

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

Date: February 7, 2022

PARTICIPANTS

- Cassie Rose – SDS Staff
- Chelsey Kirby – SDS Staff
- Connie Wilkerson – SDS Program Director
- Jeremy Wolf – APD Deputy District Manager
- John Irwin – SAC Vice Chair
- Liz James – SAC Member
- Paul Golding – SAC Member
- Rhonda Lawrence – SAC Chair
- Richard Hoskins – SAC Member
- Sharen Yeager - APD

GUESTS

- Kendyl Shalva Berkowitz – Rebuilding Together Rogue Valley
- John Curtis
- Leah Swanson – Josephine County Public Health
- Leona O’Keefe – Jackson County Public Health

SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

- Darin Fowler – Josephine County Commissioner
- Natalie Mettler
- Rick Dyer – Jackson County Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER – Rhonda L. called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.

Featured Community Based Organization: Rebuilding Together Rogue Valley

Kendyl Shalva Berkowitz shared an overview of the organization's mission and latest initiatives as they pertain to older adults and people with disabilities.

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

Introductions of guests and public comments – Guests were introduced.

Additions to agenda – none.

Review and approval of January 3, 2022 Minutes – John C. pointed out in the Director’s Report under the 5th bullet point, the date is written as January 2021. It should be changed to January 2022. Liz J. motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. John I. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements – none.

Director's report – Connie W. reported.

- The Trustee for the Jewel Brooks Charitable Trust gave notice that Senior and Disability Services (SDS) will be receiving \$88,618 soon.
- Susan Jay Rounds developed training for the OPAL program. Community health workers in Coos and Curry counties were trained by Susan and Ellen on how to administer the OPAL program in their area.
- SDS recently met with tribal partners around the state virtually and is looking forward to finding more ways to collaborate.
- Connie participated in an OLLI panel on developing a care plan. 600 persons from all over the country participated in the Zoom meeting. Connie was able to share about AAA core programs and ADRC.
- SDS continues to administrate the COVID vaccine initiative and will be sending home test kits and informational materials to 2,400 clients (including 700 Food and Friends clients). Information on a new state program that distributes tablets and robotic pets to seniors will also be included with the kits. Masks and hand sanitizer will also be distributed to approximately 700 Food & Friends clients along with the kits and materials.
- 3 new staff members joined our team last week. We hope to promote 2 of our internal staff to Service Coordinator leads in February 2022.
- SDS continues to await information on the competitive grant opportunity for mental health funding as well as more information on the 1115 waiver which will expand Oregon Project Independence (OPI) and Family Caregiver (FCG) programs. Additional staff will not be hired for the expanded programs until we have executed contracts with the state.
- All of SDS staff has participated in the development of the Service Equity plan. A few staff from both SDS and Food and Friends is working as a steering committee to complete the process. A service equity workgroup, made of internal and external stakeholders, is also reviewing the plan and helping us to expand our vision.
- Unlike last year, the galleries at the State Capitol are open. Testimonies will still occur remotely. There will be no group days held at the capitol this year.
- 2 senate bills are of direct interest to our work as they relate to home care workers.

Field Office Report – Jeremy W. reported.

- Jeremy described the new adult foster home (AFH) hospital discharge incentive payment program.
- Due to the continued increase in SNAP renewals during the COVID pandemic, any SNAP cases that have a renewal due in February will be automatically extended for the next 6 months.
- Update on the APD Director recruitment: The recruitment has been unsuccessful. Mike McCormick will continue in the interim role until they are able to fill the position.
- The local APD offices gained a new management position. The position will be stationed at the Disability Services office in Medford.
- Cassie noted that on next month's agenda the title of Jeremy's report will be changed to "Aging and People with Disabilities District Manager Report".

Focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) – Connie W. reported.

As part of the Senior and Disability Services Service Equity Plan, and an ongoing training initiative, the Service Equity Workgroup selected to share the video: Ableism.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive – Rhonda L. reported.

- Upcoming presentations for the SAC meetings were planned.

Council Development – Rhonda L. reported.

- See Communications and Outreach report.

Communications & Outreach Committee – Cassie R. reported.

- This committee has been focusing on language that can be used to share the Senior Advisory Council's work with the community. Key topics and goals have been set as well as some action items for their next meeting
- This committee also hosts the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) and Services and Support Committees once a quarter & will meet with these two committees in February 2022.
- Cassie asked the SAC members to submit suggestions of a community-based organization that could be featured at future SAC meetings to Communications & Outreach committee members.

Joint Advocacy – Liz J. reported.

- Cassie will create a Zoom calendar for their committee meetings. These meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month from 12:30-2:00pm.
- The committee decided to create a quarterly legislative action.
- A letter will be composed from the committee based on specific advocacy requests from US Aging. Connie has written a letter on behalf of SDS to our senators and will share her letter as an example.
- The committee continues to look at the legislative priorities of US Aging, (formerly n4a) O4AD, AARP, Oregon League of Women Voters as well as the Oregon Department of Human Services' (DHS) Government Relations Unit.
- The committee also received updates on the State Independent Living Council (SILC) as well as Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN).
- The committee plans to host a "How the Oregon Ways and Means Joint committee works" event. The proposed date and time is April 25th 12:30 – 1:30pm.
- John C. shared that the coalition of membership organizations primarily comprised of mental health counselors will soon have a grass roots campaign. They plan to send an email blast out to encourage co-sponsorship of the Mental Health Access Improvement Act by members of Congress. The Senate Finance Health Committee has appointed 5 subgroup taskforces to consider various aspects of mental health in the country. One of which is workforce and this bill falls into that category. There's another workgroup focusing primarily on parity inside of Medicare and Medicaid. The bill might have a hearing

in one of these committees. Full markup expected to be come out of committees in April or May. Hopefully, legislation will be entertained and voted out of committee so that it might get a vote on the floor of the chamber before the 4th of July recess. If it is voted out of chamber, hopefully, it will be quickly entertained by the house and passed out of their committee and referred to some joint markup so they can reconcile the two versions.

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

- John shared a list of accomplishments that have come out of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing workgroup, a sub-committee of DSAC.
- John shared the workgroup has most recently switched their focus to the hearing loss population.
- Sharen Y. shared her thoughts and experiences about being on staff for DSAC meetings.

Home & Community Based Care – Rhonda L. reported.

- No committee meetings at this time.
- Rhonda shared an email from Nancy Randolph regarding new regulations to install fire sprinklers in adult foster homes or child care facilities opened after April 2021.

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

- No report.

Public Health Update – Leah Swanson, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator & Dr. Leona O’Keefe, Jackson County Public Health Officer

Presentation: Hearing Loss - Clark Anderson, Hearing Loss Association of Lane County

- Clark explained what hearing loops are and how they work.

ADJOURN –Rhonda L. adjourned the meeting at 2:44 pm.