

Meeting: Senior Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting
Date: February 4, 2019

PARTICIPANTS

- Berta Varble – Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Staff
- Chelsey Kirby – SDS Staff
- Cherish Dominguer – Options for Southern Oregon
- Erika Bekermeier – SAC Member
- Jean Carroll – SAC Member
- Jim Bachman – SAC Member – via phone
- John Curtis – SAC Member – via phone
- Kathie Young – APD District Manager
- Laura O'Bryon – SDS Director
- Linda Joens – Guest
- Linda Serra – SAC Member
- Liz James – Guest
- Nancy Randolph – SAC Chair
- Pat Jenkins – SAC Member
- Rhonda Lawrence – SAC Vice-Chair
- Richard Hoskins – SAC Member
- Rodney Schroeder – APD Deputy District Manager
- Sandra Theis – SAC Member

SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

- Bernadette LaLonde
- Colleen Roberts
- Dan DeYoung
- Isleen Glatt
- Jamie Callahan

CALL TO ORDER - Nancy called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

Introductions of guests and public comments - Introductions were made.

Additions to agenda – None.

Review and approval of January 7th, 2019 Minutes –

- Sandy moved and Rhonda seconded the approval of the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements –

- Berta shared that the ACCESS Senior Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 19th from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Medford Armory. Staff will be recruiting SAC Members to help staff our tables at the fair. Sandy encouraged members to sign up to help adding that it is fun.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive – Nancy reported.

- The Committee met last week. They reviewed recent sub-committee meeting activities. They also worked on the SAC presentations list.

Council Development – Pat reported.

- We do have two applicants that will need to be interviewed before the next SAC meeting.

Support Services/Nutrition – Sandy reported.

- Food and Friends reported at the meeting. Numbers of consumers have gone up for home-delivered meals. They have need of volunteers in White City and Josephine County.
- Staff briefed the Committee on a trust account being managed by U.S Bank. The person the trust was established for has died and the bank is now in the process of creating “a foundation wherein the Senior Advisory Council of the Rogue Valley Council of Governments will have some consulting duties.” The trust officer will notify us when she is ready to meet with the SAC. It will take a while to establish the foundation. Staff felt Support Services would be the best Committee for taking on this work when the time comes and just wanted to make members aware. Laura talked about her interest in working with the Southern Oregon Center for Community Partnerships to bring in more bequests. The key is to get people to consider contributing to Senior and Disability Services.
- Laura serves on the United Way Transportation Impact Committee (TIC), which is working to further the goals of the [United We Ride](#) plan, otherwise known as the Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan. One of the top needs identified by this group is lack of transportation for seniors to go shopping because they are either homebound or don't qualify for other programs. They are exploring a model that was tested in our area many years ago which provided rides to seniors to go shopping. The TIC is considering approaching stores to provide funding for RSVP to run a volunteer transportation program. Laura wanted to give Support Services a “heads up” and may be coming back for further discussion. There is a potential to create socializing

for the driver and the person getting food.

- The Committee instructed staff to see if we can fund Age Wise Age Well \$20,000 with Older Americans Act (OAA) Title IIIB money next fiscal year.
- They had hoped to use some OAA funds for Guardianship certification and training, but unfortunately have been told by the state that we cannot use those funds to do that.
- Sandy mentioned the Four-Year Area Plan is coming up. They will begin reviewing the Needs Assessment Survey that was used for the current Four-Year Area Plan for use in the new Area Plan cycle. The Needs Assessment is required and aids in development of the Area Plan. Because SAC members assisted in getting the surveys out last time, Support Services Committee is hoping for some support this time around as well and invited all interested members to attend the 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., February 19, 2019 meeting in the Jefferson Conference Room, 155 North First Street, Central Point.

Communications & Outreach – Rhonda reported.

- They reviewed the Strategic Planning for Caregiver Initiatives that was developed and prioritized at the December 14 meeting. Staff has examined the list and agrees with/supports the recommendations with some minor additions and changes. The focus is on educating and training for caregivers. Staff will be training SAC members during the next two Communications and Outreach meetings on March 4th and April 1st from 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Jefferson Conference Room, RVCOG 155 North First Street, Central Point. Everyone is invited to attend these trainings.
- They also reviewed the SDS website. We continue to make changes. Rhonda asked the SAC to please review the website “as an outsider” and give Berta input.

Advocacy – John Curtis reported.

- At their last meeting, a Mental Health Provider (one of their guests) shared that she has been experiencing the same frustration of getting reimbursements from Medicare.
- They discussed what could be done to get word out about Senate Bill 286 which has been introduced to the Senate. The House version will soon follow.
- John shared that he and Erika spoke with Nolan Ahern, Representative Greg Walden’s D.C. Policy Aide. Nolan’s reaction indicated that Rep. Walden is interested in the Medicare Mental Health legislation.
- They talked about Legislative concepts that the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) had presented which includes a process for reviewing recommendations for changing the OPI program to be age neutral and available throughout the entire state.
- A few members from SAC and DSAC attended the Congressional Town Halls held last month. Both offices (Rep Walden and Rep Wyden) did not know how to provide accommodation for the deaf. Senator Wyden’s Aide is interested in the Advisory Councils and may attend some meetings.
- An email was sent to Council members so they can be aware of whom their own local

elected state and federal representatives are. John asked the Council to call or email their legislators to advocate the bill(s) they're supporting.

- State Aging and People with Disabilities presented before the state Ways and Means Committee on HB5026.
- Advocacy wants to invite the southern Oregon delegation of state legislators to share what they feel was accomplished for seniors and people with disabilities during the 2019 Session. The Advocacy Committee proposes this be a joint meeting between the SAC and DSAC regular meetings on September 9, 2019. Each council will need to abbreviate their regular meeting time to accommodate this one hour event.
- The Advocacy Committee changed their meeting date to the 4th Thursday every month at 10:30am here at RVCOG in Central Point.

Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) – John Reported.

- The DSAC is working on parking for people with disabilities and updating its By-Laws.
- The Deaf-Medical workgroup meets February 19th.

Home & Community Based Care – Nancy reported.

- They did not meet last month.

Field Office Report – Kathie and Rodney reported.

- Kathie shared that the Adult Protective Services has received some complaints from facilities stating that APS staff aren't being collaborative with them. APD is reviewing their process and looking at what investigators are doing to be sure nothing is being done incorrectly. Mostly it is Assisted Living and Residential Care Facilities complaining. So far, the process and staff review show the investigations we have completed follow expected process. There may be confusion on the part of facilities about the role APS is playing. It is true that Aging and People with Disabilities case management staff collaborate with facilities to better serve consumers. Adult Protective Services staff is fact finding and investigating to determine the validity of complaints. Their role is not to problem solve for the facility. Their role is report their findings.
- Rodney shared about the upcoming Eligibility Transformation system that District 8 will be piloting. The original pilot date was scheduled for September 1, 2019. Due to time constraints to "better link" the new software, it has been delayed. The new projected pilot date is scheduled for April of 2020. This project will change the way Oregonians will get their financial eligibility determined by making it easier to apply for benefits.
- Rodney also reported that due to the federal shutdown, the state issued all February SNAP benefits early. All offices have noticed spikes in incoming phone calls regarding the early issuance. The Federal Government is currently open until February 15th. We have nothing official in writing for the SNAP benefits as of yet, but it looks like March benefits will be funded as well.

Director's report – Laura reported.

- Laura shared that Lauren Champagne who is the Direct Services Supervisor for Senior and Disability Services is retiring. She is taking leave the end of February through mid-March. When she returns, she will be working for 20 hours a month to facilitate the supervision hours for our individuals working on clinical social work licensure. She will also facilitate transition for the new hire into her position.
- Laura added that she along with other staff and Council members will be headed to the O4AD meeting this afternoon. The O4AD Plenary speaker will be on behavioral health across the state.
- Laura shared that she sent out along with this month's SAC packet a PowerPoint on the National Association of Area Agencies' (N4A) 2019 Policy Priorities.
- She also spoke about the Governor's proposed budget. Unfortunately Mental Health funding for the PEARLS is on the short list for cuts.
- Laura reviewed calendar year 2018 statewide ADRC statistics.
- She provided copies of:
 - the Bill summary report published from O4AD that lists the current bills working their way into the Oregon legislative session;
 - a report from Dennis Richardson, Secretary of State;
 - RVCOG's organizational chart; and
 - an updated list of the current House and Senate Legislators. Thanks to John Curtis for compiling and updating this list.

Presentation:

Dementia Training – Teepa Snow: Positive Approach to Care – Sean Connolly presented.

ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.