

**Joint
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)
and
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)
Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 3, 2021**

SSAC Members Present: Mitzi Naucler, Chair; Marie Laper, Vice Chair; Suzanne Lazaro, Issues and Advocacy Committee (IAC) Co-Chair; Bill Turner; Doris Lamb; and Lee Strandberg.

DSAC Members Present: Lee Lazaro, Chair; Allison Hobgood, Vice Chair; Joann Cvar; and Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald.

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

Guests: Phil Warnock, Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) Executive Director; Tomas Hernandez, Legal Aid Supervisor; Michelle Giammona, Aging Wisely Administrator; Bryn McCornack, Newport 60+ Activity Center Advisory Committee; Terri Fackrell, Corvallis Community Center, Supervisor; Denise Hughes-Tafen, Disability Equity Center, Executive Director.

Members Absent: Robynn Pease; Richard Montgomery; and Mike Volpe.

Staff: Ryan Vogt, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Executive Director; Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director; Ann Johnson, SDS Program Supervisor; Anita Lucke, Community Service Program (CSP) Manager; Scott Harper, CSP Supervisor; Kim Cooper, SDS Executive Assistant; and Terri Sharpe, SDS Administrative Assistant.

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Additions to the Agenda (DSAC Chair Lee Lazaro):

DSAC Chair Lee Lazaro called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

ACTION: DSAC Chair Lee Lazaro would like a presentation from the Disability Equity Center put on the Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting agenda in the near future.

2. Approval of Minutes:

ACTION: Motion to approve the June 8, 2021, Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting minutes made by IAC Co-Chair Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by DSAC Vice Chair Allison Hobgood. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Update (OCWCOG Executive Director Ryan Vogt) :

OCWCOG Executive Director Ryan Vogt attributed the innovation of the Area Plan to the Council's creativity and vision. OCWCOG is committed to investing on all levels of the plan to meet the plan's goals.

The agency will also be investing in the Leadership Team in management, inspiration, measurement, and team building. There will be investment in the OCWCOG Board of Directors in the work they do guiding OCWCOG and giving more diversity at the table. They will be investing in OCWCOG's community partners, recognizing that OCWCOG could not get the work

done without them. OCWCOG is also investing heavily in the Community Services Consortium (CSC) where he and CSC's Executive Director, Peggy McGuire, have been working closely in strengthening the CSC's and OCWCOG's partnership over the course of the last year.

Ms. Lazaro asked if there have been any recent discussions between the OCWCOG and the CSC addressing the homeless issues in our area, particularly with innovative setups for individuals.

Mr. Vogt and Ms. McGuire have been discussing this and, at the moment, they don't have a unified voice, not even a gathering spot, to address the homeless and housing instability issues. However, they are committed to figuring out how they can set the table for a larger group to get together to unite their efforts to move this further along.

Mr. Vogt has been in discussion with OCWCOG's Community and Economic Development (CED) Director, Jenny Glass, who has prior work in this arena and recognizes the impact of CED work on housing instability and homelessness. Mr. Vogt and Ms. Glass have been discussing ideas such as rezoning, land banking, and enticing developers in bundling small projects.

In response to Ms. Lazaro's question, Mr. Vogt feels it is premature to start talking about what possible solutions might be out there. This is the largest issue affecting OCWCOG's region and the State.

Lee Strandberg would like to see OCWCOG put together an umbrella organization to bring all the small groups together to collaborate and to put all their resources in one pot.

Mr. Vogt said part of OCWCOG's mission is bringing people together, not necessarily as an umbrella organization, and is looking forward to this.

Denise Hughes-Tafen asked about whether there is discussion around the impact homelessness has on the people of color and if there are different groups working on this.

Mr. Vogt said there is disproportionality in access to OCWCOG's services and in housing instability where minorities are concerned. They have put language in the Area Plan recognizing they have missed the mark, not only as an agency, but also as a community and governments across the board. The OCWCOG Board of Directors have asked them to move forward on community engagement around biased incidents response.

4. DSAC Discussion and Approval of the Revised DSAC By-laws (DSAC Chair Lee Lazaro):

DSAC Chair Lee Lazaro made suggestions on additional edits to the draft of the revised DSAC by-laws which include:

- Article III Membership
 - Definitions
 - Add a definition for DSAC Council member.
 - Add a definition for Non-Advisory Council member.
 - Item A – Mr. Lazaro commented that he has never seen a member of the OCWCOG Board of Directors at a Council meeting.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore suggested having two Council members meet with OCWCOG Executive Director Ryan Vogt and the Board of Directors Chair regarding a Board Representative attending the Joint SSAC-DSAC meetings and having a Council member represent the Councils at the OCWCOG Board of Directors meetings.

- Item B – Would like to add “or representatives of persons with disabilities” with the statement reading “The majority of the remaining members shall be people with disabilities or representatives of persons with disabilities...”

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore will investigate the DSAC rules regarding the required percentage of people with disabilities representing the Council.

- Article IV – Officers and Staffing
 - Item A. Chairperson – Would like it to read “The Chairperson may vote on any item before the Council; however, in the event the Chairperson’s vote results in a tie vote, the Chairperson shall call for a re-vote on the item and shall refrain from voting in the re-vote.”
 - Item D. Mr. Lazaro questioned whether there would be formal trainings for officers.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore would like to discuss onboarding and training of Chairs and Vice Chairs as time goes on.

- Article V – Committees
 - Item A
 - Joint Meals on Wheels – Amend the last paragraph to read - Ideally, the Joint Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee shall consist of a minimum of six and a maximum of nine members. The committee Chair may appoint at-large members to help reach the ideal membership, if there is insufficient SSAC/DSAC member representation on the committee.”
 - Joint Executive – add to the end of the first paragraph – This may be assigned on a rotational basis.
 - Joint Membership and Nominating – add the word “ideally” so the first sentence reads – Shall ideally consist of...
 - Item B – add “or work groups” after ad hoc committees.
 - Item C – Mr. Lazaro feels the sentence “Committee membership is not limited to members of SSAC/DSAC; Chairpersons may appoint additional members” should be removed from this section and put under every committee.
- Article VI – Organizational Procedures
 - Item B – add at the end of the paragraph “following the conclusion of the DSAC meeting. Staff shall conduct the email vote process and shall certify the results to committee members by email.”

SDS Director Randi Moore suggested, due to time constraints, that the suggested revisions be made to the draft revised by-laws and then the DSAC and SSAC can vote on them at the next Joint Council meeting.

5. SSAC Discussion and Approval of the Revised SSAC By-laws (SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler):

SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler had no additional edits from Mr. Lazaro’s. Mr. Lazaro’s suggested revision on Membership does not apply to the SSAC by-laws.

ACTION: SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will make DSAC Chair Lee Lazaro’s suggested edits to the draft revised DSAC and SSAC by-laws and bring them back to the table at the October 5, 2021, Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting to be voted on.

6. SSAC/DSAC 2021-22 Committees (SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler):

ACTION: SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will send out the Committee list to the Council members for them to look over. If anyone wishes to change a committee they have been placed, or not placed on, they should contact Ms. Sharpe at tsharpe@ocwcog.org.

7. Care Planning Committee (CPC) Report:

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next CPC meeting is being held on September 14th, the second Tuesday of the month.

8. Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee (MOWAC) Report (Meals on Wheels (MOW) Program Supervisor, Scott Harper):

MOW Supervisor Scott Harper reported MOW is now serving about 257,000 meals. They have about 1,900 clients among the three counties which is up about 150. They recently started opening their congregate dining sites with the site in Brownsville opening last week. With the success of the opening of the Brownsville site they have three more openings next week. They will continue opening sites every two weeks until all their sites are opened.

MOW has budgeted and ordered three delivery trucks with one due to arrive by the end of next month. There have been issues with labor and parts in getting the vehicles outfitted which is causing the delay in the delivery of the trucks.

Emergency meals are usually ordered in the Fall for diverse weather, but they are getting ready to order them now due to the talk of rolling blackouts. Mr. Harper would like to have them to the consumers in case of the loss of power.

Trio, MOW's contracted meal provider, is having issues in getting products to keep MOW running. There are shortages everywhere and what they can get is at a higher cost. So far Trio has been able to keep the cost down with only a slight increase. MOW is also having trouble receiving packaging for the meals, but they are able to keep things going and will deal with the issues as they arise.

MOWAC Chair Lee Lazaro requested Mr. Harper to schedule a MOWAC meeting within the next quarter.

ACTION: MOW Supervisor Scott Harper will set up a MOWAC meeting within the next quarter whether it be live or through Zoom.

SDS Director Moore reminded everyone that the MOWAC committees is struggling with membership and if anyone is interested, they would love to have them.

9. Issues and Advocacy Committee (IAC) Report (IAC Co-Chair Suzanne Lazaro and Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) Executive Director Phil Warnock):

IAC Co-Chair Suzanne Lazaro reported that the IAC has not had a meeting since April, but she has attended virtual follow along meetings on legislative issues. A vast number of bills that passed had to do with housing and mental health. There is a lot of interest in equity and tracking racial disparities in health care delivery and housing. DHS is looking at the ratio of staff to consumers in memory care and long-term care facilities.

There is a lot of interest from advocates in Oregon for a Federal bill called the Mental Health Access Improvement Act, which would provide Medicare funding for American family counseling

status, allowing more accessibility for mental health services for people covered under Medicare. This bill has bipartisan support. John Curtis, from the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, has been the lead advocate from Oregon. O4AD Executive Director Phil Warnock has also provided energy to the network of advocates. They are looking across the State to get consumers' stories to use in profiles for the Federal Legislators in making a case for the passing of the bill.

O4AD Executive Director Phil Warnock reported that heading into the legislative session they were dealing with COVID and the wildfires, with the economic outlook looking rocky. Things took a turn when the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) came out. There was money that Legislators had to consider for programming and budgeting which also included an increase to the Federal Medical Assistance percentage rate. Multiple things came from the ARPA in that the State now had funding for existing programs as well as money to develop potential future projects that would enhance and augment existing programs. A lot of the funds are one-time funds spent over a few years. The Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) division was funded for the biennium at \$4.67 billion dollars, an increase from \$3.9 billion dollars.

Mr. Warnock reported that O4AD is working with their counter parts around the country in raising awareness on the Mental Health Access Improvement Act. Although it is tagged as Medicare, by increasing the capacity and providers across the board it will impact Medicaid, Medicare, and all community access for mental health services. In OCWCOG's three county region there are about three and a half times more providers that can't bill than providers that are allowed to bill for mental health services, which has a tremendous impact.

Oregon Project Independence (OPI) is a State funded program which puts interventions in place to keep people living independently longer and out of higher cost services. O4AD has been pushing the State hard developing an 1115 Waiver, which is an application to the Federal Government to make this a match program where the Feds provide funding which will provide better stability for the program. This would also include the younger adults with disabilities from the pilot OPI program.

10. SDS Update and Discussion (SDS Director Randi Moore):

Due to time constraints, SDS Director Randi Moore will send her SDS update and her conversation regarding recruitment and outreach to the Councils via email.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore will email the Councils her SDS update along with the conversation she was going to have on recruitment strategies and outreach.

ACTION: Recruitment and outreach will remain on the agenda until the Councils' membership is full.

11. Other Business and Announcements:

N/A

12. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 am.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 5, 2021.

Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe.