

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

**Date:** October 4, 2021

## **PARTICIPANTS**

- Cassie Rose – SDS Staff
- Connie Wilkerson – SDS Program Director
- Darin Fowler – Josephine County Commissioner and SAC Member
- Jeremy Wolf – APD Staff
- John Irwin – SAC Vice Chair
- Liz James – SAC Member
- Natalie Mettler – SAC Member
- Paul Golding – SAC Member
- Rhonda Lawrence – SAC Chair

## **GUESTS**

- Dahna Black – Field Office for Senator Merkley
- John Curtis – DSAC Chair
- Rai McKenzie

## **SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

- Richard Hoskins – SAC Member
- Rick Dyer – Jackson County Commissioner

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

## **GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS**

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

**Public Comment** – After a meeting with a large AAA in Illinois, John C. praised the local SAC members and the SDS staff for their participation and community involvement because it is more highly involved than many areas of the country. He also commented on the discharge planning process related to inpatient COVID-19 hospital and facility stays. He encouraged the SAC to outreach to the healthcare service sector and look for future engagement opportunities. Discussion ensued about The Decompression Assistance Team that was formed by the state utilizing APD staff who have been redirected to support critical hospital discharge planning and support case management teams in the service area.

**Additions to agenda** – None.

**Review and approval of September 13, 2021 Minutes** – Liz J. moved to approve the minutes John I. seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## REPORTS

### **Directors Report** – Connie W. reported:

- SDS is trying to fill three open Service Coordinator positions by the end of October.
- Two SDS staff have been moved into interim positions, Interim Program Supervisor and Interim ADRC Lead.
- The Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver will allow for expanded service levels in the Oregon Project Independence (OPI) and Family Caregiver Programs. Max Brown from the state of Oregon is recommending that Area Agencies on Aging and their networks including SAC and DSAC committees submit letters of support. A summary is being created and will be available as a reference before the public comment period closes on October 24, 2021.
- A second Public Service Announcement (PSA) directed at helping older adults overcome vaccine hesitancy began airing on KOBI on October 1, 2021. A third PSA targeting the Booster Initiative will be created soon.
- A \$140,000 competitive grant application was recently submitted through the State Unit on Aging, known as the CSSU. Unfortunately, the ACL Incentive rules have since been repealed and now prohibit the use of gift cards as a potential incentive for receiving the vaccine. The incentive was central to the original grant proposal. It is unclear at this time if the other aspects of the grant will be funded at a reduced level.
- SDS began publishing information in newspapers again to attempt to reach the older adult audience. Ads for the ADRC, Disaster Registry, OPAL and the Family Caregiver Program ran in an October “Prime Time” edition of the Grants Pass Daily Courier and a SAC recruitment piece and OPAL/PEARLS ad addressing social isolation and loneliness will run in the “Home for the Holidays” edition.
- As a department, SDS is developing a Service Equity Plan. This document will be required when executing contracts with the state, but, more importantly, it will help guide staff’s understanding and implementation of service equity with regard to consumers.
- The executive committee of the SAC has been working to revise bylaws and to develop a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) statement.

### **Field Office Report** – Jeremy W. reported:

- SNAP Emergency Allotments will continue through the month of October 2021.
- The Enhanced Wage Add-on Program that passed through the Oregon Legislature this year has an effective date of October 1, 2021. The program is designed to assist with employee retention for specific in-home and long-term care facilities and includes an enhanced payment rate for Medicaid individuals.
- The APD Director position recruitment plan is being developed; initial completion date is February 2022.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Executive Committee** – Rhonda L reported.

- Work continues on bylaw revisions and a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) statement.

**Council Development** – Rhonda L reported.

- Rai M. is potentially interested in becoming a member of the SAC.

**Communications & Outreach**– Natalie M reported.

- The committee is developing a target list for future recruitment with diversity in mind. The committee is also working on a variety of marketing materials to deploy in the next phase of the marketing plan.

**Advocacy** – Liz J. reported.

- The 1115 Demonstration Waiver was a topic of conversation.
- The committee reviewed the successes from the Legislators Dialogue held on September 17, 2021.
- The Mental Health Access Improvement Act (MHAIA) is gaining traction to be included as part of the Reconciliation package.

**Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)** – Jeremy W. reported.

- HB 3055 which relates to the DMV and parking permit improvements has been a topic of discussion.
- Procedural discussions related to elections and attendance also occurred as part of the bylaw review process.

**Home & Community Based Care** – No report.

**Additional Comments** – Commissioner Darin Fowler reported.

- Josephine County Commissioners are unsure of what impact the vaccination mandate will have on front line workers and public safety. A request for an extension will be made at the following Wednesday's Business Session.
- The ARPA application was closed out at the end of September 2021.

## PRESENTATION

**“Jackson and Josephine County Public Health”** – Dr. Leona O’Keefe & Tanya Phillips

**ADJOURN** – Rhonda L. adjourned the meeting at 2:25 pm.