3. **Issues and Advocacy Committee (IAC) Report (Ms. Lazaro and Mike Volpe, IAC Co-Chairs):**  
DSAC Vice Chair and IAC Co-Chair Mike Volpe informed the DSAC and SSAC (Councils) how, through the advocacy efforts of the Councils and others, services for seniors and people with disabilities fared well in the Legislative session. At the beginning of the session, *Oregon Project Independence* (OPI) was scheduled to have a 75% cut and the pilot project eliminated, and at the end of the session it was fully funded.

DSAC Vice Chair and IAC Co-Chair Volpe has also started advocating at a Federal level by becoming a District Activist Leader for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. His goal was to inform the Aides of Representative Peter DeFazio on the rapid rise in cost of prescription drugs that alleviated symptoms of multiple sclerosis (MS); express concern about the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act, and talk about the importance of Long-Term Services and Supports for people with MS.

IAC Co-Chair Lazaro shared with the Councils her experience advocating in Salem. She found it enjoyable to advocate with her own group, as well as others throughout the State. From the positive response she received from Representative Mike Nearman she learned that they should not judge others but rather reach out to everyone. There is a short Legislative session coming in February and she encouraged everyone to participate. The Issues and Advocacy Committee are looking at advocating at both the State and Federal level and encourage more individuals to advocate.

SSAC Vice Chair Saleem Noorani gave a synopsis of the 2017 Legislative Session wrap-up from the perspective of AARP. The Session started with a \$1.6 billion deficit, but it turned out the deficit wasn't as big as previously thought. The Department of Health Services' Long-Term Support faced an 80% cut, but through advocacy this program was able to maintain funding of \$26 million per biennium. Some of the bills that passed were: Enhanced Caregiver Options; Quality and Quantity in Long-Term Care; Housing with Services; Transportation and Mobility; Surprise Billing; and Retirement Security.

Oregon is the first State to implement a retirement savings plan which all small business owners can be a part of. In two years, this will be mandated and all employers will have to have a retirement program in place. California has a similar model that will be implemented soon with six other States following. However, the current Administration in Washington, D.C. opposes such a plan so there may be challenges. SSAC Vice Chair Noorani will forward the synopsis to anyone who is interested.

In regard to Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), Governor Kate Brown created a Commission to look at options on how to pay down \$5 billion of this expense. They have been looking at State assets to sell off.

Clark Brean inquired about the provider tax and whether the cost will be passed down to the people. SDS Program Manager Randi Moore said the provider tax revenue was used as a way to balance the budget and usually when a large system, like health care, gets taxed it is passed down to the people. If the referendum gets put on the ballot everyone should be ready to advocate at the February Legislative session. SDS Program Manager Moore will do research and provide the Councils more information on this.

#### **4. Member Report (Curtis Miller, SSAC Member):**

SSAC member Curtis Miller gave his personal bio to the Councils with one of the highlights being the first baby born in the State of Montana. He holds a MS and MSW degree in Counseling and a PHD in Psychology. His first career began as a Seventh Day Adventist minister; he then spent ten years in the war in the Middle East where he was in charge of disaster relief. He continued to head up disaster relief through the Adventist Church when he returned to the States, specializing in coats and blankets. Just recently they took up an offering across North America receiving enough in donations to be able to provide \$1 million to both Houston and Florida. In 1993, he retired from Ministry Services but wanted to continue to work in Human Services, so he went back to school and received his Doctoral degree in Psychology. He joined Linn County Mental Health and helped form the Crisis Team that has become the model for many Counties in the State. He and his wife founded a 501(3)(c) charitable organization that collects and distributes about 360 Daily Living Kits for women, men, kids, and households, as well as runs a coat drive in the winter, and a sock drive in January. While in crisis work Mr. Miller worked with a troubled teenager that believed he was stupid. Mr. Miller gave the boy an IQ test proving the boy was highly intelligent. Years later the boy showed up in Mr. Miller's office as a Marine Pilot presenting him with his special Marine Squadron Coin. Two years later, he showed up again in full officer dress and presented to Mr. Miller a flag that he had under his seat when flying in combat in Afghanistan on the anniversary of 9-11. Mr. Miller noted that he will treasure the gift.

#### **5. Social Media and DSAC (SDS Program Manager Moore):**

At a previous DSAC meeting the Council discussed using Facebook as a means for recruiting for new DSAC members, as well as increasing their presence in the Community. SDS Program Manager Moore said OCWCOG is working on an OCWCOG SDS Facebook page with the ability to have smaller advocacy support programs under the OCWCOG umbrella. They are still in the process of setting this

up. SDS Program Manager Moore will update the Councils in a month. They will need a volunteer from each Council to make posts and updates once the pages are ready.

**6. DSAC Member Application (Pete Rickey, DSAC Membership and Nominating Committee Member):**

Due to a lack of a quorum it was agreed to have an email vote.

**7. SSAC Member Application (Mark McNabb, SSAC Membership and Nominating Committee Member):**

SSAC Membership and Nominating Committee Member Mark McNabb, speaking on behalf of the Committee, recommended Marilyn Winter to the Council for SSAC membership.

ACTION: Motion to consider Marilyn Winter as a SSAC member and have her application be moved to the OCWCOG Board for their consideration made by Mr. McNabb, seconded by Ms. Lazaro. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Update (OCWCOG Program Support Supervisor Johnson):**

OCWCOG Program Support Supervisor Johnson updated the Councils on the ADRC Call Reports. These reports will be provided each month.

Presently there are four ADRC staff, three in Albany and one in Toledo with a new staff member starting in October at the Albany office.

Jann Glenn inquired about business cards to hand to those that ask her for information for people in need. SDS Program Manager Moore said business cards or brochures would be brought to the Council meetings for those that would like them. SSAC Chair Daley asked for an ADRC brochure in Spanish.

Ms. Lazaro suggested putting together another committee to conduct outreach and marketing to supplement what the SDS staff doesn't have the time to do, including posting on Facebook.

Carolyn Mendez-Luck asked if they had any demographics on the callers to enable outreach to those groups that are not being served. SDS Program Manager Moore pointed out that some of SDS's *Area Plan* goals are to reach out to the underserved in the Community, so it is important to get the demographics on each caller. The ADRC can run these reports. Ms. Lazaro asked to have demographic reports on income, race, and ethnicity in the different Counties for the October Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting.

There is also an Outcome report that can be generated to provide information on where referrals are being sent as well as referrals to SDS.

Ms. Mendez-Luck feels it is important to look at whether resources match needs, where the resources exist geographically, when the calls are coming in, and what they are for. She feels this would be an important undertaking for future outreach efforts and would like to volunteer to do this. Oregon State University has a program called *Undergraduate Research Program* where they fund students that would be interested in doing research. SDS Program Manager Moore and Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett will contact Ms. Mendez-Luck in regard to this.

**9. Executive Committee Report and Discussion (SSAC Chair Daley):**

SSAC Chair Daley gave a report from the Executive Committee meeting to the Councils. The Executive Committee is made up of the Chairs, Vice Chairs, and immediate past Chairs of SSAC and DSAC, and the Chairs of the Committees. The focus was on the efficiency, flexibility, and focus of the Councils. The 2018 calendar that was drafted by the Executive Committee was handed out to the group. SSAC Chair Daley asked for input on any other items that should be added to the calendar.

Two issues presented to the Councils for discussion and a vote entailed having only the one Joint SSAC–DSAC meeting rather than three separate meetings; and having this Joint meeting every other month (six times a year, rather than 11). The Joint SSAC-DSAC Council meetings would be a time to share ideas and talk about the work that the Committees are doing. On the in-between months, the Committees will meet and do the work that was discussed at the Joint SSAC-DSAC Council meeting. Each Council would still maintain their separate Committee. During State Legislative Sessions, each Committee could potentially hold more meetings, if needed, for advocacy.

Discussion included the flexibility in having one Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting, as well as eliminating the redundancy in three introductions and three sets of minutes. Some members were concerned about members losing interest in the Council if they are not meeting monthly. Additionally, there was concern for quorum issues, lack of engagement, loss of information, and communication issues. Mr. McNabb suggested trying it out for six months and keeping track of loss of memberships or lack of quorums. SDS Program Manager Moore said it is the commitment from SDS staff to provide the Councils with information and keep them up to date.

Bill Turner reminded everyone that this issue has come up in the past. Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) require that there be two separate Councils. He feels fewer meetings is something that they need to test; one Council might overwhelm the other with communication. There was sensitivity at one time. Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett said, in regard to the ORS, they do need to maintain separate Councils, but it does not say that the Councils cannot meet at the same time. SDS Program Manager Moore said careful consideration was given to this idea and everyone knows the importance of giving equal time to each of the Councils. There would also be an opportunity to bring the awareness of the DSAC and the work they do to the SSAC and any guests attending.

In regard to Committees, SSAC and DSAC each have their own Committees and there are certain SSAC Committees that DSAC members may sit on. Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett provided a list of SSAC Committees along with the Committee members. SSAC members who would like to be removed from the Committee they have been assigned to should contact either SSAC Chair Daley or Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett. Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett would like to entertain further discussion, at a later date, on the Committees and how to incorporate DSAC into more of the SSAC Committees, especially the Care Planning Committee.

With lack of a quorum from DSAC, Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett proposed to further the discussion and vote for the proposed calendar changes to the October 3rd meeting, allowing the Council members more time to think on these issues.

**10. Care Planning Committee (SDS Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett and SDS Program Manager Moore):**

The Care Planning meeting is currently a SSAC Committee (with plans to make it a Joint Committee) that has been dormant for years. Issues that would be addressed at the meeting could include: the State assessment tool and getting advice from the Committee on how changes can be best implemented; quality assurance; and other issues the Committee would determine.

**11. Senior and Disability Services Budget (SDS Program Manager Moore):**

Due to time restraints, Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett asked SDS Program Manager to email the SDS Budget information to the Councils.

**12. Announcements:**

Ms. Mendez-Luck announced that on Friday, September 15th, there will be a press release and roundtable discussion on two contracted reports from the Department of Human Services. One of the reports is the *Nursing Facility Report* that Ms. Mendez-Luck is responsible for. The other is the *Community Based Care Report* that covers all the other facilities. Everyone is invited to attend in person or by webinar.

Ms. Mendez-Luck announced that on Friday, September 22nd there is a class called *Technical Assistance in Grant Writing for Diverse Communities* being held at OSU from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. There is no cost.

**13. Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 3, 2017.