

Meeting: Senior Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting – via ZOOM
Date: April 3, 2023

PARTICIPANTS

- Chelsey Kirby – SDS Staff
- Constance Wilkerson – SDS Program Director
- John Curtis – SAC Member
- Jennine Greenwell – SAC Member
- John Irwin – SAC Vice-Chair
- 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
- Christina Kukuk – Jackson County Community Long Term Recovery Group – Community Resilience Program Manager
- Eleanor Ponomareff – Talent City Council, Council Member
- Olivia Robinson – AGE+, Community Outreach and Engagement Manager

SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

- Colleen Roberts – Jackson County Commissioner
- John West – Josephine County Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER – Liz J. called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm.

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

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

Additions to agenda – New SAC member recommendations.

Action Item: New SAC member recommendations – SAC Executive Committee

- Paul G. motioned to recommend that the RVCOG Board appoint Cherie Linnemeyer and Eleanor Ponomoraff as Senior Advisory Council members. Leah S. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Review and approval of March 6th, 2023 Minutes – Paul G. motioned to approve the March 6th, 2023 minutes as written. Natalie M. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements – Liz J. announced it is the final day for work sessions in the state legislative session. If bills do not make it out of the house or senate committees (or if they're moved to the rules committee) they die.

Cherie L. announced that Ron Wyden will be visiting the All Care PACE program facility on Friday April 3, 2023.

Director's report – Constance W. reported.

- Connie W. attended the American Society on Aging conference last week. Much of the content focused on brain health and the needs of family caregivers.
- She reminded the group that the Public Health Emergency will end on 5/11/2023. SDS will no longer have any fluidity between the subtitles in Older American Act funding that was allowed during the pandemic.
- 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 W., Katie M., LeAnne T. and Liz J. will attend. They are scheduled to meet with Senator Golden and Representative Marsh and are awaiting confirmation of other appointments with legislators serving the local service area. Connie W. is developing a one-pager of the SDS programs to take to the meetings. By then, we should know more about where the LGBTQ+ Bill of Rights legislation is landing. Connie W. commended Liz J. for her work on the bill.
- Planning continues for our Elder Abuse Prevention Summit that's scheduled for June 15, 2023. It will be held at the Health and Human Services building in downtown Medford. This year's summit will focus on underserved population, especially tribal elders and LGBTQ+ older adults. Connie W. was able to touch base with SAGE staff last week at the ASA Conference and Reynaldo will be attending virtually and presenting on elder abuse prevention in LGBTQ+ populations. Wilson Wawa will be representing the tribes. A flyer for the event will be distributed soon.
- The SDS vaccine initiative is concluding soon. 4 COVID kits, booster information and other generalized COVID information is being distributed to SDS clients, F&F clients and the Central Point library. SAC and DSAC members will be receiving kits soon.
- It's budget season at RVCOG. The budget is down 1.2 million this year due to the state's pause on OPI-M and FCAP. Hopefully the 1115 Waiver programs will be approved and running by early next year. This has made budgeting very difficult. The majority of the 1.2 million was for case management so the decrease directly impacts budgeting for staffing. This has also caused clients to be waitlisted for both OPI and Family Caregiver programs.
- The second year of the Area Plan review is being prepared. All revisions/updates to the Plan are due in late June.
- Liz J. will be representing the AAA at the upcoming Oregon Rural Health Conference.

Aging and People with Disabilities District Manager Report – Jeremy W. is not available today.

Featured Community Based Organization/Agencies: Senior Services Division, Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission – Natalie Mettler – Senior & Adult Services Coordinator

Natalie.mettler@ashland.or.us

Focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) – Discussion & video review.

Paul G. gave an update on the Homeless Task Force meeting. Paul G. shared that the Jackson County library system has an outreach program that is serving as a de facto navigation center. They serve several people that use the library as a warming or cooling center. They have information leaflets on both floors and they also have a clothing outlet and a shoe outlet. They are considering hiring security.

The city of Medford is developing a downtown complete navigation center for the homeless.

Home Share Oregon is a nonprofit that connects people who have spare bedrooms to rent with home seekers in need of housing. They are pushing legislation in Oregon to allow people who rent a room for under \$1,000 not count as state or federal income. There are currently 1.5 million empty bedrooms in the state of Oregon.

With the end of the Public Health Emergency, ACCESS is changing how they offer rental and utility bill assistance. They have to limit people from receiving assistance long term. Those that have been dropped from service are not eligible to reapply for 2 years.

The Multicultural Fair will be held on September 30th this year. They are still looking for volunteers for that event.

Rogue Retreat has just obtained a large property to be a permanent location for Rogue Retreat on W. McAndrews. They have begun development at the site.

The Severe weather shelter programs in the Medford area had over 1,300 people. Ashland served that many people as well. Ashland is very well staffed with volunteers. They have security doing bag searches to make sure those are safe to come into the shelter.

Paul G. also stated that the LGBTQ+ community continues to have difficulty in not receiving support on both the state and national level. Anything we can do to be involved in helping them find resources. We shouldn't marginalize people; they so often tend to isolate themselves.

Natalie M. shared that the Ashland Senior Services partners with the library and she often uses it as referral source for services such as resource navigation, form-filling assistance and free notary. Natalie suggested a speaker from (JCLS) Jackson County Library Services come to present to the SAC on what they are doing for the general public.

John I. mentioned there should be a central clearing service. We need some way to coordinate all of these activities and local services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive – Liz J. reported.

- Liz J. shared upcoming 15 minute spotlights and 30 minute presentations. June's meeting will hopefully be hybrid zoom/in-person and there will be no July meeting.

Communications & Outreach Committee – Natalie M. reported.

- The committee strategized to prioritize a general information flyer. They are working on a flyer as a paper product and discussed how to distribute it throughout the community.
- They continue to clarify and streamline the SAC application process.
- The committee will have the quarterly ADRC and Nutrition reports at the April meeting.
- A guest from Jackson County Long Term Recovery group, Tessa Elbettar has attended a few of their meetings and given a lot of insight and good ideas.

Support Services – Nutrition and ADRC Advisory – Quarterly meeting

- Meeting in April.

Council Development – See Communications and Outreach Committee report

Joint Advocacy – John C. reported.

- They discussed bills and their progress.
- They had a special guest attend their meeting. She is the new District rep for Senator Wyden, America Silva. She intends on attending our SAC meetings when she is available.
- Connie Saldana – Lifelong housing update – recently Connie S. gave a presentation to the local AARP group which was expanded to national. There was a lot of interest in Lifelong Housing from that presentation.

Connie S. shared the HB2001 which was the big bill proposed by the Department of Land Conservation and Development passed in both house and senate. The HB3309 started as a bill to increase required minimum amount of accessible units that any subsidized housing would need to have. The federal level is 5% for wheelchair accessible and 2% for hearing and vision and it was going to increase that for the state of Oregon. That got taken out right away. That bill has some incentives in it that the state housing agency has asked to provide to builders so that they'll build more. There's an organization within Oregon Housing and Community Services called the Oregon Housing Stability Council, which decides on grants and loans for housing. To date, they have made no mention of disability or accessible units in its mandate. This bill would put accessible housing in their mandate.

The local committee is going to start working on a project to create a module that can be implemented by Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) and Centers for Independent Living (CIL's) so different communities can have Lifelong Housing certification programs.

Home & Community Based Care – Will hold a meeting on April 21st.

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

- The council is busy working on a program to have better enforcement of the disability parking spaces in our 2 county areas.

PRESENTATION:

ADRC – Melanie Greeley, ADRC Lead mgreeley@rvco.org adrcforegon@rvco.org

ADJOURN – Liz J. adjourned the meeting at 2:39 pm.