

**Joint
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)
and
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)
Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

SSAC Members Present: Mitzi Naucler, Chair; Robynn Pease, Vice Chair and Care Planning Committee (CPC) Chair; Suzanne Lazaro, Issues and Advocacy Chair; Richard Montgomery; Kay McDonald; Bill Turner; Terri Fackrell; and Lee Strandberg.

DSAC Members Present: Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Chair; Allison Hobgood, Vice Chair; and Michelle Giammona.

Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Members Present: Dawn Rustrum and Jasper Smith.

Guests: Dennis Epstein; Peggy McGuire, Community Services Consortium; Gena Sellers; Mel Keller, Fair Housing Council of Oregon; Holly Bollman, Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care; Debbie McCuin, Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) Program Analyst; and Naomie Sacks, APD Policy Analyst.

Members Absent: Joanne Cvar.

Staff: Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director; Bernadette Handley, Meals on Wheels (MOW) Program Coordinator; and Terri Sharpe, SDS Administrative Assistant.

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Additions to the Agenda (DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald):

DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

2. Approval of Minutes:

ACTION: Motion to approve the August 2, 2022 Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting minutes made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Richard Montgomery. Motion passed unanimously.

3. LGBTQ+ Survey Presentation (Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) Analysts Naomi Sacks and Debbie McCuin):

APD Analysts Naomi Sacks and Debbie McCuin presented a PowerPoint presentation (<https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/Documents/OR-Final-Report-Presentation.pdf>) on the results of the first Oregon LGBTQ+ Older Adult survey that was published in September 2021. This project came about in the Spring of 2020, when many community groups asked for a community needs survey on the LGBTQ+ population. This was the first attempt to gather data statewide on this population.

The research was led by Dr. Karen Fredriksson-Goldsen and her research team from the University of Washington along with the Oregon Survey Advisory Committee. The survey was translated into 10 different languages and was conducted online, on paper, and by telephone. Over 1,400 people took the survey, 18% from rural areas. There was good participation from people of different sexual orientations and race and ethnicity.

Key findings showed that service needs vary by region with more than 50% of the people who took the survey reporting that their service needs were not being met. This is especially high

among people of color. In fact, there was a high rate of racial disparity across all the data that was collected. Other key findings included:

- Most of the participants lacked end of life documents.
- One quarter of the participants experienced elder abuse and of that number three quarters of them did not report it.
- Nearly 60% of the participants experienced discrimination within the last year with folks on the east side of the Cascades experiencing the least amount and people in urban areas experiencing the most.
- One fifth of the participants had experienced suicidal ideation within the past year.
- Forty percent of the participants live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- About one third of the participants have difficulty paying bills or buying nutritious meals due to financial instability.
- Seventy percent of the participants had three or more people for social and emotional support.

Additional data and details can be viewed at [Oregon LGBTQ+ Older Adult Survey](#).

Since the release of the survey, Analysts Sacks and McCuin have given many public presentations on the survey results to raise awareness on the gaps and strengths among this population. In addition to their presentations, they conducted seven community prioritization meetings to help prioritize all the information on what is actionable, and what the priorities for action are. From this they have come up with areas for action that APD, as well as other agencies, will address.

Next steps for APD:

- Currently APD has submitted Legislative Concept 338. The bill proposes to set up a permanent Governor's LGBT Aging Advisory Council which will advise APD, the Governor's office, and other local entities on working with the LGBT populations and identifying and addressing their greatest needs and disparities. There is also a Resident Bill of Rights for LGBT people in long-term care facilities to make sure their rights are protected, and the facility staff are trained.
- The request for funding staff, training, and activities is part of the Policy Option Package (POP), which is spelled out in the Agency Request Budget (ARB).
- Foster and build ongoing community partnerships and collaborations.
- Develop action plans based on community feedback.
- Implement a State plan on aging with statewide focus on service equity.
- Implement Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Service Equity Plans.

Questions and Discussion:

Q. – Have they reached out to Fair Housing of Oregon? They have a service called “Testing” where they can collect empirical data.

A.- As of yet they have not reached out to them, but they are on a list of community partners they want to connect with.

Q. - Is there any feedback regarding how agencies, smaller groups, and organizations can support the needs identified by this survey?

A. – They should look at the data and see if there is something that stands out as a big need in their region and be willing to work in partnership with others. They need to look at their needs assessment and other data in their Area Plan and their Service Equity Plan to determine what they have the highest capacity for and identify the highest need in their area. They must be

willing to work with APD at the State level and with other community partners within the LBGTQ+ community.

Q. - What is the percentage of the Oregon population that is identified as part of the LBGTQ+ community?

A. – The percentage is from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey conducted in Oregon. Based on the estimates from the Oregon BRFSS data, approximately 3.4% of Oregonians, who are 55 years or older, identify as lesbian, bisexual, or gay. To date there has not been enough people who identify as transgender to be included as part of the BRFSS data. It is believed that number is low, and the ballpark percentage usually runs around 10%. There are a lot of folks who do not disclose their identity in that generation.

Analysts Sacks and McCuin will be happy to come back to discuss and share more information.

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

The CPC met on November 1st with the focus of the discussion centered around sharing their thoughts and perspectives from the Housing Symposium that took place on October 25th. Those that attended thought it was an excellent and well-organized event, and they are anxious to do some follow up which will be shared with the Councils throughout the year.

Another area of focus was on the Service Equity Plan which will be discussed later on.

SDS Director Moore updated the CPC on the Meals on Wheels (MOW) program.

Chair Pease encouraged everyone to check out the Newport 60+ Activity Center's Walk with Ease program. This is statewide and can be accessed either in person or virtual.

Holly Bollman updated the CPC on the Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care events.

The next meeting of the CPC will be held on January 10, 2023 from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm.

5. Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee (MOWAC) Update (SDS Director Randi Moore):

SDS Director Moore introduced Bernadette Handley who has joined Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) on a six-month limited duration consultation period as the MOW Program Coordinator. Ms. Handley was the former Director of Nutrition Services at another Area Agency on Aging.

Over the next six months the MOW program will be going through a revitalization which includes the Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee (MOWAC), congregate dining sites, volunteers, and meal suppliers.

In January, SDS Director Moore and Ms. Handley will be meeting with Ryan McCambridge, Director of Linn Benton Food Share/Community Services Consortium (CSC), to discuss efficiency in serving people between the two agencies.

SDS Director Moore would like anyone who is interested in being a part of the MOW Committee decision making on the revitalization of the MOW program to please let her know.

ACTION: SDS Director Moore will send out an email to Council members asking for those who are interested in helping reorganize the program to sign up as part of the Meals on Wheels Advisory Council.

6. Issues and Advocacy Committee (IAC) Report (IAC Chair Suzanne Lazaro):

The IAC met yesterday, December 5th, where Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) Lobbyist Nicole Palmateer-Hazelbaker gave a legislative update PowerPoint presentation, which can be viewed by double clicking on:



O4AD Leg
Presentation 112822

The Democrats are no longer in the supermajority in both the Oregon House and Senate which means that there will not be any tax or revenue packages this year and there will be delays in getting work done. With all the new legislators this year, the IAC will need to educate them on Senior and Disability Services and the services they provide.

Governor Kotek will be looking at programs that accommodate addiction recovery and how that relates to houselessness. The IAC will need to address how this affects the elderly population.

SDS Director Moore reported that Adult Foster Homes (AFH) decreased by 50% in last five years. There are different rates for AFH, and the IAC will need to advocate on equity regarding this.

ACTION: IAC Chair Lazaro will email advocacy training opportunities to everyone.

There will not be a lobby day at the Capitol due to it being a long session which runs for approximately 160 days and ends on June 25th.

IAC's strategy will be to gather information and create a white paper with facts and personalize it with case studies of either fictional or real people.

IAC Chair Lazaro will be following-up with John Curtis from the Rogue Valley Council of Governments who has been tracking potential Medicare funding for expended mental health services on the Federal level.

CSC Executive Director Peggy McGuire reported that her shelter provider partners are reporting that the fastest growing population in the shelters are seniors which would constitute as an advocacy issue.

SDS Director Moore said that ODHS is working with leaders across the State regarding senior homelessness and will be developing talking points identifying areas that could affect change.

CPC Chair Pease met with Older Adult Behavior Health Specialist (OABHS) Chris Eilers to discuss developing material to train volunteers at shelters to help older adults with cognitive or mental issues. The volunteers would be trained to provide support from a trauma-informed perspective.

ACTION: SDS Director Moore will inform OCWCOG Executive Director Ryan Vogt that shelter providers are reporting the fastest growing population in shelters are seniors. She will also inform him of CPC Chair Pease's and OABH Specialist Eilers discussion on developing materials to train volunteers at shelters to help older adults with cognitive or mental issues. This will enable the volunteers to be trained to provide support from a trauma-informed perspective.

7. Executive Committee (EC) Report (SSAC Chair Mitzi Naucler):

The EC met on November 29th, to discuss the 2023 goals for the SSAC and DSAC. It was

agreed that they would continue to focus on the Area Plan goals and refer to these goals in the committee reports.

The EC also discussed recruitment and retention. DSAC needs members, preferably with folks who are receiving SDS services. Currently, there are four DSAC members, one representing Benton County and three representing Lincoln County. Currently there are no DSAC members representing Linn County.

The EC will meet again in six months to see where they are at with the goals outlined in the Area Plan.

Lee Strandberg suggested getting Jenifer Butler, the Reverend at the West Hills Congregational Church in Corvallis, to speak to the Joint SSAC-DSAC regarding the micro houses for the homeless. The houses are made by both the Corvallis and Crescent Valley High Schools shop classes. Funding comes from the Corvallis School Foundation and the students learn a skill as well as being socially helpful.

IAC Chair Lazaro suggested SDS donating Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) tools, toilets, and ramps to help with this.

SDS Director Moore liked the idea, and she thinks that they could use Older American Act (OAA) funds for this.

ACTION: Motion to approve the 2023 Joint SSAC-DSAC Meeting Schedule made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Robynn Pease. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Other Business and Announcements:

This will be the last Zoom meeting and all future meetings will be held in Teams.

9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe.