

**Meeting:** Senior Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting – via ZOOM

**Date:** January 4, 2021

## **PARTICIPANTS**

- Connie Saldaña – SDS Staff
- John Curtis – SAC Chair
- John Irwin – SAC Member
- Laura O’Byron – SDS Director
- Linda Serra – SAC Member
- Liz James – SAC Member
- Rhonda Lawrence – SAC Vice-Chair
- Richard Hoskins – SAC Member

## **GUESTS**

### **SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

- Darin Fowler
- Isleen Glatt
- Nancy Randolph
- Rick Dyer

**CALL TO ORDER** – John C. called the meeting to order at 12:38 pm.

## **GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS**

**Introductions of guests and public comments** – No guests present or public comments made.

**Additions to agenda** – none.

**Review and approval of December 7, 2020 Minutes** – No quorum was reached therefore the minutes have not been approved. This item will be added to next month’s agenda.

### **Announcements** –

Rhonda announced that a retirement party for Laura O’Byron will be held on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm via Zoom. She will be sending invitations out soon.

### **Director’s report** – Laura reported.

- Laura shared about the new statewide eviction moratorium has been put in place effective until July 2021.
- The Senior & Disability Services will be acquiring a wheelchair accommodating van this week. This vehicle has been donated by the Rogue Valley Transportation District.
- Laura shared that Ellen Waldman wrote an article in the Ashland Daily Tidings in December sharing about the new OPAL program.

- The SDS department had the amazing opportunity to have funding through a grant from the Jackson County Mental Health which needed to be spent by Wednesday, December 30, 2020. Laura shared the many ways we were able to assist our local senior population using these grant funds.
- John C. asked how the ADRC was able to handle the large increase of incoming calls in the past several months. Laura stated that SDS was able to hire their 2 on-call trained employees to answer ADRC calls.

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

- APD offices remain open with fewer employees due to Covid-19 guidelines.
- APD has been using the ONE system for 2 months now. The processes and timing have been improving as time goes on.
- Due to an initiative from the Federal Government, APD continues to take no adverse actions on medical cases.
- Jeremy shared that since he participated in the APD State Director interview, he is still waiting to hear the outcome.
- The District 8 Director Position will need to be re-posted as their recruitment was unsuccessful.
- John asked Jeremy about the Provider Time Capture program.

#### **Updates on the Disaster Registry and Lifelong Housing Programs – Connie Saldaña**

- Connie explained the Disaster Registry program.
- Connie shared that she will be retiring soon and hopes that the individual that replaces her position will continue to help these two programs continue to run.
- Connie shared that the AARP assisted in forming a group called “Leaders in Lifelong Housing”. This group is aiming to develop a research project in order to gather data to show whether living in a Lifelong Housing certified home versus a non-certified home is safer or not.
- They are also working with Pam Marsh in order to get legislation to encourage the construction of more accessible housing.
- The Home At Last program which provides permanent supportive housing to homeless people with disabilities has continued to lose funding resources since starting in 2002 and is not sustainable with RVCOG wages and without a dedicated staff person. The hope is for the new replacement for Connie’s position to be excited for the program to continue.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Executive – John C. reported.**

- They met and discussed the Jewell Brooks Trust. They reviewed and discussed the needs survey, and selected priorities for the Trust distribution. They selected transportation and the OPAL program as the recipients of the money for this year’s distribution. Laura will be working on filling in the document to be submitted to the Trust Board.
- They discussed the filling of positions of the Senior and Disability Services employees that are retiring.

- They discussed recruitment of the Senior Advisory Council members.

**Council Development** – Rhonda reported.

- The Senior Advisory Council will make a more concerted effort after the new SDS Director has been in the position for a few months.

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

- They haven't met since November. They will meet this month.

**Advocacy** – Liz J. reported.

- Advocacy in three areas of focus.
  - Federal - Mental Health Access Improvement Act. John and Erika had a productive conversation with the new Executive Director of the O4AD.
  - State - working with AARP & O4AD. AARP has developed the Legislative Advocacy Volunteer Program. There are some great practices they are using that we will be pulling into our group.
  - Local – Erika gave a report on what the Ashland Senior Center is doing for local seniors.

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

- They had a presentation by NAMI.
- The group has an orientation manual that has been prepared at the state level. At their meeting today, they will be discussing the pages that deal with the Medicaid and State Long Term Care programs.
- There is another state employee that assists Sharen Yeager with the DSAC meetings. His name is Anthony (Tony) Barrett.

**Home & Community Based Care** – Did not meet.

**Presentation –The Future of Aging – Sean Connolly**

**ADJOURN** – John Curtis adjourned the meeting at 2:32pm.