

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

Date: April 4, 2022

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
- Katie Merola – SDS Staff
- Natalie Mettler – SAC Member
- Paul Golding – SAC Member
- Rhonda Lawrence – SAC Chair

GUESTS

- Angela Franklin – Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist, Options for Southern Oregon in Jackson County
- Caryn Wheeler-Clay – Executive Director, Jackson County Community Long Term Recovery Group
- John Curtis
- Don Bruland
- Jennine Greenwell – Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist, Jackson County Mental Health
- Kris Geerken
- Marcee Champion – Access
- Matthew Vorderstrasse, Rogue Retreat
- Major Max McHatton – Civil Air Patrol
- Tony Ellis

SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

- Liz James
- Richard Hoskins
- Rick Dyer – Jackson County Commissioner

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

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

Introductions of guests and public comments – Guests were introduced. John C. provided public comment asking this agency to devote time and resources on how to prioritize addressing needs for the local counties using the County Health Rankings and Roadmap tool. (He compared Jackson and Josephine Counties) <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

Caryn W. noted that the website is lagging data and is not the closest visualization of our local on-the-ground data. She encouraged those interested in these data sets to connect with All In for Health. Rhonda also noted that the website does show which year the data is pulled from and the standard error of measure which is quite large.

Additions to agenda – none.

Review and approval of March 7, 2022 Minutes – Paul motioned to approve March 7, 2022 minutes with typos corrected. John I. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements – none.

Featured Community Based Organization: Rogue Retreat

Matthew Vorderstrasse 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) will be meeting with the Community Services and Supports Unit (CSSU) liaison to discuss the monitoring of the Family Caregiver, (FCG) Oregon Project Independence (OPI) and ADRC programs. This monitoring covers the Biennium 2019-2021 which ended June 30, 2021.
- The RVCOG SDS will receive \$1.13 million for next fiscal year through the 1115 Waiver for the expanded OPI program and the expanded Family Caregiver program. With the expanded programs, more Service Coordinators will be hired to handle the increased caseload. For now, the logistics of where to locate the new staff is unknown.
- The Service Equity Steering Committee has met multiple times. Data from the recent LGBTQ+ summary meeting is included to help fine tune the action plan for serving LGBTQIA2S+ populations.
- Connie W. will attend the American Society on Aging Conference next week.
- Vaccine Initiative Update: A mailing will be produced and distributed to all SDS consumers by week's end on the availability of second booster for those ages 50 and up.
- A steering committee needs to be created to begin work on the Legislator's Dialogue for September. Connie W. asked if the Executive Committee should do the work. Rhonda asked that this topic be discussed later in today's meeting agenda.
- Connie W. nominated Options for People to Address Loneliness (OPAL) program for a US Aging innovation award. Connie mentioned that she would be notified late May if OPAL is to receive an award at the conference in July.
- Connie W. reminded the SAC of the OLLI Series on an overview of Rogue Valley Council of Governments. Senior and Disability Services will share about its programs during 4 of the 10 sessions to be held on May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2022. Connie W. mentioned she would appreciate someone from the Senior Advisory Council who would be willing to present information from their

first-hand experience at the May 24th class. Visit <https://ollis.sou.edu> if you're interested in attending one of these classes.

- The Elder Abuse Conference will be held June 15, 2022.
- The Ways and Means Meeting will be held on April 25, 2022. If there is time later in today's meeting, Connie W. would like to discuss the Ways and Means meeting.
- Connie W. shared that she is awaiting news of an Oregon Health Authority grant to assist in funding the Disaster Registry program.

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

- The SNAP emergency allotments have been extended into May 2022. Date TBD.
- The local APD/ODHS offices are moving into the next phase since the end of the Emergency Declaration for the state of Oregon on April 1, 2022. Masks are no longer required in the buildings. The process of eligibility staff members coming back into the office is underway. This will give consumers the option of being able to apply for benefits or services in-person.
- They are currently having challenges in finding new eligibility workers.
- The hiring process for the additional management position at the Medford Disability Services office is still underway.

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

As part of the Senior and Disability Services Service Equity Plan, an ongoing training initiative, the Service Equity Workgroup selected to share a video: which highlighted the health care, employment, and financial discrimination faced by LGBTQ+ couples.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive – Rhonda L. reported.

- Rhonda L. announced that the Rogue Valley Council of Governments office is open to the public as of April 1, 2022.
- Effective June, 2022, Senior Advisory Council meetings will be held in a hybrid format so that attendees can join either in person or via Zoom. The group continues to work on the SAC agendas including presentations as well as finding community-based organizations to feature at future meetings.

Council Development – Rhonda L. reported.

- No current applications, but we have several guests at our meeting today.

Communications & Outreach Committee – Natalie M. reported.

- Natalie mentioned the targeted outreach list the group has developed. The group is dedicated to focusing on targeted recruitment efforts. A large outreach is on hold for now as the committee intends to focus on the connections they've already made.

Joint Advocacy – John C. reported.

- Connie W. gave a report at the meeting sharing her perspective and challenges.

- Each month, the group goes through their long list of collaborative efforts they try to keep engaged with and abreast of.
- Toni E. shared information about the State Independent Living Council.
- Erika B. reported on Southern Oregon Climate Action Now.(SOCAN)
- John C. shared on the Mental Health Access Improvement Act. Both branches of government as well as both chambers of congress are interested in this particular workforce improvement for mental health for older adults.
- The Ways and Means event will be held on April 25, 2022 from 12:30-1:30pm. A flyer will be circulated before the event.

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

- On April 25, 2022 at 2:30pm, Mike McCormick will hopefully attend the DSAC meeting for conversation. The group is waiting for confirmation.
- The group is planning an outdoor recruitment event for DSAC membership. It’s an opportunity to have a hybrid event that will include hearing loop technology.
- David Doi with Rebuilding Together Rogue Valley presented at last month’s meeting.
- The group hopes to have Rogue Retreat give a presentation next month.

Home & Community Based Care – Rhonda L. reported.

- No committee meetings at this time.

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

- This group meets on a quarterly basis.

PRESENTATION

“Ageism in Healthcare” – Kris Geerken, Changing the Narrative Program Manager

ADJOURN –Rhonda L. adjourned the meeting at 2:36 pm.