

Meeting: Senior Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting – via ZOOM
Date: March 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
- Natalie Mettler – SAC Member
- Paul Golding – SAC Member
- Rhonda Lawrence – SAC Chair
- Richard Hoskins – SAC Member

GUESTS

- John Curtis
- Justin Nelson – Fair Housing Council of Oregon
- Leah Swanson – Josephine County Public Health
- Maig Tinnin – Fair Housing Council of Oregon
- Noriko Toyokawa – SOU Assistant Professor Psychology
- Tony Ellis

SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

- Darin Fowler – Josephine County Commissioner
- Liz James
- Rick Dyer – Jackson County Commissioner

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

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

Introductions of guests and public comments – Guests were introduced. John C. provided public comment on the Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative and shared a website that he learned about in one of their recent trainings: <https://traumainformedoregon.org>

Additions to agenda – none.

Review and approval of February 7, 2022 Minutes – No quorum reached at this time. See approval of minutes following Support Services committee report.

Announcements – none.

Featured Community Based Organization: Fair Housing Council of Oregon

Maig Tinnin and Justin Nelson shared an overview of the organization's mission and latest initiatives as they pertain to older adults and people with disabilities.

Director's report – Connie W. reported.

- Senior and Disability Services (SDS) has received \$88,618 from the Jewel Brooks Charitable Trust.
- The RVCOG SDS biennial budget amendment included American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding as well as the vaccine funding. SDS awarded an additional \$25,000 of the ARP funds to Rebuilding Together Rogue Valley for home modification and repair services.
- The Service Equity Workgroup will review the most recent draft of the Service Equity Plan later this week. The plan will also be edited to reflect appropriate language as recommended by the ODHS and OHA Writing Style Guide
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) will host a 10-session series on RVCOG and SDS programs. The series launches on March 29, 2022. Classes will be held virtually on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:30pm.
- A statewide LGBTQ+ forum with Senior Advisory Councils & AAA staff will be held on March 10, 2022 from 9:00 – 11:30am.
- The annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference with a focus on financial abuse and fraud will be held in June 2022. Details to follow.

Aging and People with Disabilities District Manager Report – Jeremy W. reported.

- The SNAP emergency allotments have been extended through March 30, 2022.
- The Adult Foster Home Incentive Pay Program has also been extended through March 30, 2022.
- Due to the continued decline of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, there will be a demobilization of the decompression units throughout the state. The local APD contract through Hearthstone is set to end May 31, 2022.
- With the expected end of the Emergency Declaration for the state of Oregon certain APD programs operating under waivers will undergo a shift in programming. Staffing in local APD/ODHS offices will change, there will likely be more in-person presence in the buildings.

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: [Intersectionality](#) (Private hyperlink, password required).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Rhonda L. reported.

- The group worked on planning the future presentation schedule. Continued efforts went into deciding how to make SAC meetings more meaningful and impactful.
- Results from the 2022 short legislative session were reviewed and the group is now beginning to plan for the 2023 legislative session.
- An update on the Service Equity plan was provided.

- The status of bylaw revisions was reviewed.
- Website analytics were reviewed and discussed. Rhonda L. asked for suggestions on how to increase website traffic.

Council Development – Rhonda L. reported.

- Cassie R. has invited several new individuals to attend SAC or subcommittee meetings as guests.

Communications & Outreach Committee – Cassie R. reported.

- Work on the shared common language document continued with a focus on moving away from industry jargon towards simple and basic language.
- The committee is hoping to develop some intergenerational engagement opportunities.
- They are also looking at promoting the SAC in the community by highlighting SAC presenters and featured community-based organizations.
- A targeted outreach list has been developed. The next step is to begin using an email distribution list to promote SAC publicly to draw in more supporters and share SDS services more broadly.

Joint Advocacy – John C. reported.

- The group is finalizing the agenda for the upcoming Ways and Means training that will be held April 25, 2022 via Zoom with Representative Stark and Senator Golden.
- Erika B. shared about Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN).
- Tony E. provided an update on the State Independent Living (SIL) council.
- John C. shared on the Mental Health Access Improvement Act.
- The legislative races and districts were discussed as well as what's going on with the new district that was created.
- The committee appealed to congress to educate them about the need for increased OAA funding.

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

- The group has been reviewing community resources that are applicable and sharing with APD staff.
- Lifelong Housing and Rebuilding Together Rogue Valley recently presented their services to the committee. The group is working on a schedule for future events, speakers, and topics.
- APD will be implementing hearing loop technology in the Southern Oregon offices.

Home & Community Based Care – Rhonda L. reported.

- No committee meetings at this time.

Support Services – Nutrition and ADRC Advisory – Cassie R. reported.

Katie Merola, the new SDS Supervisor, and Teleska Kasper, the new ADRC lead, reviewed emerging needs, program and service highlights, and recent outcomes.

- ADRC call reports were reviewed and trends were identified. The ADRC staff is working heavily on the tax deferral program. Around 700 clients will be impacted by this service.

- Oregon Project Independence (OPI) staff has been reevaluating and rewriting their policies and procedures. In-home visits will begin again April 1, 2022.
- The Long-term care Options Counseling program that has been on hold due to staff capacity will be resuming soon.
- A new demographic profile is rolling out at the state level called REALD which stands for Race, Ethnicity, Language and Disability. It will be implemented at the ADRC level and throughout other programs funded by federal dollars from the Older Americans Act.
- ADRC also worked with the state Community Services and Supports Unit (CSSU) on a pilot project to get tablets and robotic pets to lonely adults.
- Emergency fund requests for both Jackson and Josephine counties residents continue to be fulfilled by ADRC staff as needed.
- The ADRC's RVTB Bus Pass Program has ample supply and will collaborate with Ashland Senior Services Division to distribute the passes if needed.

Food and Friends managers Kristi Welburn and Jon Pfefferle reported on emerging needs, program and service highlights, and recent outcomes.

- The annual March for Meals event begins March 1, 2022
- The 50th anniversary of Meal and Wheels will be celebrated during Older American's Month in April, 2022.
- Current volunteer needs exist in Rogue River, Cave Junction and at the Grants Pass Senior Resource Center.
- Congregate Meal Sites are still developing reopening plans with some hybrid operations.
- The Central Point Senior Center will transition to become an RVCOC meal site in April, 2022.
- A generous donor recently covered the cost of a new oven at the Ashland meal site.
- Staff has been collaborating on the SDS Service Equity Plan.
- The team is brainstorming implementation strategies for REALD and the NAPIS Form.
- A funding application was submitted to the City of Medford General Grant Fund.
- Senator Merkley recently honored the work of the program in a special ceremony.

Meeting Minutes Approval – Paul G. motioned to approve February 7, 2022 minutes as written. John I. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

“Public Health Update” – Leah Swanson, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

“Budget Mapping” – Connie Wilkerson, SDS Director

ADJOURN – Rhonda L. adjourned the meeting at 2:37 pm.