

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

Date: January 3, 2022

PARTICIPANTS

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

GUESTS

- Ana Gonzalez – APD Staff
- Dwight Wilson – Executive Director of Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice and Celia’s Hospice House
- John Curtis
- Leah Swanson – Josephine County Public Health

SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER – John I. called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

Introductions of guests and public comments – Guests were introduced. John Curtis spoke about the benefits and costs of hearing loops.

Additions to agenda – none.

Review and approval of December 6, 2021 Minutes – Rhonda L. motioned to approve the minutes as written, Liz J. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements – none.

REPORTS

Director’s Report – Connie W. reported.

- Following all the precautions established by the State, in-person client meetings and assessments began December 1, 2021.
- The booster vaccine initiative kicked off with two booster vaccination events offered in both Jackson and Josephine counties. A version of the SAC flyer was shared at both vaccine booster events. The next phase is to be determined.
- The third COVID PSA which contained bilingual content aired in December 2021.
- Josephine county residents may now be eligible for financial assistance through the ADRC via proceeds of a local trust.
- SAC Bylaws will be finalized and presented via email to be approved prior to being presented to the RVCOG Board in January 2022.
- Work on the Service Equity plan continues as the March 2022 deadline for submission approaches.
- ADRC call volumes continue to be high.
- Biennial monitoring reports for Family Caregiver, Oregon Project Independence and ADRC Options Counseling are being completed.
- Offers have been made to three potential employees for service coordinator positions.
- RVCOG SDS was the featured presenter at the Josephine County Latinx Interagency Networking Committee (LINC) meeting on November 30, 2021. Staff regularly attends LINC meetings in both counties.
- An Illinois Valley Radio News program will feature the Disaster Registry on January 4, 2022 and RVCOG SDS programs on January 25, 2022.
- RVCOG SDS was published in the Home for the Holidays edition of the Grants Pass Courier. The ad generated calls for our various programs including OPAL, PEARLS, and SAC.
- SDS is currently exploring ways to build a service dashboard on the SDS website.

Field Office Report – Ana G. reported.

- Staff fully transitioned back to in-person field visits.
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency allotment was again extended through the month of January. The interview requirement for SNAP has been waived through March 31, 2022.
- Closed branch offices had a target reopening date of January 3, 2022, however, that date has been pushed out again. The new target date has not been announced. There is no impact to the other offices that have already reopened.
- As of January 1, 2022, APD has eliminated a pay-in for clients that receive in-home care services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Rhonda L. reported.

- The committee discussed future presentation agendas for the SAC.
- The committee also reviewed progress on the vaccine booster initiative.
- Connie W. will be taking the revised SAC bylaws to the RVCOG Board for approval.

- The group also discussed developments on the Service Equity Plan.

Council Development – Rhonda L. reported.

- The Communications and Outreach committee is focused on member recruitment right now. They have come up with a list of people to contact but do not have any new members to report at this time.

Communications & Outreach – Cassie R. reported.

- Recruitment is the top focus right now with a goal to gain voices from diverse populations across both Jackson and Josephine counties, including representation from the health care community.
- Senior Advisory Council meetings, create an opportunity for members from organizations to promote their programs and share their work.
- The outreach target list has been prioritized based on existing personal connections. The next level involves developing a mailing list to help engage as many community members as possible.
- Common language is being developed to make outreach simple and effective. It can also be customized for targeted outreach to specific groups.

Advocacy – Liz J. reported.

- Liz J. reminded the SAC of the relationships in place with other organizations that share similar advocacy priorities. The committee continues to keep informed of the advocacy efforts by USAging, O4AD, AARP, the League of Women Voters, and the State Independent Living Councils.
- The committee reviewed legislative priority areas that will be pursued in 2023 by APD's legislative arm.
- The committee reviewed the bills passed during the most recent special legislative session.
- The committee is looking at hosting an educational and informational event to share about the Ways and Means committee in the Oregon Legislature.
- Liz J. reminded SAC about the ongoing work with the Mental Health Access Improvement Act.
- Advocacy and education about hearing loss and hearing loop systems will be discussed more in the future.

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

- Some members of the committee were recognized for their service.
- Work continues on bylaws to address absenteeism and vacancies.
- The most recent meeting included a presentation about the Provider Time Capture project.
- The Deaf and Hard of Hearing sub-committee is helping plan statewide events to address effective and equitable communication in healthcare settings.

Home & Community Based Care – Rhonda L. reported.

- This committee is inactive until more SAC members are recruited.

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.

PRESENTATIONS

“End of Life Care” – Dwight Wilson, Executive Director of Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice and Celia’s Hospice House

ADJOURN – John I. adjourned the meeting at 2:03pm.

DRAFT