

**Joint
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)
and
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)
Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 7, 2022**

SSAC Members Present: Mitzi Naucler, Chair; Robynn Pease, Vice Chair and Care Planning Committee (CPC) Chair; Suzanne Lazaro; Richard Montgomery, Membership and Nominating Committee (MNC) Chair; Kay McDonald; and Lee Strandberg.

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

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

Guests: Terri Fackrell, Corvallis Community Center; Angela Hibbard, Lumina Hospice; Bryn McCornack, Newport 60+ Activity Center; Kindra Oliver, Lebanon Senior Center; Michelle Giammona, Ageing Wisely; and Nancy Clayton, Volunteers of Interfaith Caregivers.

Members Absent: Mike Volpe and Bill Turner.

Staff: Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director; Ryan Vogt, Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG); Marit Nelson, OCWCOG Finance Director; Danny Magana, Ride Line Supervisor; Kim Cooper, SDS Executive Assistant; and Terri Sharpe, SDS Administrative Assistant.

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Additions to the Agenda (SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler):

SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Executive Director Ryan Vogt will be added to the agenda (Agenda Item #10) to provide an update on the agency.

2. Approval of Minutes:

ACTION: Motion to approve the April 5, 2022 Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting minutes made by SSAC MNC Chair Richard Montgomery, seconded by SSAC Vice Chair/CPC Chair Robynn Pease. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Terri Fackrell's SSAC Membership Application (SSAC Membership and Nominating Committee (MNC) Chair Richard Montgomery)

ACTION: Motion to approve the SSAC membership application of Terri Fackrell and send it to OCWCOG Board of Directors for their approval made by SSAC MNC Chair Richard Montgomery, seconded by Lee Strandberg. Motion passed unanimously.

4. SSAC Membership Renewal (SSAC MNC Chair Richard Montgomery):

ACTION: Motion to approve the SSAC membership renewal of Suzanne Lazaro and Lee Strandberg and send it to OCWCOG Board of Directors for their approval made by SSAC MNC

Chair Richard Montgomery, seconded by SSAC Vice Chair/CPC Chair Robynn Pease. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Elections of SSAC Chair and Vice Chair (SSAC MNC Chair Richard Montgomery)

ACTION: Motion to reelect SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler as SSAC Chair and send it to OCWCOG Board of Directors for their approval made by SSAC MNC Chair Richard Montgomery, seconded by Suzanne Lazaro. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Motion to reelect SSAC Vice Chair/CPC Chair Robynn Pease as SSAC Vice Chair and send it to OCWCOG Board of Directors for their approval made by SSAC MNC Chair Richard Montgomery, seconded by Suzanne Lazaro. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of Michelle Giammona's DSAC Membership Application (DSAC Membership and Nominating Committee Member Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald)

ACTION: Motion to approve the DSAC membership application of Michelle Giammona and send it to OCWCOG Board of Directors for their approval made by DSAC Past Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, seconded by DSAC Vice Chair Allison Hobgood. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Elections of DSAC Chair and Vice Chair SSAC MNC Chair Richard Montgomery):

ACTION: Motion to elect DSAC Past Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald as DSAC Chair and send it to OCWCOG Board of Directors for their approval made by DSAC Vice Chair Allison Hobgood, seconded by Joanne Cvar. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Motion to reelect DSAC Vice Chair Allison Hobgood as DSAC Vice Chair and send it to OCWCOG Board of Directors for their approval made by DSAC Past Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, seconded by Joanne Cvar. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Care Planning Committee (CPC) Report (CPC Chair Robynn Pease):

The CPC met on May 3rd, where they heard from Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) Director Mike McCormick on the State's workforce shortage issues. Highlights he addressed included initiatives that are being undertaken by APD to increase workers around the State to provide care to older adults. They included:

- Recruitment for Home Care Workers (HCW) through competitive wages, increasing benefits, and improvement of the HCW registry.
- Conducting a study of facility care workers' compensation in wages and benefits.
- Looking at ways to partner with other organizations in soliciting and recruiting grant opportunities to increase competitive wages, and to increase recruitment and retention of workers in our facilities.

The CPC also heard from SDS Director Randi Moore on initiatives SDS are undertaking to retain their Case Managers. SDS Director Moore spoken to the State about getting regionally Tiered Exceptions that would redefine how the workflow is undertaken in the agency, such as only assessing their high-risk consumers. With a 32 percent vacancy rate, Case Managers continue to feel the burnout and leave. Looking for creative ways to maintain the workforce and the mental wellbeing of her staff, SDS Director Moore reached out to the Older Adults Behavioral Health Specialist team to help address these issues.

Another key point of the meeting was a discussion on emergency preparedness which is an ongoing concern of the Advisory Councils. Ideas that came forth included:

- Go-bags that would contain emergency preparedness information and items that consumers could grab as they evacuated (SDS has 12,000 consumers).
- The need to improve wraparound backup systems for the State's antiquated database.
- SDS possibly paying for pet care for consumers during an evacuation.
- Bringing together Emergency Preparedness Officers from each County to discuss how the individual Counties are addressing and preparing for emergencies, and how they are taking care of the most vulnerable populations during emergencies.

The next CPC meeting is September 13th.

Lee Strandberg shared that the City of Corvallis conducted an evacuation exercise that was a failure due to lack of participants and communication.

Joanne Cvar shared that Lincoln County is having a test of their Alert System this Thursday.

9. Ride Line Update (Ride Line Supervisor Danny Magana):

Ride Line provides nonemergency medical transport for Medicaid clients in the three County area. This includes Intercommunity Health Network (IHN) and Oregon Health Plan (OHP) clients. There is an afterhours service as well. Just recently, they also started providing transportation through Samaritan's Medicare Advantage Plans. Where IHN has an unlimited number of rides, Samaritan's Medicare Advantage Plans have a limited amount for this first trial year. There are four plans with three of the plans offering 12 rides (six roundtrips) per year. The fourth plan offers 24 rides (12 roundtrips) per year. Transport is either in sedans or wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Ride Line receives 300 - 400 calls for rides on a normal weekday but have received up to 500 calls on a busy day. In Linn and Benton County they provide 450 – 500 rides per day and in Lincoln County around 100 per day. They also do weekend rides which is mostly to dialysis and to the Willamette Valley Treatment Center. They have seven full time call takers but currently are recruiting for more.

Samaritan will be reassessing the number of Medicare Advantage Plans rides provided after the pilot year. At this time, they have only had one consumer exhaust their allotment of rides.

SDS Director Moore offered SDS Council advocacy for increasing the number of rides offered to the Medicare clients, if needed, once the pilot is completed and IHN is doing their reassessment.

Lee Strandberg suggested having a news release on what Ride Line does to solicit public support throughout the three counties.

SDS Director Moore said they could talk to Samaritan about Mr. Strandberg's idea as well as OCWCOG's Transportation Advisory Committee.

Joanne Cvar volunteered to send any news releases out in her weekly newsletter.

Ride Line Supervisor Magana said they do have staff attend as many events as possible where they distribute flyers with Ride Line information. The calls and number of rides are increasing, but they are only at about 70% of their pre-pandemic numbers.

10. Amendment to the Agenda: OCWCOG Update (OCWCOG Executive Director Ryan Vogt):

Recruitment - OCWCOG is now hiring faster than they are losing staff and they have made a job offer on the Communication Specialist position.

Exception Tiers - the decision to request the Exception Tiers was not made lightly and they are not making the exceptions the rule. If they can make assessments, they will, and they will continue to move forward in removing the elements of the Tiered Exceptions.

Housing – OCWCOG is regularly being drawn into housing conversations. As a leader in regional issues, OCWCOG will be at every table related to housing that they are invited to. However, since it is not their expertise, they will not lead in these conversations. They are happy to co-partner or co-lead but there are more groups that are better equipped to move the conversations forward. Regarding the Housing Symposium in the Fall where the focus is on older adults and people with disabilities with medical and care needs who are homeless, OCWCOG will take a strong leadership position.

OCWCOG Strategic Plan – OCWCOG has brought on a partner to help them draft a multi-year strategic plan. Several of the SSAC – DSAC members who are in leadership positions will be invited to participate in the partnership sessions. One concern is how do they get the voice of the consumer at the table with the focus on how they heard about SDS. OCWCOG Executive Director Vogt wants to make sure that everyone who is eligible to access SDS’s services can make a conscious decision as to whether they wish to or not.

11. OCWCOG budget for the New Fiscal Year Update (OCWCOG Finance Director Marit Nelson)

OCWCOG runs on a fiscal year (July–June), and every May they try to get their budget through the OCWCOG Board of Directors for approval.

The 2022-23 budget total expenses are approximately \$51.9 million dollars for OCWCOG. This is a \$500,000 increase from last year.

The SDS program’s 2022-23 budget is approximately \$21.5 million dollars. This is an \$800 thousand increase from last year (after the January supplemental) for additional opportunities and growth. This supports 61% of personal. SDS is the largest portion of the budget.

Community and Economic Development program’s 2022-23 budget is approximately \$17.9 million dollars. This is the second largest portion of the budget and where Ride Line resides. A huge portion of the rides and the Medicaid funding flows through this portion of the budget.

Community Service Programs 2022-23 budget is the third largest portion of the budget and includes RSVP, Foster Grandparent, and Stand by Me programs.

Overall, the agency will support 201 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers in this current fiscal year. They are hoping to build in and bring on 1.5 new FTE to the support portion of the agency which includes general administration, human resources, tech, and accounting. There will be four FTE that will be new in various programs.

The 2022-23 budget is looking healthy. They have similar operating contingency numbers as last year and increasing their unappropriated balance for reserves. The budget is like last year with some growth for support and staff so the agency can better serve the communities.

12. SDS Program Update (SDS Director Randi Moore):

SDS Update:

- APS Director Mike McCormick announced his retirement. Nakisa Knight-Cole will be the interim director for APD.

- Oregon Project Independence Expansion (OPI-E) – The State asked for approval from the Centers of Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) for an adaptation of the 1115 Demonstration Waiver for allowing them to capture a Medicaid match for OPI. The soft launch has been moved from July to this Fall. What this means is those that might be eligible for Medicaid could be potentially be eligible for OPI and the State could bring down the Medicaid match to support those consumers.
- Recruitment:
 - Case Managers - SDS has five potential candidates for the Case Management positions with some of them being past Case Managers returning to the agency.
 - Medicaid Program Manager – A new position in which the candidate must know the daily operations of the Medicaid system.
- Housing Symposium – The symposium will take place in October, with the focus on homeless older adults and people with disabilities who are medically fragile and have hands on care needs. The agenda and time are still being worked out. All Council members are welcome.

13. Other Business and Announcements:

N/A

14. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 2, 2022.

Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe.