

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

Date: September 11, 2023

## **PARTICIPANTS**

- Chelsey Kirby – SDS Staff
- Connie Saldaña – SDS Staff
- Connie Wilkerson – SDS Program Director
- Eleanor Ponomareff – SAC Member
- Jennine Greenwell – SAC Member
- John Curtis – SAC Member (arrived for the second ½ of the meeting)
- LeAnne Turnbull – SDS Staff
- Liz James – SAC Chair
- Natalie Mettler – SAC Vice Chair
- Noriko Toyokawa – SAC Member
- Paul Golding – SAC Member

## **GUESTS**

- Angela Franklin – Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist (Josephine County) Options for Southern Oregon, Suicide Prevention Coordinator
- Erika Bucio – Unite Oregon
- Olivia Robinson – Age+, Community Outreach and Engagement Manager
- Rene Braga – Unite Oregon
- Sharen Yeager – APD/DSAC Staff

## **SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

- Cherie Linnemeyer
- Colleen Roberts – Jackson County Commissioner
- Jeremy Wolf
- John West – Josephine County Commissioner
- Leah Swanson

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

## **GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS**

**Introductions of guests and public comments** – No public Comments.

**Public Comments** – none.

**Additions to agenda** – None.

**Review and approval of August 7th, 2023 Minutes** – Paul G. motioned to approve the August 7th, 2023 minutes as written. Natalie M. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Announcements** – Noriko T. announced that Southern Oregon University received an approval letter for SOU's Age Friendly University Global Network Membership.

Liz J. mentioned an article she saw in the Rogue Valley Times on the Alameda fire of 2020. SAC member Eleanor Ponomareff was highlighted in the article. Liz J. thanked Eleanor P. for the work she's done for the community.

Paul G. shared what he's learned about the Temu app. Paul mentioned that a national nursing association has noticed a large amount of patient dumping by hospitals recently. Paul also shared about a program that a local Humane Society is using to give pet owners resources to help keep the animals in their home. Paul G. spoke about an instance in which he talked to a manager of WalMart about not having enough accessible parking spaces near the pharmacy entrance.

Liz J. reminded the SAC of the upcoming Legislator's Dialogue event. The hybrid event will be held via Zoom and at the RVCOG Lewis Conference Room on September 15, 2023 from 12:00pm-1:30pm.

Liz J. shared that she will be at the 2023 Elder Pride Awards in Portland later in the week to accept an award along with the Oregon LGBTQ+ Aging Coalition (For the hard work & support that helped SB99 pass)

**Director's report** – Constance W. reported.

Connie W. shared about her lunch with Governor Kotek last month:

- They discussed aging needs in Josephine County, including roadblocks to helping clients maintain their independence and health.
- Connie W. shared with the Governor that although our AAA was awarded a state mental health grant in June of 2022, we have not yet received the contract or funding.
- She also shared that there is a dire shortage of homecare workers for both agencies and those that are independent contractors.
- There is also a huge shortage of mental health professionals.
- Access to health care is also overwhelming for older adults in Josephine County.
- Connie W. also mentioned the 6 month wait list for the Oregon Project Independence program as well as the 4-5 month wait list for both behavioral health programs. (PEARLS & OPAL)

Grants:

- Connie W. shared that she had applied for \$78,194 from ACL through USAging for Vaccine Project. In a meeting with USAging last week, there was some confusion over whether the COVID vaccination would be offered to everyone or only to those most vulnerable. SDS had contracted with Wellness 2000 to provide the vaccines for 4 COVID and Flu Clinics in October and November, which is now dependent on the outcome of the decision by USAging.
- Connie W. has applied for a \$15,000 Rural Oregon micro grant and a \$35,000 JCC CHIP grant. (for the OPAL program)

Other SDS info:

- The first year of the 23-25 SDS biennium budget still has not been received.

- The data migration for the Disaster Registry, Veteran Directed Care and Behavioral Health programs is still ongoing.
- OPIM training is being developed. The training will occur in late October and by then Connie W. hopes to have more information about the OPIM launch date.
- SDS will be participating in the full-day convening by the Jackson County Community Long Term Recovery Group to reflect upon the response and recovery from the 2020 Almeda and South Obenchain fires on October 23rd.
- RVCOG SDS was selected as the AAA to present on its disaster response at a FEMA's Client Ready Workshop presentation on September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- SDS leadership is meeting with Nakeshia Knight Coyle on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup>. She is visiting District 8 at both the AAA and APD offices.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

- The O4AD Annual Director's Meeting will be held at Salishan In the last week of September.
- Connie, Monique and Katie will be attending the two-day training at the O4AD Business meeting. The SAC breakout session will be held online.
- The Annual Tribal Gathering will be held for two days in October as well.

**Aging and People with Disabilities District Manager Report** – Jeremy not present - No report.

**Featured Community Based Organization/Agencies:** Unite Oregon - Rene Braga, [rene@uniteoregon.org](mailto:rene@uniteoregon.org) - Climate Justice Community Organizer and Erika Bucio, [erika@uniteoregon.org](mailto:erika@uniteoregon.org) - Lead Community Organizer.

Rene and Erika shared about their work for Unite Oregon.

**Focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)** – Liz James shared an article- "I've been disabled my entire life. But only strangers can tell." <https://wapo.st/3RbilLP>  
Discussion & review.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Executive** – Liz J. reported.

- Liz J. shared the upcoming 15 minute spotlights and 30 minute presentations. They will be reviewing the SAC bylaws at the next Executive Committee meeting.

**Communications & Outreach Committee** – Natalie M. reported.

- The quarterly Nutrition and ADRC reports were given at the meeting. Email Natalie M. at [Natalie.mettler@ashland.or.us](mailto:Natalie.mettler@ashland.or.us) for a copy of the meeting minutes with details.
- The committee continues to work on the publicity documents, specifically a tri-fold brochure at this time.
- Liz J. and Natalie M. have started to work on storing files via cloud storage.

- Natalie M. gave an invitation to anyone to email or share her email with anyone interested in attending a meeting. Natalie M. reminded the group that anyone can attend subcommittee meetings regardless of if they are a SAC member or not.

**Support Services – Nutrition and ADRC Advisory** – Quarterly meeting – see Community & Outreach report.

**Council Development – See Communications and Outreach Committee report**

**SAC/DSAC Joint Advocacy** – no report.

**Home & Community Based Care** – no report.

- This group meets quarterly.

**Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)** – Sharen Yeager reported.

- The committee created an accomplishments document for the year. Sharen Y. shared it in the chat.
- Sharen Y. shared about Bridges Oregon. They have formulated videos on working with deaf and hard of hearing individuals in Medical settings. John Curtis and Don Bruland were instrumental in helping Bridges acquire a grant to create the videos.

**PRESENTATION: Tribal Elders/Navigator** - Michele Pinkham, Community Engagement and Development Manager NARA NW, Inc., [mpinkham@naranorthwest.org](mailto:mpinkham@naranorthwest.org) "Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest, Inc. (NARA NW) "Lori Stanton, [lstanton@alz.org](mailto:lstanton@alz.org), Community Outreach Director, Alzheimer's Association Oregon and SW Washington Chapter

**ADJOURN** – Liz J. adjourned the meeting at 2:36 pm.