

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

Date: December 6, 2021

PARTICIPANTS

- Chelsey Kirby – SDS Staff
- Cassie Rose – SDS Staff
- Connie Wilkerson – SDS Program Director
- John Irwin – SAC Vice Chair
- Liz James – SAC Member
- Natalie Mettler – SAC Member
- Paul Golding – SAC Member
- Rhonda Lawrence – SAC Chair
- Richard Hoskins – SAC Member

GUESTS

- Deb McCuin – Community Services and Supports Unit (CSSU)
- John Curtis
- Kim Miller
- Leah Swanson – Josephine County Public Health

SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

- Darin Fowler – Josephine County Commissioner
- Jeremy Wolf – APD Deputy District Manager
- Rick Dyer – Jackson County Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER – Rhonda L. called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

Introductions of guests – Kim M. introduced himself and gave a brief background.

Public comments – John C. requested that his title of DSAC Chair be removed from the November meeting minutes as he represents a member of the public at this meeting. John C. also asked questions about the Jewell Brooks trust application. Connie W. shared that she would address his questions in her director's report. John C. shared that the DSAC subcommittee, Deaf & Hearing Loss Workgroup, is collaborating with other partner organizations to have statewide hybrid summits in 2022 on effective communication in healthcare settings.

Additions to agenda – none.

Review and approval of November 1, 2021 Minutes – Paul G. motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Liz J. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements – Paul G. shared an article from AARP magazine showing several different programs connecting seniors with children. Paul G. also shared that the US Customs and Border Patrol is actively monitoring trade violations including those receiving counterfeit items. Paul shared the website to report a violation: www.cbp.gov. He also addressed other scams that are affecting older adults. Scams can be reported to the Federal Trade Commission online at www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov or by calling (877) 382-4357. Paul G. spoke of a lawsuit that the AARP Foundation and Constantine Cannon LLP filed that alleges that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) violated law by limiting enforcement penalties for nursing homes. Paul G. stated that AARP monitors everything from the national level to the state level, down to the community level. Paul also mentioned that Connecticut enacted the Family Caregivers Leave Act to provide up to 12 weeks of paid family leave time as a resource for unpaid caregivers. Rhonda L. shared that Cassie R. can provide information on the Foster Grandparent Program of Southern Oregon if anyone is interested.

REPORTS

Director's Report – Connie W. reported.

- Connie W. asked Cassie R. to provide an update on the vaccine initiative that is being funded through a grant from the Community Services and Supports Unit (CSSU).
- The Booster Vaccine PSA was shown that features older adult influencers from rural and BIPOC communities across Jackson County and Josephine County sharing their personal reason why they got vaccinated or boosted. The third PSA in the series is bilingual and features a speaker in Spanish with English subtitles as well as speakers in English with Spanish subtitles.
- At the direction of the state, limited in-person work resumed with clients on December 1, 2021. Protocols and precautions including screening questions are in place. Online visits for assessments and onboarding new clients into programs will continue virtually as needed.
- December 1, 2021, the RVCOG board approved the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) plan which will be included in the SAC Bylaws moving forward. The RVCOG Administration will be using the plan as a starting point for its own DEI work. Other SAC Bylaws revisions will be presented to the RVCOG Board for approval at the January 2022 meeting.
- Connie W. provided a summary of a recent meeting with Nicole Palmateer Hazelbaker, the O4AD lobbyist. Important take aways include:
 - At the short legislative session, legislators are allowed to introduce only two bills each. O4AD is developing a strategy with input from each AAA for their legislative priorities. Connie W. shared our top seven priorities which are in line with other AAA's.
 - Connie W. discussed Senator Golden's request for SDS to contact him with specific budgetary concerns. Nicole H. suggested that SDS examine the Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) budget and explain what the AAA is trying to achieve and how it would benefit SDS clients.
 - Nicole H. believes that establishing a relationship with Anna Williams, Health and Human Services policy committee chair will be critical for systems change.
- Connie W. and Liz J. met with Representative Pam Marsh and Caryn Wheeler-Clay, the new director of Jackson County Community Long Term Recovery Group (JCCLTRG), to discuss

housing needs and suggest various data sets and resources for an upcoming grant that JCCLTR will be submitting for housing.

- Staff is working on the first draft of the Service Equity Plan. A workgroup will begin meeting in January 2022. Connie shared the list of workgroup members. The demographic review component of the Service Equity Plan has been completed. Currently staff ratios are representative of the racial/ethnic composition of both Jackson and Josephine counties. Bilingual, bicultural applicants will be encouraged to apply for future vacant SDS staff positions.
- Oregon Project Independence (OPI) Service Coordinators have been editing local rules which will be brought to the RVCOG Board for approval in January 2022.
- An emergency assistance fund for Josephine County residents will be established with private funds from the Smith Trust. Funds will be distributed through the ADRC.
- RVCOG SDS will have multiple engagement and presenting opportunities with Oregon Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) over the next few months.
- Dwight Wilson, Executive Director of Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice, will speak at the January 3, 2022, SAC meeting about end-of-life care and advance directives.

Field Office Report – Connie W reported on behalf of Jeremy W.

- Jeremy W. was unable to attend the December 2021 SAC meeting and will also miss the January 2022 meeting.
- APD received a transmittal from Mike McCormick outlining the return to in-person work which began on December 1, 2021 and applies to Adult Protective Services, Adult Foster Home Licensing, Case Management and Diversion/Transition work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Rhonda L. reported.

- The committee discussed the upcoming Jewel Brooks trust funding request.
- Time was spent brainstorming future presentations for SAC meetings.
- Discussion ensued about legislative priorities leading up to conversations with 04AD.
- A community partners and stakeholder distribution list will be created including former SAC members and others to keep them up to date with SAC happenings and advocacy activities. This should align with the target list that the Communications and Outreach committee is building.

Council Development – Rhonda L reported.

- Recruitment of new members during COVID continues to be a challenge.

Communications & Outreach – Natalie M. reported.

- The committee is making good progress on a target list which will help guide future outreach efforts. Natalie stated that they are continuing to add to it based on other community resources lists. Specific outreach goals will be assigned individually based on established personal connections and direct relationships in the community.

- The committee is adopting a fresh and creative approach to recruitment as previous methods used prior to COVID have proven challenging and opportunities have been limited due to restrictions put in place related to the pandemic.
 - One strategy is to begin offering Zoom presentations to partner agencies about SDS programming and SAC activities.
 - Common outreach language and an outreach flyer is being developed which can be distributed electronically and at future events.
- The committee hopes to focus on retention in a future meeting.

Advocacy – Liz J. reported.

- APD has submitted an 1115 demonstration waiver application that will provide additional funding for Oregon Project Independence (OPI) and support a Family Caregiver program. CMS is accepting public comment until December 16, 2021. Liz J. encouraged SAC members to consider submitting comments.
- The committee looks for collaborative opportunities to engage with USAging (formerly N4A), O4AD, AARP, the State Council for Independent Living (SCIL) and the League of Women Voters.
- The committee reviews Oregon legislature every month and continues to advocate on national legislation including the Build Back Better Act and HR 3992 Protect Older Job Applicants Act (POJA).
- Advocacy also continues HR 432 and SB828, the Mental Health Access Improvement Act (MHAIA). John C. has initiated a weekly Zoom and reports on what's happening nationally.
- New standing line items on the monthly meeting agendas include:
 - Accessibility concerns
 - End of Life issues
 - Climate reports from Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) – John C. reported on behalf of Jeremy W.

- DSAC will review proposed bylaws revisions at today's meeting.
- Today's speaker will be sharing about the Provider Time Capture Program.

Home & Community Based Care – Rhonda L. reported.

- This committee is dormant until new SAC members are recruited. Rhonda L. emphasized the importance of the 1115 Demonstration Waiver and the impact it could have on the OPI program.

Support Services: Nutrition and ADRC Advisory – Rhonda L. reported.

- This committee will meet on a quarterly basis in February, May, August, and November in conjunction with the Communications and Outreach Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) plan update – Connie W. reported.

- This agenda item was covered earlier in the meeting. The DEI plan was approved by the RVCOG Board and will be adopted into SAC Bylaws.

Jewel Brooks Trust Review – Connie W. reported.

- The SAC Executive Committee approved three priority areas for the next trust disbursement:
 - Mental Health – OPAL (60%)
 - Home Repair/Modifications (20%)
 - Emergency Assistance Funds (20%)
- Percentages were used in the application because the actual dollar amounts are not known at this time. It is estimated that approximately 250 clients will be served throughout the 3 priority areas.
- The SAC Executive committee had asked Connie W. to inquire about the capacity for Rebuilding Together Rogue Valley (RBTRV) to do home repair, modifications and minor maintenance for low-income older adults. Utilizing a list of 25 safety and healthy priorities, they go into homes and assess the modifications that are needed. SDS previously grant the organization \$25,000 which has made a difference in the lives of SDS consumers already.
- Recipients of the previous distribution have until June 30, 2022 to spend the money and report on the services provided. Service statistics, client numbers, and demographics will be submitted to the trust at that time.

Action Item – Liz J. motioned to approve the Jewel Brooks Trust application with 60% funding for mental health services, 20% for home modification services and 20% for emergency assistance funds. John I. seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS

“LGBTQ+ Survey Results” – Liz James, SAC Advocacy Chair and Deb McCuin, CSSU Policy Analyst

ADJOURN – Rhonda L. adjourned the meeting at 2:33pm.