

**Care Planning Committee
Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

SSAC/DSAC/ADRC Operations Council Members Present: Robynn Pease, Care Planning Committee (CPC) Chair; Richard Montgomery; Sandy Potter; Suzanne Lazaro; Mike Volpe; Doris Lamb; Mitzi Naucler; and Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald.

Guests: Cathy Savage; Joann Cvar; Marie Laper; Kay McDonald; Chris Eilers; Dr. Maureen Bruns.

Members Absent: Mark McNabb; Carolyn Mendez-Luck; and Jasper Smith.

Staff: Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director; Ann Johnson, SDS Program Supervisor; Kim Cooper, SDS Executive Assistant; and Terri Sharpe, SDS Administrative Assistant.

1) Welcome and Introductions (Chair Robynn Pease):

Chair Robynn Pease called the meeting to order at 11:02 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

2) Approval of the November 3, 2020 CPC Meeting Minutes (Chair Robynn Pease):

ACTION: Motion to approve the November 3, 2020 CPC meeting minutes made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Mitzi Naucler. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Chair's Report (Chair Robynn Pease):

Chair Robynn Pease informed everyone that the Executive Committee met to discuss how to recognize the Council members who had passed last year. It was decided that the Councils would submit to the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Board of Directors a formal resolution of the names of Council members who had passed to be recognized in an OCWCOG newsletter and on their Facebook page. This would be done on an annual basis. OCWCOG Executive Director Ryan Vogt was in support of this. Other ways of recognizing deceased Council members were discussed and may be instituted as well.

Chair Robynn Pease announced that Karen Hooker, Ph.D. and a graduate student in the Oregon State University Gerontology Program are conducting research on how middle-aged women who care for parents with Alzheimer's disease, or a related dementia, work toward their own physical activity goals. They are currently looking for participants for the study and to qualify one needs to be a woman between the ages of 50-64 years, living in Oregon, and spending at least 20 hours a week caring for at least one parent or parent-in-law who has Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The study entails self-reporting for 30 days of one's care giving experience and exercise routine. In appreciation, all participants will receive a \$200 dollar stipend. If anyone knows of anyone who may be interested, and qualifies, they should let Chair Robynn Pease know and she'll send them a more formal invitation.

ACTION: Chair Robynn Pease will forward the email with the full announcement of the dementia study to the CPC and will ask the researchers for a report of their findings once the study has been completed.

4) Geriatric Care Presentation (Dr. Maureen Bruns, Samaritan Health Services):

Chair Robynn Pease introduced Dr. Bruns, a certified Geriatrician and Internal Physician, currently working as a provider through Samaritan Health Services. Her clinical interests are in geriatrics, geriatrics rehabilitation, palliative care, and end of life care. Dr. Bruns also provides care in Long-Term Care Facilities and teaches medical students. She is new to the area and is interested in connecting with the CPC and people in the community who share the same passion and interest as she does.

Dr. Bruns shared information about herself and her journey that inspired her to become a physician who dedicates herself to the older population. When she took the job with Samaritan Health Services there were no Geriatricians in the area. When the Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home came to Oregon, Samaritan piloted a program, led by Dr. John Hickey, to have a provider in the nursing home dedicated to the patients. Dr. Hickey wanted to build a geriatrics program which is why they brought Dr. Bruns on. The mission is to build a robust geriatrics program. They've started off by taking over the care of most of Samaritan's patients in the nursing homes and are currently in the Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home and Avamere. They recently expanded into the Mennonite Home and have taken over the care of some patients in foster homes that specialized in dementia care in Lebanon. A second Geriatrician, Dr. Scottie Church, moved to the area in January and they will be teaming with her. She has a small geriatric outpatient primary panel and is accepting patients in Corvallis. They are in the process of hiring a third Geriatrician who should be starting this summer. The goal is to get into all the nursing homes in the area along with doing geriatric inpatient and outpatient consults. They will have family medicine residents and internal medicine residents doing a geriatrics rotation with the hopes of influencing young medical students in the field of Geriatrics.

Samaritan is working on an abuse task force and have asked Dr. Bruns and Dr. Church to work on elder abuse. With both doctors being new to the area, Dr. Bruns is at the CPC meeting today to connect with like minds on elder abuse, dementia, and care giving that is going on in the community.

Chair Robynn Pease asked Dr. Bruns how a Geriatrician's approach is different from a regular practitioner and when might a person access geriatric care versus another type of care.

Dr. Bruns explained that in the past, an older adult was defined as somebody over the age of 65. She does not believe that is the case anymore and having an age cutoff is not necessarily accurate since everyone ages differently. Geriatricians look at not only all the medical problems, but also incorporate the functional parts such as frailty, ambulation, eating, social situations, and family dynamics. They then tie it together to what is important to the patient and direct their medical care toward that. Geriatricians are specialists in medical complexity.

Chair Robynn Pease asked everyone to share with Dr. Bruns their experiences and issues they are aware of with elder abuse.

Doris Lamb shared that she has seen forms of elder abuse with family members who aren't aware of their actions as being abuse or neglect, and with a bit of intervention from Adult Protection Services (APS) and the Case Worker they were able to turn situations around. She is also concerned with the education of doctors on what medications elders should stay away from.

Richard Montgomery shared that the experiences he has witnessed involved Memory Care facilities. The facilities have trouble maintaining staff, or having trained staff, so what often happens is the facilities will lock their doors rather than treating and taking care of their residents. The facilities have access to resources but he is unsure how much they use them. In regards to discharges, if Legal Aid is contacted by an Ombudsman or family member, and they get involved, the problem will "disappear" but not the underlying cause. He finds the facilities have a tendency of running away from lawyers but they may listen to physicians.

Chair Robynn Pease pointed out to Dr. Bruns that Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald and Doris Lamb would be two solid contacts as resources in Lincoln County.

Suzanne Lazaro, a retired Occupational Therapist, has called in complaints on staff at skilled nursing facilities and offered to talk one-on-one with Dr. Bruns on that perspective. She saw neglect and found certain facilities discharge planning to be extremely poor. She worked primary in Lane and Linn Counties.

Dr. Bruns would be interested in connecting with those who have reported elder abuse to find out about what processes are in place, what happens after the abuse is reported, and what goes well and what does not.

Kay McDonald would like, with Dr. Bruns, to make connections between the Older Adult Behavior Initiative that she and Chris Eilers are part of and suggested having an offline meeting between Dr. Bruns, Chris Eilers and herself.

Richard Montgomery recommended reaching out to talk to the Long-Term Ombudsman for the region.

Chris Eilers said he has worked with the Long-Term Ombudsman in Lane County, where they would be discreet in letting him know of certain issues. He then could make the staff aware of it and provide information on how to treat it. His focus is on mental health.

Dr. Bruns suggested setting up smaller meetings on an individual basis.

Joann Cvar inquired about geriatrics coming to Lincoln County.

Dr. Bruns said once the geriatrics team is in place they hope to extend their influence out to Lincoln County.

ACTION: – SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will send the CPC and guests contact information to Dr. Bruns.

Chair Robynn Pease invited Dr. Bruns to future CPC meetings to provide updates.

ACTION: SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will add Dr. Bruns to the CPC meeting invite list.

5) 2021-24 Area Plan Draft Review (SDS Director Randi Moore):

Part of the Area Plan's goal regarding elder abuse is to, over the next four years, improve outreach in the community explaining what elder abuse is and prevention. Next Tuesday, March 9th, a special meeting has been called where the rough final draft of the Area Plan will be shared with the Councils for their input. From there, staff will update the Plan then provide an executive summary to the OCWCOG Board of Directors. Due to the size of the Area Plan document, it will be posted on OCWCOG's web page by Thursday for everyone to review before Tuesday's meeting.

Chair Robynn Pease recapped - addressing elder abuse and neglect will be a central part of what they will be working on and looking at over the next four years. Pulling everyone together the CPC, Dr. Bruns, Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialists Kay McDonald, and Chris Eilers - will be central for that success.

ACTION: SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will send out a reminder email for Tuesday's Area Plan meeting along with the link to the Area Plan on OCWCOG's website.

6) Oregon Project Independence (OPI) Survey Results (SDS Executive Assistant Kim Cooper):

SDS Executive Assistant Kim Cooper explained, as part of developing the 2021-25 Area Plan, outreach projects in the form of surveys, were conducted to gather information on barriers and gaps happening within the communities. Three survey were sent out; Oregon Project Independence (OPI) Consumer survey, Medicaid Consumer survey, and Community Partners Who Serve Underserved Populations survey. The results of the surveys will be in the appendix area of the Area Plan.

Overall, the survey responses were positive in actions, positive in service delivery, and not too many rates of dissatisfaction responses. SDS Director Randi Moore stated they had overwhelming positive responses.

7) Agenda Planning for 2021 (Chair Robynn Pease):

Chair Robynn Pease reminded everyone that the CPC meets every other month. She asked for input on what topics and presentations the CPC would be interested in for the remainder of the year. Suggestions included:

- Presentation from Linn and Benton Counties Older Behavioral Health Specialists Kay McDonald and Chris Eilers and the new Lincoln County Older Behavioral Health Specialist when hired;
- Update from O4AD Lobbyist Nicole Palmateer-Hazelbaker on the Behavioral Health Legislation;
- Update on the Public Guardianship Program;
- Update on the Stand By Me Program;
- Report from the Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties Health Departments on how SDS's service population, who do not live in facilities, navigated getting vaccines. Identify where the cracks were in their respective plans;
- Emergency disaster preparedness - reminder of what SDS is doing to help the vulnerable and how the Councils can support those efforts;
- Technology - information on what the public access to computers are and whether SDS could provide kiosks throughout the communities;
- Using Older Americans Act dollars in designing "go bags" for SDS consumers that include some items and suggestions of other things that could be added, along with information on where to go and who to call in case of an emergency. Engage an intern for the project;
- Transportation in Lincoln County.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore will have Joann Cvar's Case Manager, Angela Potter, reach out to her with available resources in Lincoln County.

8) Other Business and Announcements:

Chair Robynn Pease announced that OSU and Benton County will have a COVID update discussion this Thursday, March 4th, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Suzanne Lazaro announced that things are just beginning to move through the legislative body. The Behavioral Health and the Emergency Preparedness bills are two bills to pay attention too in terms of change. OPI is looking good.

ACTION: Chair Robynn Pease will get together with SDS Director Randi Moore to discuss which topics and when they will be addressed this year.

9) Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:22 pm.

Next meeting: May 4, 2021 @ 11:00 am.

Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe