

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

Date: February 1, 2021

PARTICIPANTS

- Connie Wilkerson – SDS Director
- Heidi Gehman – SDS Staff
- Isleen Glatt – SAC Member
- Jeremy Wolf – APD Staff
- John Curtis – SAC Chair
- John Irwin – SAC Member
- Laura O'Bryon – former SDS Director
- Linda Serra – SAC Member
- Liz James – SAC Member
- Rhonda Lawrence – SAC Vice-Chair
- Richard Hoskins – SAC Member
- Paul Golding – SAC Member

GUESTS

- Susan Jay Rounds – SDS Staff

SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

- Darin Fowler
- Nancy Randolph
- Rick Dyer

CALL TO ORDER – Rhonda called the meeting to order.

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 and January 4, 2021 Minutes – Linda S. moved and John I. seconded the motion to approved the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements –

Isleen mentioned that she's had conversations as to how local seniors can get access to the vaccine. She discussed the possibility of a mass vaccination event for seniors perhaps at the Jackson County Expo. Isleen shared that she is trying to get a drive-thru clinic set up at the Ashland Senior Center starting in March. The Call a Ride Program (run by Community Volunteer Network) volunteers will be getting vaccinated in order to be able to give rides to Seniors for vaccines. No details are known yet.

Liz shared that AARP Oregon has been working on the issue of vaccinations and are a vehicle to partner with.

Director's report – Laura reported.

- Connie joined Laura at the Public Health meeting last week. There has been a reduction in cases in the prior two weeks including a reduction of hospitalizations and emergency room visits. The hope is to reduce our county risk level from Extreme to High risk.
- Laura shared that Jackson County was one of 8 counties to receive additional vaccines over the weekend. As of February 8, 2021 they will begin to vaccinate people in phases based on age by week. 80+ years of age the first week, 75+ years of age the second week (February 15) 70+ years of age the next (February 22) and 65+ years of age the next (March 1).
- The Senior Advisory Council discussed the vaccine rollout and personal views.
- Laura shared that Mercy Flights is partnering with other emergency walk-in clinics to outreach to those who are socially isolated and/or may not be aware of the vaccine rollout plan. Public health is working with the hospitals and providers like Mercy Flights to make considered outreach to the whole senior population.
- Laura encouraged the Senior Advisory Council to reach out to their legislators to support AAA funding and support for Older Americans Act as it has not been mentioned to receive any additional funding under the newest stimulus bill that is under consideration.
- The Administration for Community Living's (ACL) Secretary of Aging position has been filled under the new Biden Administration.
- Laura shared a few bills of interest; HB4076, HB4085a and SB1532a.
- O4AD will be providing advocacy training. Laura will send out a link to the training registration to the SAC. They are offering three sessions but they are limited.
- Laura read a few positive comments from citizens in the community that received assistance from Jackson County Mental Health CARES COVID grant.
- Laura introduced Connie Wilkerson, the new RVCOG Senior and Disability Services Director. Connie shared about herself and what brought her to come to work for RVCOG.
- Laura mentioned that the RVCOG board has approved the AAA Area Plan, but it is not official until the state reviews it. RVCOG was the first to turn in the Area Plan in the state.

Field Office Report – Jeremy Wolf reported.

- APD is working with Jackson County Public Health. They are reaching out to unassigned Adult Foster Homes (not signed up for the federal avenue vaccines). APD is actively contacting and providing information and connections to those foster homes.
- Wave 2 for the ONE eligibility system started. As of this week the rest of the state are now into the ONE system. That is the final wave implementation.
- The APD District Manager position was re-posted and the recruitment closes today. They will begin interviews soon.
- As far as the APD State Director position, the candidate that was under consideration withdrew from the process. They are appointing a second Interim Director in addition to Mike McCormick.

Becky Daniels will be the second Interim Director working with Mike McCormick for 6 months with all the added work due to what's going on in our state at the moment.

- Under the SNAP program, the emergency allotments and added benefits have been extended through February.
- Jeremy mentioned that after discussing the provider time capture project at last month's meeting, he found that there is a website to access information. <http://ptc.oregon.gov>
- Laura asked Jeremy about the APD District 8 Manager position. She wanted to know if that process will be expedited on this go around. Jeremy said the recruitment could take at least 2 months even if things move smoothly. His manager, Angela Munkers is running the recruitment for this position.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive – John C. reported.

- They have a meeting scheduled for the end of this month.

Council Development – Rhonda reported.

- Rhonda will be putting together a flyer with talking points in order to recruit Senior Advisory Council members.

Communications & Outreach Support Services –Linda S. Reported.

- They had the opportunity to meet the new SDS Director as Connie Wilkerson attended the committee meeting.
- They talked about recruiting methods for SAC members.
- John I. suggested recruiting younger members, after which the question came up if there was an age requirement to be a member of the SAC. After searching the SAC bylaws, it was found that there is no age limit, but the bylaws did state that more than 50% must be older persons.
- They talked about garden sponsors for the Grants Pass Senior Resource Center. They are in dire need of donation time and money.
- They discussed the Facebook page. John I. warned the committee of risks using Facebook and Instagram. Liz had said that it's helpful in terms of advertising. She did agree to be careful when banking or making payments or purchases through any online website, social media or service using a two-factor authentication and to review all your security settings.
- Linda mentioned Rhonda was going to change the Facebook page from Government to Non-Government, but Rhonda clarified that after discussion with Connie the Facebook page would remain a Government page, and Sean Connolly was added to the page as another Admin.
- Since they did not have a nutrition update, they did invite Kristi to next month's meeting.
- Liz will make a spreadsheet available to show the progress of some federal and state bills.

Advocacy – Liz J. reported.

- Liz shared that they have a couple of new members join their meeting including Linda Joens, Tony Ellis and Paul Golding. The new SDS Director Connie Wilkerson also joined their meeting.

- Liz shared the Bill Tracking sheet the Advocacy Committee has worked on with the Senior Advisory Council. She also sent the link to the spreadsheet in the chat section.
- HR432 is the current iteration of the Mental Health Access Improvement Act.
- Liz gave the SAC training to navigate the Bill Tracking sheet.
- The committee also discussed the wildfires from last summer as well as the COVID pandemic and will continue to do so during their meetings.

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

- Sean Connolly presented at their last meeting.
- There was discussion about the need to advocate more on mental health issues.
- They discussed vaccine distribution.
- They will be discussing their orientation manual at today's meeting.

Home & Community Based Care – John C. reported.

- John shared that they currently put this committee on hold as they usually meet with the APD district manager. (which the position still has not been filled) Nancy has been keeping very busy running the Adult Foster Home during the pandemic and has not had a lot of extra time for meetings.

Presentation –OPAL (Options for People to Address Loneliness) Program – Susan Jay Rounds

- Susan shared how the program was formed, how the program works and some success stories about clients that have completed the program.

ADJOURN – Rhonda adjourned the meeting.