

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

**Date:** March 1, 2021

## **PARTICIPANTS**

- Connie Wilkerson – SDS Program Director
- Darin Fowler – Josephine County Commissioner
- Isleen Glatt – SAC Member
- John Curtis – SAC Chair
- John Irwin – SAC Member
- Jon Pfefferle – Nutrition Program Operations Manager
- Kristi Welburn – Nutrition Program Administrative Manager
- Linda Serra – SAC Member
- Liz James – SAC Member
- Nancy Randolph - SAC Member
- Rhonda Lawrence – SAC Vice-Chair

## **GUESTS**

- Natalie Mettler

## **SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

- Paul Golding
- Richard Hoskins
- Rick Dyer

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

## **GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS**

**Introductions of guests and public comments** – Isleen introduced Natalie Mettler who is the Senior & Adult Services Coordinator of the Senior Services Division at Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission. Introductions by everyone in attendance were made.

**Additions to agenda** – none.

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

## **Announcements** –

John C. announced that the DSAC (Disability Services Advisory Council) plans to have an ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) training on April 5<sup>th</sup> after the SAC meeting from 3:00pm to 4:30pm.

The DSAC also has a presentation coming up on Disability Justice vis-a-vis Disability Advocacy. It will be given by the Deaf Specialist at Oregon Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services.

The DSAC also want to schedule DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) training.

John C. told the SAC that they are invited to any of these trainings and to please let him know if they are interested.

John C. also mentioned that he and Phil Warnock (O4AD (Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities Executive Director) have had conversations to discuss developing an Oregon Advocacy Network. This Network will consist of both Senior and Disability Advisory Council members. They hope it may eventually become a model for a national network.

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

- Connie briefly covered HB2336. She also mentioned HB2952.
- Connie also updated the SAC on the Senior and Disability Services department's vaccine outreach project.
- Rhonda asked about the date of the drive-up clinic in Grants Pass. Connie stated that no dates have been set. She also mentioned that they are calling it a "throughput clinic". It helps with patient flow for larger groups.
- Isleen shared that she will be able to have a drive-through clinic at the Ashland Senior Center. She won't be advertising as she already has a list of 200+ Ashland residents needing vaccines.
- John I. asked how to get on a list for the vaccine. Connie shared that the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC 541-618-7572) is the number to call. We put callers on a list as we receive calls and then get them on a schedule as we know where and when the vaccines are available.
- Isleen shared in the chat about the Community COVID-19 Vaccine throughput clinic. The phone number to call is 541-789-2813 option 2. Be prepared to be on hold for a while.

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

- Jeremy shared that they have continued their effort to assist Adult Foster Homes that weren't signed up through the federal vaccine program.
- Starting this week, Case Managers will be reaching out to contact their clients that receive in-home care to see if they need assistance in order to receive vaccines.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency maximum allotments were approved through March.
- Rhonda asked Jeremy how the ONE system is going. He answered that their intention is that it's a statewide program now, so if someone from one part of the state speaks to someone from a different branch outside their local area, they can still receive the same assistance. They are

working to coordinate so that they follow the same processes, procedures and best practices across the state.

- Jeremy shared that there are no new updates for the provider time capture project. It appears it may be implemented around fall.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive** – John C. reported.

- They did not meet. They will hopefully be scheduling a meeting for March.

**Council Development** – Rhonda reported.

- At next month's meeting, we will have a special presentation specifically for guests in order to sway them to join the Senior Advisory Council. Rhonda encouraged SAC members to invite friends that might be interested in joining.

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

- They have not met since January.
- Linda said she has been distributing surveys for the Grants Pass Senior Resource Center's garden. The garden surveys are due today.
- As always, they are looking for new members to join their committee.

**Nutrition/Senior Resource Center Update** – Kristi Welburn and Jon Pfefferle

- Kristi shared they have hired a new staff member, Tanya Brooks, to assist with some of Jon and Kristi's workload since Evelyn retired and they have started their new positions.
- It's been a big year. The wildfires impacted their program greatly.
- They have been doing additional outreach in the Phoenix/Talent area to let residents know they are delivering.
- Due to the pandemic, they have had many changes to the program. Home Delivered meals are delivered with no-contact. Their congregate dining meal sites are still shut down for now but they continue to provide meals on a "to-go" basis.
- They were able to provide extra assistance during the pandemic including emergency food bags, extra frozen meals, durable goods bags and shelf stable meal boxes. They also worked with the SDS staff to coordinate reassurance calls to their clients.
- The state authorized their Medicaid clients to also be able to receive extra meals temporarily.
- Our volunteers have been amazing throughout everything! Some volunteers have had to stay home to keep safe and healthy, but they've also had some new volunteers. Some volunteers even lost their homes in the fires and still continued to deliver meals.
- They were able to partner with RVTD to help with routes which helped expand to rural areas. They also worked with Red Cross and received some volunteer help
- They collaborated with the Oregon Department of Justice to help develop some outreach literature focused on COVID-19 scams.

- John C. asked Jon P. where to send volunteer time. Jon shared that Tanya has taken over that role. Please email your volunteer time logs to: Tanya at [tbrooks@rvcog.org](mailto:tbrooks@rvcog.org). Jon will send Tanya's email to the SAC as well.

**Advocacy** – Liz J. reported.

- They did not meet.
- They have grown their committee by a couple of members.
- They continue to work on the Mental Health Access Improvement Act.
- Liz shared a Mail Chimp e-blast to the advocacy committee. They will try to do this on a monthly basis. It will be a bulleted news update with hot links. If you'd like to receive these, let Liz know and she will get you on the list.

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

- Jeremy reported that the council has continued to work on the orientation manual.
- John C shared that today's presentation will be on Rule Advisory Committees.

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

- They discussed the Quality Measurement Council report. The report should be released by the end of July. The Quality Measurement Council meets bi-monthly in Salem and will have some vacant seats if anyone is interested in joining the council. They set policies and standards for the residential facilities for our seniors statewide.
- They also briefly discussed the state training for Home Care Workers that was supposed to start in September. That training was delayed. We will keep updated on that.
- They discussed the COVID 19 vaccines.
- They also talked about some of the bills that have already been discussed in today's meeting.
- They hope to find out how many facilities were closed last year. They will discuss this at this month's meeting.

**Presentation –OLIS (Oregon Legislative Information System) Tips** – Liz James

- Liz James shared with the SAC how to navigate the Oregon State Legislature site and how to find and track a bill.

Darin Fowler shared they have received some FEMA money and what they plan to do with the money. Darin offered his email for communication if any Senior Advisory Council member would like to reach out to him. [dfowler@josephinecounty.gov](mailto:dfowler@josephinecounty.gov).

John C. shared the Mental Health Access Improvement Act with Darin.

**ADJOURN** – Rhonda adjourned the meeting at 2:13pm.