

**Meeting:** Senior Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting – via ZOOM  
**Date:** April 5, 2021

## **PARTICIPANTS**

- Connie Wilkerson – SDS Program Director
- Isleen Glatt – SAC Member
- Jeremy Wolf – APD Deputy District Manager
- John Curtis – SAC Chair
- John Irwin – SAC Member
- Linda Serra – SAC Member
- Liz James – SAC Member
- Nancy Randolph - SAC Member
- Rhonda Lawrence – SAC Vice-Chair
- Richard Hoskins – SAC Member
- Paul Golding – SAC Member

## **GUESTS**

- David Wood
- Don Bruland
- Linda Smith
- Natalie Mettler – Ashland Parks and Rec, Senior Services Division
- Phil Warnock – Executive Director - Oregon Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities
- Scott Jordan

## **SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

- Darin Fowler
- Rick Dyer

**CALL TO ORDER** – John C. called the meeting to order at 12:35pm.

## **GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS**

**Introductions of guests and public comments** – Introductions by members, staff and guests were made.

**Additions to agenda** – none.

**Review and approval of February 1, 2021 Minutes** – Rhonda motioned to approve the minutes, John I. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Announcements** –

Isleen mentioned that the Ashland Parks and Rec, Senior Services Division will have 2 OHSU nursing students working on a social isolation project. They will work directly on the Ashland Senior

Phone Buddy Program. Isleen hopes they will be able to give a report to the Senior Advisory Council by June's meeting.

Liz James asked Isleen if she could provide the link in which the SAC could sign up to receive the Ashland Senior Center newsletter which contains good, pertinent information and resources. Isleen sent the link to SAC via the chat window.

John C. announced that the DSAC will host training on ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) today. John C. asked Connie to drop the link to the DSAC Zoom meeting in the chat window.

#### **Director's report – Connie reported.**

- The RVCOG SDS vaccination project is going really well. From a wait list of 600 seniors who wanted the vaccination, the list now is between 95–100.
- They are now assisting those in need of in-home vaccinations. Mercy Flights will serve those in Jackson County. Josephine County in-home vaccinations have all been scheduled at this point.
- Sean Connolly will be taking over as lead on the vaccination project as Laura's last day was Friday, April 2nd. We are grateful for Laura's work.
- This Thursday, Deb McCuin (state liaison) will be meeting with staff to discuss the monitoring of our legal, nutrition and health promotions programs.
- Jewell Brooks charitable trust update: first distribution sometime in May. \$50,000 will support the OPAL program. \$15,000 will be awarded to Community Volunteer Network for transportation to medical appointments. Lastly, \$18,000 will be going to financial assistance funds.
- Connie announced that SDS has hired a new Program and Advocacy coordinator. She will be working close with the SAC and DSAC. We hope to have her on board by early May.

#### **Field Office Report – Jeremy Wolf reported.**

- APD vaccination update: Jeremy shared that at this point, they have called close to 1,000 residents in Jackson County, and just under that amount of residents in Josephine County. They have continued to meet with Jackson County Public Health. The Adult Foster Home licensing team has continued to call and connect with Adult Foster home staff and residents to ensure they have the resources to access any vaccines that are needed.
- They have noticed an increase in traffic coming into the 2 local offices in Medford. They are still limiting the number of people in the lobby as well as staff in the building. Jeremy suggests that clients get assistance by phone or online.

#### **Wildfire & COVID Pandemic Response Report – SDS - Connie Wilkerson**

Connie gave a presentation of the Senior and Disability Service's department response to the wildfires and the COVID Pandemic. The PowerPoint is attached to these minutes.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive – John C. reported.**

- The committee met. They spent the majority of their time discussing the Jewell Brooks trust distribution.

#### **Council Development – Rhonda reported.**

- Rhonda explained that all of the guests in attendance today have been volunteers on a personal basis helping different persons/organizations. She emphasized the impact to system changes being on the Senior Advisory Council can make. She reported that one of the best things about serving on the council is you learn to understand how the system works, what services are available and you can help you friends, neighbors and even your family.
- Rhonda thanked the guests for attending today's meeting and encouraged them to join the Senior Advisory Council.

#### **Communications & Outreach Support Services –Linda S. Reported.**

- They have been spreading the word about the vaccinations from the information they have received from the ADRC.
- Linda mentioned she knows several people that are interested in attending next month's SAC meeting for the ALL CARE PACE presentation.

#### **Advocacy – Liz J. reported.**

- Liz invited guests to attend an Advocacy meeting.
- Liz dropped a link to the Google doc of the Bill tracker document in the chat. [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bp\\_CLmfwlLdBuS\\_hFsm35sUpOUMwe\\_5eMPecbU4ANMw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bp_CLmfwlLdBuS_hFsm35sUpOUMwe_5eMPecbU4ANMw/edit?usp=sharing)
- She also mentioned that she will be sending out an email update each month and dropped the link in the chat. <https://mailchi.mp/c0dccb6bc66a/news-you-can-use-sacdsac-advocacy-committee-4257301?e=400738416e>
- Liz shared about 04AD (Oregon Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities) and how they are a valuable resource for the Advocacy committee.
- AARP are also focused on specific bills that pertain to their members.
- Liz mentioned HB2336 that started with work right here at the Rogue Valley Council of Governments. Lifelong Housing was established to create a certified process for a home to be built or modified with accessibility based on 3 different levels.
- Advocacy is also tracking HB2938 which is a task force on age discrimination.
- Liz also mentioned a national bill their committee has been advocating for quite a while. HR432 SB828 It is called the Mental Health Access Improvement act. Liz gave a huge shout out to John Curtis for his work on advocating for this bill.

#### **Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) – John C. reported.**

- John mentioned that at every meeting they have a round robin of announcements. He shared how he appreciates learning about all the organizations and what they're working on and involved in.
- They had a presentation on advisory committees and the importance of them.

**Home & Community Based Care – Nancy reported.**

- The committee discussed buildings that were opened or closed during the COVID pandemic including Adult Foster Homes, Assisted Living, Nursing Facilities and Residential Care Facilities.
- They discussed the training for caregivers which was supposed to be implemented in January was moved. Carewell, which is sponsored by the SEIU is providing training for caregivers that should be completed by September.
- They briefly discussed Adult Protective Services and some of their abuse cases. Most of the reported cases were financial abuse. Sean Connolly (SDS Staff) will be working on a presentation for Adult Protective Services.

**Presentation –“Historical Overview of Senior and Disability Services at RVCOG” – Donald Bruland.**

The timeline of Donald’s presentation is attached to these minutes.

**ADJOURN – John C. adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.**