

Meeting: Senior Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting – via ZOOM
Date: March 6, 2022

PARTICIPANTS

- Chelsey Kirby – SDS Staff
- Constance Wilkerson – SDS Program Director
- Jeremy Wolf – APD Deputy District Manager
- John Curtis – SAC Member
- Jennine Greenwell – SAC Member
- John West – Josephine County Commissioner
- Leah Swanson – SAC Member
- LeAnne Turnbull – SDS Staff
- Liz James – SAC Chair
- Natalie Mettler – SAC Member
- Noriko Toyokawa – SAC Member
- Paul Golding – SAC Member

GUESTS

- Angela Franklin –Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist with Options for Southern Oregon (Josephine County) Suicide Prevention Coordinator
- Cherie Linnemeyer – All Care Pace Program, Community Outreach Liaison
- Eleanor Ponomareff – Talent City Council, Council President
- Olivia Robinson – AGE+, Community Outreach and Engagement Manager
- Rai McKenzie – Josephine County

SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

- Colleen Roberts – Jackson County Commissioner
- John Irwin

CALL TO ORDER – Liz J. called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

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

Additions to agenda – None.

Review and approval of February 6th, 2022 Minutes – Natalie M. motioned to approve the February 6th, 2022 minutes as written. Leah S. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements – LeAnne explained that she has gathered everyone’s birth date and will plan to acknowledge birthdays during their birth month with a birthday card.

Director's report – Constance W. reported.

- The Public Health Emergency will end on May 11th, 2023.
- O4AD (Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities) will hold its quarterly business meeting on April 12th, followed by a Day on the Hill with legislators on April 13th. Connie, LeAnne and Katie will attend.
- SDS has launched the Guided Autobiography class this month. Ellen started the Jackson County class last week and Connie will start class in Josephine County in May or June.
- SDS received a \$5,000 grant from ODOT to reduce barriers to transportation. Transit and Paratransit vouchers will be purchased for Josephine County residents.
- The Service Equity workgroup met to discuss the plan's goals and continuing barriers to service. As part of the committee's ongoing work, RVCOG is now training its SDS and F&F employees in different SAGE trainings. A \$9,750 grant was awarded from the RVCOG SDS Service Equity bonus funds to Rogue Food Unites to target food insecurity in the Upper Rogue through its Farmers Market pilot project. LeAnne is attending seminars on broadband to help bridge the urban/rural divide, which is one of the Service Equity goals.
- Planning is underway for the annual Elder Abuse Prevention Summit. The summit will be held at the Health and Human Services building in Medford on June 15 2023. This year's summit will focus on underserved populations, especially tribal elders and LGBTQ+ older adults.
- The Vaccine Initiative will be distributing the 4 COVID kits, booster information and other generalized COVID information to clients as well as the Central Point library. SAC and DSAC members will also be receiving this package of kits and information.
- 2 proposals were submitted to US Aging for this year's national conference and 1 was accepted. Susan, Ellen and Connie will present on the OPAL (Options for People to Address Loneliness) program in mid-July.
- It's budget season at RVCOG. Word was received that the 1115 Waiver may not receive final approval until the end of this calendar year. CMS is working with all states to prioritize every state's waivers and state plans so that appropriate time is available to deal with the unwinding of the Public Health Emergency. Oregon has prioritized necessary changes to the OHA 1115 waiver and creation of a basic health plan to soften the impact of the unwinding of the Public Health Emergency and resulting loss of Medicaid coverage for some individuals. These critical changes will help ensure many individuals will have access to core health benefits. We are waiting to hear back from the CSSU what the impact will be with our funding. For example, will we receive additional state funding for regular OPI or will we continue to utilize the OPIM funds that were awarded to us to use for regular OPI while we await CMS approval.
- This is the second year to review the Area Plan and all revisions/updates to the Plan are due in late June.
- Liz J. will be representing our AAA at the upcoming Oregon Rural Health Conference.

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

- Last month Jeremy W. had shared that the Public Health Emergency is ending May 11, 2023.

- He also shared that the SNAP emergency allotments ended in February. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 set a timeline for the state to resume Oregon Health Plan renewals.
- Because the ending of Medicaid continuous enrollment, Oregon will begin re-determining eligibility for the Oregon Health Plan Medicaid benefits starting April 1, 2023. The APD offices will be primarily focused on this.
- The Statewide APD is holding legislative updates for community members every other Wednesday. The next meeting will be held on March 15th from 12:00-1:00pm. If requested, Jeremy W. can send out information on how to register for this meeting.
- The local APD offices were closed due to the snowy weather on February 28, 2023.
- Next month, the APD Senior Services Office will have a booth at the Access Senior Fair on April 4, 2023.
- Ana Gonzalez will fill the Deputy District Manager position on an interim basis over this next year.

Featured Community Based Organization/Agencies: Older Adult Behavioral Health & Suicide Prevention Support – Options for Southern Oregon – Angela Franklin

March 9th Functional Cognition registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/4-ms-frame-work-age-friendly-system-of-care-tickets-495388649787>

Focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) – “Invisible Disability” and “Hidden Disabilities” video was played.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive – Liz J. reported.

- Liz J. shared that coming up in June, the SAC will be voting on Senior Advisory Council officers.
- July’s meeting is cancelled.
- Liz shared upcoming spotlights and presentations.

Communications & Outreach Committee – Natalie M. reported.

- The committee checked in on recruitment, looking at upcoming opportunities to educate the community. They are thrilled to have some potential applicants.
- They discussed the Speakers Bureau, something that the former Chair had started. They are not planning to utilize it at the time, but will be keep it in the pipeline.
- They continue to polish their publicity materials.
- They are finalizing beta testing of the generic SAC email. (sac@rvcoq.org)
- They appreciate LeAnne T. who promotes the Senior Advisory Council at all the events she tables.

Support Services – Nutrition and ADRC Advisory – Quarterly meeting

- Details recorded in meeting minutes.

Council Development – See Communications and Outreach Committee report

Joint Advocacy – John C. reported.

- Lots of discussion was on housing bills currently in legislation. John summarized Connie Saldaña's report which was included in the SAC email with the agenda for today's meeting.
- Liz shared about the following bills:
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Overview/HB2889>
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Overview/HB2800>
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Overview/SB576>
- Liz J. shared about the LGBTQ+ Bill of Rights.
- Update on the Mental Health Access Improvement Act: The mental health licensed Counselors and marriage and family therapists were unable to receive reimbursement through Medicare but thanks to the work of the House Ways and Means committee those professions were thrown into the Omnibus funding bill at the end of last Congress. They are now able to be reimbursed if they want to service seniors and people with disabilities through Medicare insurance. It will be the role of the local AAA to educate the population that those resources will be available once the bill becomes law in January, 2024.

Home & Community Based Care – No report.

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

- The Accessible Parking Workgroup is reaching out to potential partners to learn about what is happening in regard to public education, accessible parking laws enforcement as well as opportunities to collaborate.
- John Curtis presented on how to access the Legislature website in order to make public comment or register to testify on senate and/or house bills.
- Another member shared that the State Independent Living Council has collaboration calls every first and third Mondays if there were interested parties in joining..

PRESENTATION:

Community Volunteer Network: Foster Grandparents and Call-a-Ride programs – Cassie Rose, CVN Executive Director crose@retirement.org

ADJOURN – LeAnne T. adjourned the meeting at 2:33 pm.