

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

Date: December 5, 2022

PARTICIPANTS

- Chelsey Kirby – SDS Staff
- Constance Wilkerson – SDS Program Director
- Jeremy Wolf – APD Deputy District Manager
- John Curtis – SAC Member
- Leah Swanson – SAC Member
- LeAnne Turnbull – SDS Staff
- Liz James – SAC Chair
- Noriko Toyokawa – SAC Member
- Paul Golding – SAC Member

GUESTS

- Cherie Linnemeyer – All Care Pace Program, Community Outreach Liaison
- Christina Kukuk – Jackson County Community Long Term Recovery Group, Community Resilience Program Manager
- Eleanor Ponomareff – Talent City Council, Council President
- Ellen Denninger – SDS Staff
- Julia Jackson, Director of Behavioral Health Jackson Care Connect
- Olivia Robinson – AGE+, Community Outreach and Engagement Manager
- Rai McKenzie
- Susan Jay Rounds – SDS Staff

SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER – Liz J. called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

Introductions of guests and public comments – Members, Staff and Guests introduced themselves.

Additions to agenda – None.

Review and approval of November 7, 2022 Minutes – Paul G. motioned to approve the November 7th, 2022 minutes as written. John C. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements –

Connie shared that SDS staff is entering a call for submissions to discuss replicability of the OPAL (Options for People to Address Loneliness) program. Liz and Connie are partnering up with the Washington County AAA, and SAGE to propose a panel to discuss some innovative ways we are seeing and doing outreach to help support LGBTQ+ older adults in Oregon. Liz will highlight a lot of the work that RVCOG SDS has done to incorporate LGBTQ+ older adults in their outreach and service.

Action: SAC members were asked to approve the call for submissions. All SAC members unanimously approved.

Director's report – Constance W. reported.

- Connie and Susan presented how and why OPAL was created, how to replicate it, and a highlight of its outcomes to USAging members at the Innovations Lunchtime webinar. They also presented a similar presentation on November 18th at the USAging Engage Series. They plan to submit a call for sessions proposal on OPAL this week for the USAging conference next July.
- SDS is continuing the vaccine initiative. Information about multivalent boosters and 4 test kits will be mailed out to clients once the kits are received.
- The 1115 waiver-related programs are still in a holding pattern. (OPI-M - OPI Medicaid and FCAP - Family Caregiver Assistance Program). On Wednesday, Connie will be presenting on the 1115 Waiver to the Jefferson Regional Health Alliance Board.
- Connie shared that she is considering applying for a USAging grant for the SDS DEI work. This grant is due on Friday. Connie will update the SAC if she applies for this grant.
- It is State monitoring season. SDS will be submitting a review of their grants and financial compliance, a review of ADRC, an assessment of nutrition and an overview of both health promotions and legal services.
- RVCOG SDS recently provided a \$5,000 grant to Firebrand Collective for their wildfire recovery work.
- SDS staff participated in a team building exercise in November. Connie shared that she plans to develop an ongoing training schedule.
- The RVCOG office will be closed December 23rd, 26th, 2022 and on January 2nd, 2023.
- John C. asked if SDS and APD are mindful of clients that are homebound and are unable to get their boosters. Connie stated that they are able to access vaccines should they want one.

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

- The Federal Public Health Emergency continues. CMS will give the state a 60 day notice prior to ending and they have not received that notice as of yet. APD will have a lot of rules and processes that will need to be transitioned when the time comes and they have been preparing for that time.
- The SNAP emergency allotments will continue for December 2022.
- Jeremy shared about a program in which APD works with the hospitals on their capacity issues. They meet with them to help troubleshoot and problem-solve those issues.

- Jeremy also discussed the Hospital Discharge Incentive Program. This program is running from November 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 and will pay \$5,000 to LTC facility providers who will take someone from the hospital into their facility.
- The APD local offices continue to have hiring challenges. They still have Eligibility, Case Management and Adult Protective Services openings. Managers are working hard to fill those positions. APD has tabled event in the last few months in order to raise awareness of APD and highlight the benefits of working for the local office(s).
- John C. brought up a bill that is being introduced into legislation this upcoming session to allow people with disabilities to be able to work and retain their Medicaid services. If this bill passes, they might be good employees as they have good insight already on the system itself. John C. stated he is throwing that advocacy piece out there in order to get some support for this particular bill.

Featured Community Based Organization/Agencies: “Coming soon, the 2023 Oregon Legislative Session. A few quick and easy tips to stay in the know.” – Liz James shared the legislation calendar and ran a video on how to find bills.

Focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) – “Racial Trauma” video was played.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive – Liz J. reported.

- The committee has set the SAC agendas for 3 months ahead. They worked on securing the spots for the featured CBO’s/Agencies and the 1/2 hour presentations.
- They discussed the newly approved SAC bylaws.
- Liz told the guests attending the meeting to expect an email from her which will contain a link to a guest survey. She will also send the new bylaws in that email. If a guest has attended 2 meetings, they are eligible to apply for SAC membership.

Support Services – Nutrition and ADRC Advisory – LeAnne T. reported.

- Teleska reported on the ADRC. The ADRC received 1,001 calls in the last quarter.
- The ADRC utilizes 3 different resources for financial assistance for both Jackson and Josephine counties and the older adult population as well as younger adults with disabilities.
- At the meeting Katie mentioned that they still have lots of bus passes. LeAnne shared with SAC to please send anyone in need of those to the ADRC.
- Kellie Owens (former RVCOG Accountant) is the new Nutrition Program Analyst for Food & Friends. Jon is now the Nutrition Program Director. Food & Friends is looking to hire a Volunteer and Marketing Coordinator.
- Food & Friends updated their brochure and translated it to Spanish as well.
- The August 8th grand opening of the Central Point Senior Resource Center was shared. The congregate meal site has been a success!

- Food & Friends had a booth at the Southern Oregon Pride event so they could educate the community on the volunteer opportunities with Food and Friends and RVCOG.
- All operating meal sites have been reopened for in person dining as well as pick up. The Wilderville site is permanently closed and the Talent site was closed indefinitely but they are seeing some growth in number of Talent home delivered meals.
- Volunteer recruitment is very low mostly due to the pandemic and the price of gas and/or inflation.
- Food & Friends has had a success season for their Wish Tree which provides gifts to seniors with no family or friends and the most in need. The number of gifts donated this year has doubled. They were able to provide gifts for Josephine County clients this year even though they had no sponsors from Josephine County this year.

Communications & Outreach Committee – LeAnne T. reported.

- LeAnne shared at the meeting her efforts for outreach since the last meeting. She visited Rogue River Estates and attended the Wildfire recovery event.
- Natalie reached out to Leah Swanson looking for ideas in order to recruit SAC members to represent Josephine County.
- Connie and LeAnne have been working on the New Member Orientation which is really meant for everyone to attend if interested. LeAnne asked that those that received the doodle poll to please respond so that a date can be set.
- LeAnne shared that Liz had drafted several documents for the committee including the guest survey and the online SAC membership application.
- Liz shared that the committee's goal is to not only reach people better and have more inclusion and more representation but to have their voices heard.
- Liz also stated that they are working on outreach tools and messaging and other ongoing work that will help the committee communicate what serving on the SAC looks like as well as what services are offered by RVCOG SDS.

Council Development – See Communications and Outreach Committee report

Joint Advocacy – John C. reported.

- Nicole Palmateer Hazelbaker attended the meeting and shared a lot of information about bills and the legislative process. There are some bills that are not yet released from legislative council. She shared a few other concepts that are coming out as well.
- The Mental Health Access Improvement Act is included in both the senate and the house versions of their mental health packages. Since there isn't a lot of time between now and the end of congress, we don't know that they will get to the floor.
- They discussed Hearing Loops.
- They talked about the bill that would allow people that have Medicaid services to be able to work and stay on Medicaid services.

- Liz shared an article from the Washington Post stating that the majority of those dying from COVID are seniors.

Home & Community Based Care – John C.

- Cherie and John C. exchanged some emails. Connie shared her availability for planning meetings. They will try to meet together soon.

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

- They spent a lot of time discussing parking and the enforcement of disabled parking spaces.

PRESENTATION:

“CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) mobile crisis intervention program - Julia Jackson, Director of Behavioral Health Jackson Care Connect

ADJOURN – Liz J. adjourned the meeting at 2:34 pm.