

**Joint  
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)  
and  
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)  
Meeting  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

**SSAC Members Present:** Mitzi Naucler, Chair; Suzanne Lazaro, Issues and Advocacy Committee (IAC) Co-Chair; Richard Montgomery, Membership and Nominating Committee (MNC) Chair and Lee Strandberg.

**DSAC Members Present:** Mike Volpe, IAC, Co-Chair; Joann Cvar; and Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, past Chair.

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

**Guests:** Cathy Savage; Phil Warnock, Oregon Association of Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) Executive Director; Kay McDonald, OABHS LaneCare; Bryn McCornack, Newport 60+ Activity Center Advisory Committee; Terri Fackrell, Corvallis Community Center, Supervisor; Angela Hibbard, Lumina Hospice; and Shelia Stiley, NW Coastal Housing.

**Members Absent:** Lee Lazaro, DSAC Chair; Allison Hobgood, DSAC Vice Chair; Robynn Pease, Care Planning Committee Chair; and Bill Turner.

**Staff:** Ryan Vogt, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Executive Director; Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director; Jason Sele, OCWCOG Technology Services Director; Scott Harper, Meals on Wheels 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 10:02 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

Angela Hibbard, Lumina Hospice's Director of Development, Marketing, and Outreach gave a brief introduction of herself. She is looking forward to learning more about the Councils and how Lumina might get more involved in the role they play as a community organization.

Jason Sele, OCWCOG Technology Director gave a brief introduction of himself. In the past he worked for about year and half in a foster home with developmentally disabled people. For the last three years he has been traveling in a RV doing YouTube tech training videos. He is now looking forward to being able to serve the agency with their technology needs.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the October 5, 2021, Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting minutes made by Lee Strandberg, seconded by Richard Montgomery. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. By-laws Update and Approval of DSAC Revised By-Laws: (SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe)**

An agency By-laws Committee was formed last month to standardize all by-laws within the agency with the goal of presenting the revised by-laws to the OCWCOG Board of Directors at

their March Board meeting. Before this happens, the revised DSAC by-laws need to be approved by DSAC so they are aligned with the SSAC by-laws that were approved at the October, 2021 meeting.

ACTION: Motion to approve the revised DSAC by-laws and send to the Oregon Cascades Council of Governments Board of Directors for their approval and adoption made by Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, seconded by Joanne Cvar. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Care Planning Committee (CPC) Report (SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler):**

SSAC Chair Naucler gave an update on the January 11th CPC meeting where Daniel Easdale, Case Manager from Corvallis Housing First (CHF), and Ty Pos, Director of Contracts and Outreach from Community Outreach Inc. (COI), led a discussion on homelessness in our three-county region with emphasis on seniors and people with disabilities.

The CPC also discussed agenda topics for their 2022 meetings. Recommendations included but were not limited to:

- Transportation;
- Presenter from Lincoln County on resources available in Lincoln County;
- Update from North End Senior Solutions (NESS) Club; and
- Disaster planning updates.

SDS Director Randi Moore noted that when creating the agency's four-year strategic Area Plan one of the areas they thought about addressing was housing. However, due to the broad spectrum of housing, and because it is not a specific focus with OCWCOG, it was decided SDS would support and work with other agencies by creating partnerships and bringing them to the table, like housing advocates. This would enable SDS to better understand how homelessness intersects with the programs and services SDS does support. The intersection where a person needs to have services and they are homeless, is an unmet need that SDS could have some impact on. This meeting was the first time talking to housing advocates with more to follow.

ACTION: SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will email the Care Planning Committee January meeting minutes to all present.

#### **5. Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee (MOW Report): (MOW Supervisor Scott Harper):**

The Meals on Wheels program is in the middle of their fiscal year and doing well. The number of meals served are running lower than anticipated with 91,000 hot meals and 28,000 frozen meals being served. MOW is looking at opening a new route in Monroe and the south Benton County area.

MOW Supervisor Scott Harper said that currently the Tri-County area is serving around 1,800 people with 244,000 hot meals and 4,300 Blizzard boxes served last year.

MOW received one of their first new trucks which is in the process of being fitted with heaters and refrigeration units which will then be sent to Lincoln County within the next four to six weeks. They will be getting the larger truck for the valley in approximately a month.

Congregate dining is still on hold but will reopen when the Omicron variant slows down.

There has been an increase in volunteers in the valley within the last couple of months with Corvallis and Albany near full capacity. Lincoln County could use more but they are handling it.

Trio's Customer's satisfaction survey came back with good ratings. There was a 95% rating on consumers referring meals to their friends and an increase in ratings for the overall taste of the

food. There does need to be improvement in the vegetables served so they are looking at different options, such as having them come frozen to the sites.

They are still having trouble getting packaging supplies and what they do get are double in price, so they are looking at different sources. Inflation with food cost is occurring but Trio can keep prices at the quoted price. However, if this trend continues, they may have to renegotiate if food prices don't come down.

Joann Cvar asked about the packaging materials for meals.

MOW Supervisor Harper said they do have some plastic but trying to get away from it. He would like to move toward starch-based products, but they are hard to get, very expensive, and there is the problem of them breaking down quickly.

Terri Fackrell asked about meal sites with the Tribes.

MOW Supervisor Harper said they have a meal site at the Siletz Community Tribal Center, but it shut down with COVID. There is a person that picks up hot and frozen meals and delivers them to different Tribal members. When things start reopening, they will go back to the same method they had before along with a congregate dining site.

SDS Director Randi Moore gave recognition to Lee Strandberg who is a big advocate for the MOW program. As part of the Corvallis Rotary club Mr. Strandberg makes sure the MOW is supported through the Rotary. Just recently they gave 13,000 dollars to the MOW program with matching grants coming. Mr. Strandberg also spearheaded the Tapas and Treasures MOW fundraiser that was held multiple times before COVID.

Mr. Strandberg said over the last five to six years the Rotary has raised close to \$60,000 - \$70,000 for MOW.

## **6. Executive Committee Report: (SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler)**

The Executive Committee (EC) met in December to preapprove the Joint SSAC-DSAC 2022 meeting schedule and bring it to the full Councils for their approval.

ACTION: Motion to approve the 2022 Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting schedule made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Richard Montgomery. Motion passed unanimously.

Also discussed at the meeting were goals for 2022. The primary goals the EC would like to focus on are:

- Recruitment – Both Councils are small and in need of members and would like to bring on more consumers as members.
- By-laws – OCWCOG would like to standardize all the by-laws within the agency.
- Area Plan – Would like to keep in touch with the Area Plan's goals.
- Disaster Planning – Would like to focus on this before the fire season hits.

Terri Fackrell asked what the scope of the disaster plan is with OCWCOG.

SSAC Chair Naucler replied that there hasn't been much discussion on specifics but there is advocacy that can be done such as:

- Advocating that the Transportation Plan has a plan for seniors and people with disabilities;
- Training for in-home caregivers on helping their consumers prepare for a disaster; and
- Working with everyone they meet regarding the different issues such as evacuation and shelters.

SDS Director Moore said OCWCOG will try to focus on the population they serve and how that intersects with disaster planning. They need to figure out where they need to be at the table and the advocacy they need to have.

Lee Strandberg said Dave Busby with the City of Corvallis developed a disaster plan that coordinates the different areas of the City during a disaster.

Angela Hibbard said she would support advocacy for seniors and people with disabilities for disaster situations. Lumina Hospice has had to implement their emergency plan a few times over the last few years. There is a gap in evacuating people like their patients, who are not appropriate for most things offered during an evacuation.

SDS Director Moore said this is a good example of coming to this table and perhaps OCWCOG could provide some financial support with Older American Act (OAA) funds for the most vulnerable people.

Richard Montgomery reminded everyone that SSAC Chair Naucler brought up the idea of care packages or go bags for consumers for disasters. He would like them to contain interchangeable items related to the current disaster season and deployed when needed.

SDS Director Moore said this is a great idea and is something that should be brought back to the CPC for discussion. There are currently OAA funds to support it.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore will reach out to Care Planning Committee Chair Robynn Pease to discuss bringing the topic of go bags or care packets to be put on the Care Planning Committee agenda.

## **7. Issues and Advocacy Committee (IAC) Report: (O4AD Executive Director Phil Warnock)**

Today is the start of the Legislation short session. The bills that O4AD is interested in can be found at [http://www.o4ad.org/uploads/5/9/2/2/59228911/o4ad\\_bill\\_report\\_012922.pdf](http://www.o4ad.org/uploads/5/9/2/2/59228911/o4ad_bill_report_012922.pdf). O4AD does not have any specific bills they are putting forward this session but there are a number that will have impacts that they will be tracking. A large part of this session will be the financial components of the remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds.

O4AD Executive Director Warnock asked everyone to save the date March 10th at 9:00 am there will be a forum and discussion on the results of the State's first older adults LBTQ+ survey. There will be some action items that Councils might want to consider. The format will be an overview presentation with the work group advisory participants sharing findings and thoughts, along with some recommendations for prioritizing areas that could be actionable. Additional information will be coming soon.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore will invite O4AD Lobbyist Nicole Palmateer-Hazelbaker to the next Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting to give an update on the Legislation short session.

## **8. SSAC Membership and Nominating Committee (MNC) Update: (SSAC MNC Chair Richard Montgomery)**

SSAC MNC Chair Richard Montgomery explained that with SSAC Vice Chair Marie Laper leaving the Council due to new employment that left the Vice Chair position open. The MNC appointed SSAC Member and Care Planning Committee Chair Robynn Pease as the new Vice Chair.

SSAC Chair Naucler asked if the Membership and Nominating Committee had a plan for recruiting new Council members.

Joann Cvar said she is a member of the Linn Benton National Federation of the Blind, and she will reach out to the members to see if any of them would be interested in being a part of the Councils.

Lee Strandberg said if there was a written description of the Councils then he could send it out to 50 – 60 people for recruitment.

Joann Cvar said she has group in Lincoln County that she sends a weekly newsletter to, and she also would send out any written recruitment for Council members.

Terri Fackrell said if she had a description of the Councils, she too could put it in the Corvallis Community Center's newsletter.

SSAC MNC Chair Montgomery suggested sending a pamphlet with a description of the Councils out with the Meals on Wheels delivery.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore and SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will work on a description of the Councils for recruitment of Council members. Once a draft has been written then a meeting with the Joint Membership and Nominating Committee will be scheduled in March.

## **9. SDS and Community Services Programs Update (SDS Director Randi Moore):**

SDS Update:

- SDS is still understaffed in the Case Management department with six positions open currently. They have been recruiting for the last two years. This is not unique to OCWCOG but something that is being experienced by a lot of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). Currently, 32 percent of SDS's cases are uncovered by a Case Manager which causes fatigue and burnout among those that must pick up the work, thus ending with other Case Managers leaving the agency.

At the same time, as of January, Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) is asking Case Managers to return to field work, where for the last couple of years they have been doing virtual assessments. This is important for the consumer but can be stressful for both consumer and staff regarding safety. APD did give the AAA's the opportunity, on a local level, to make decisions about safety for their consumers and their staff. SDS is screening the consumers along with doing a risk assessment before making the decision about a face-to-face visit.

SDS Director Moore is reaching out to APD Director Mike McCormick asking to lighten critical mission functions for next six months where SDS takes long term stable cases, do a risk assessment over the phone, and if nothing has changed, then extend their assessment out for another year. This would be only for the number of uncovered assessments they have that month.

If APD Director McCormick declines this request, then SDS Director Moore will have to decide how they will keep their programs stable and will be asking for advocacy on the long-term effects on the workforce across all AAA in how they are handling their work.

- OCWCOG just held their first hiring event at the Albany office. They had about 10 interested people walk in with about five who looked qualified. SDS Director Moore felt it was

successful and would like to continue with other recruitment by bringing other agencies on board to get more applicants in the door.

SDS Director Moore said they also are open to the idea of Home Care Workers (HCW) coming and applying for a job through that process. They did not have any come through the door at the Albany event, but an In-Home Assistant was sent to an event in Lincoln County where there were a few HCW who thought about applying.

Joann Cvar said she sends out a weekly newsletter to 400 people in Lincoln County and if someone could send her a notice of an event, she could include that in the newsletter.

ACTION: SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will send any notice of HCW recruitment events to the Councils and Community Partners for them to pass on.

Angela Hibbard suggested going through the local Chambers and using Google ads for recruitment.

Terri Fackrell suggested hosting a job fair at the Corvallis Community Center and enlisting Oregon State University students to assist or even apply for jobs. They have various size rooms for the fair and interviewing.

- SDS is about six months into the four-year strategic Area Plan. COVID is making things challenging but SDS Director Moore would like to provide information on where SDS is at with the plan at the next meeting.

ACTION: SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will put Area Plan update on the Joint SSAC-DSAC April agenda.

- The Stand By Me program (a coaching program for financial wellness) was just recently awarded a \$125,000 grant. SDS Director Moore would like to eventually bring this program to more community partners across the three-county region.
- SDS is starting a depression reduction pilot program called Behavioral Activation to support veterans. The Older Adult Behavior Health Initiative is leading the program with Samaritan Health Services Vet Officer being involved as well. SDS Director Moore will keep everyone updated.

Terri Fackrell asked to be contacted if Corvallis Community Center could help support the Behavioral Activation program.

Angela Hibbard said Lumina Hospice serves many veterans and would like more information regarding the program.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore will contact the Older Adult Behavior Health Initiative and have them connect with Terri Fackrell and Angela Hibbard.

- SDS is sending out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for people who have programs out in the community that serve older adults and people with disabilities. They can apply for a grant from OCWCOG for OAA funds between \$2,000 - \$15,000 to support wellness for older adults and people with disabilities. Applications have gone out and are due back on February 10th but there's still time. If anyone knows of any small group that may be interested, they should reach out to SDS Director Moore.

**10. Other Business and Announcements:**

No other business.

**11. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

*Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe.*