

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

**Date:** November 1, 2021

## **PARTICIPANTS**

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

## **GUESTS**

- Katie Merola – SDS Interim Direct Services Supervisor
- Kristi Welburn – Food and Friends Nutrition Program Manager
- Jennifer Bruce – OHSU Nursing Student
- John Curtis
- Max McHatton – Civil Air Patrol
- RJ Wright – ACCESS – Community Engagement Coordinator

## **SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

- Richard Hoskins
- Rick Dyer – Jackson County Commissioner

**CALL TO ORDER** – Rhonda L. called the meeting to order at 12:33pm.

## **GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS**

**Introductions of guests** – Introductions of guests were made.

**Public comment** - John C. spoke about the predicament that older adults face when there is a need to take on roommates for financial reasons. Finding an appropriate match can be a challenge. He expressed concerns about the support that Center for Non-Profit Legal Services provides for tenants during disputes with older adult landlords.

Paul G. spoke with the Patient Relations department at Asante about Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare, Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) and Advance Directives and how they can be facilitated from those that live out of the area. This topic will be addressed in an upcoming SAC presentation.

**Additions to agenda** – none.

**Review and approval of October 4, 2021 Minutes** – Liz J. motioned to approve the minutes as corrected, Paul G. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Announcements** – None.

## **REPORTS**

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

- AAA's have been asked to support advocacy for OAA funding as part of the Build Back Better Plan. An email from US Aging (formerly the N4AD) will be forwarded to SAC and DSAC members with bullet points to make advocating simple.
- It is now a requirement that all AAA's have a service equity plan in place prior to receiving any federal or state funding. All plans must be submitted to the state Community Services and Supports Unit (CSSU) by March 2022. Connie W. shared the 4 criteria needed in the plan.
- The state's public comment period for the 1115 Demonstration Waiver has closed. Connie explained what the waiver would accomplish if passed.
- Two new service coordinators have been hired. The Direct Services Supervisor position will be posted soon.
- A competitive grant from the CSSU will fund the next phase of the vaccination initiative focused on promoting access to booster vaccines. Cassie R. will be overseeing this initiative.
- The Executive Committee is discussing priorities for the next Jewel Brooks disbursement. Priorities include mental health programming like OPAL, financial assistance funding, and a potential grant for maintenance, handyman, yard work/repairs with a partner organization.
- November is Family Caregiver Month. Information and statistics about family caregivers will be posted to the SDS website and Facebook page. John I. spoke about a series of articles on the value of unpaid caregivers in the United States.
- <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/healthcare-systems-and-services/our-insights/supporting-unpaid-caregivers-in-crisis-a-talk-with-alexandra-drane?cid=other-eml-dre-mip-mck&hlkid=2a680d46de5b45dfac2b2b5291a580eb&hctky=11309598&hdpid=3311d750-f230-40be-a735-2ab483f54fe2>

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

- The vaccine mandate deadline was October 18<sup>th</sup> for all state employees. Jeremy shared that there were no staff losses that impacted their services.
- The state issued targeted a date of January 2022 for reopening offices that had closed due to COVID. As of January 1, 2022 more staff will return to offices either full-time or in a hybrid method.
- Mike McCormick, APD Director continues to keep in person field work on hold for now.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Executive Committee** – Rhonda L. reported.

- The committee will meet one more time to finalize the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) statement and bylaw revisions.
- The committee is reviewing the latest changes to advance directives in Oregon as a result of new legislature. More to come in a future meeting.

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

- The SAC membership application was recently updated and will be distributed to any potential applicants or meeting guests as requested.

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

- The committee continues to fine tune certain marketing materials.
- Development of a target list will allow for more direct targeted outreach to help recruit new volunteers to serve on the SAC or a subcommittee.
- The committee intends to address retention of existing members in future meetings.

### **Advocacy** – Liz J. reported.

- Meetings are held on Zoom the fourth Monday of the month from 12:30pm to 2:00pm. Liz J. invited anyone to join as a guest.
- The committee is adopting a collaborative work model. On a monthly basis, they cover literature and information from the O4AD, US Aging and the AARP.
- Collectively, the committee is looking at the Fairness for All Act- HR 5331 that focuses on workforce discrimination for older adults.
- The Mental Health Access Improvement Act (MHAIA) continues to gain traction and could be included in the Reconciliation Bill.
- The committee continues to focus on and monitor state legislation.
- As a reference, on the bottom of each month's agendas are a list of federal, state, county and city elected officials.
- Guests in attendance were encouraged to attend a subcommittee meeting to share their perspective and voice and to learn more about the work that is taken up by each committee.

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

- The council is working on long term planning, budget goals, and future project planning.
- Members shared lived experiences on the topic of audism. Audism is discrimination or prejudice against individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. The joint SAC/DSAC committee will look at future advocacy opportunities around this topic.
- Discussions about the provider time capture project continue.

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

- Currently not active.

**Support Services: Nutrition and ADRC Advisory** – Kristi W reported. Katie W. presented later in the meeting.

- Food & Friends continues to operate in a limited capacity with pandemic protocols in place.
- Plans are being developed to reopen some meal sites on a very limited basis.
- The program is now fully staffed after three new people were hired recently.
- Outreach continues in the fire affected areas of Phoenix and Talent where many clients remain displaced. If anyone knows of someone in that area that has a need for home delivered Meals Food and Friends is available to serve them.
- Volunteers are needed to prepare and deliver meals. Liz J. offered to share a flyer with her contacts at AARP to assist in recruiting volunteers.

**Additional Comments:**

- Liz J. invited everyone to a virtual conversation on aging hosted by Age+ on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8pm. Registration is required: <https://ageplus.org/register/>.
- RJ W. from Access shared about a volunteer coordinator meeting that is being re-established after COVID. Kristi W. and others were invited to participate.

**PRESENTATIONS**

“**Disaster Registry**” – Cassie Rose, SDS Program and Advocacy Director

“**ADRC**” – Katie Merola, Interim Direct Services Supervisor and ADRC Lead Teleska Kasper

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