



Aging & People with Disabilities (APD)
<https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/agency/Pages/apd.aspx>
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)
in partnership with the Area Agency on Aging
Monday, February 3, 2025
Virtual Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS & CHECK IN – Called to order. This is a regular meeting of the DSAC. All DSAC meetings are open to the public. Visitors are welcome. This meeting was recorded. ASL Interpreters were provided.

DSAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cody Guinn
Denyce Gavin
George Adams (vice chair)
James Naegele (chair)
Katy Callies
Kerrie Walters
Leslie McIntyre

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Bonnie Huard

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

GUEST:

Tyler Johnson, Mid Rogue Foundation
Danica Alexander, Advocate

STAFF:

Diana Burney, APD District Office Specialist

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS – Do you have any goals for the new year?

PUBLIC COMMENT -

James, his home care worker (HCW) and others are experiencing frustration with the ONE System. There is a now lack of communication in the office, it is making it difficult for HCWs to get started, the front staff is not able to take paperwork to give to the case manager and the back-up worker of the day has not been able to help when the case manager has been out. They have been under the impression that they had to speak with Catherine about HCW issues, when there were other people, they could be speaking with.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – None.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2024 MINUTES – Minutes are unanimously approved as presented. (George, Katy 2nd)

RVCOG SDS DRAFT FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR 2025-2029 – Ann Marie Alfrey

Ann Marie Alfrey is unable to attend today due to inclement weather office closures, but we will schedule her for the next meeting. Diana sent the document to this group earlier today to review before our next meeting. Here is the link - <https://rvcog.org/home/sds-2/areaplan/>

UPDATES & NEWS

APD and SDS were not able to attend due to inclement weather office closures.

INFORMATION SHARING

- DSAC Recruitment Mailing to Jackson & Josephine County Libraries
 - On 1/8/25, we did a recruiting mailing to all 18 libraries in Jackson and Josephine Counties that included a flyer for posting, DSAC FAQs and a handful of flyers. We haven't received any calls yet. We will be doing more mailing in the future, as we have an extensive list of community partners to work with.
 - Diana will check with RVTD to see how the advertising works in the buses. Prior to 2021 they were supposed to be ads posted in the buses, but the DSAC is not sure what happened with that. James reports that they are not in the Valley Lift buses.
- Tyler is working with LeAnne at RVCOG to get more representation from Josephine County groups for the Senior Advisory Council (SAC), he will keep the DSAC in mind for recruiting members also. Leslie mentioned the Oregon Commission for the Blind, as she works with them.
- Tyler will get Diana a direct contact to the outreach library coordinator in Josephine County.
- Team Senior – Denyce requested they can come to a meeting to let us know about what they do, as they were very helpful around Christmas time. Diana will add them to the presenters list. <https://www.teamseior.org/>
- Accessible Parking Workgroup –
 - Our next meeting is 2/11/2025
 - We are doing prep for the presentation for the next O4AD meeting
 - Discussing tabling at Walmart

- Discussing attendance at the Senior Fair (4/8/25 @ Rogue X) and other events
- Karen with DMV is wanting user feedback and input on their Disabled Parking permit application forms, particularly the 735-265PP. Diana will forward Karen's email out to the rest of the DSAC members.
- Disability Awareness for ODHS training –
 - Our next meeting is 2/7/2025 – which Diana plans to bring venue information to about Phoenix Plaza and Jackson County Health and Human Services conference room.
 - Parking could be an issue at the Plaza Center.
 - The ability to have a hybrid meeting is our biggest hurdle at this point.
 - We have tentative dates of 6/10/25 and 6/17/25, which our presenters are okay with, but we need to be sure the venue is available for one of those dates.
 - We have an agenda and presenters lined up to discuss -
 - Living with Disabilities
 - Deaf Culture & Assistive Technology
 - The Benefits of Social Activity
 - Disability Etiquette
- Announcements and Upcoming Events –
 - George – HCW commission has a vacancy, George may be taking over as the chair. They are concerned about Medicaid funding being frozen.
 - George – Grants Pass may have 20 – 50 apartments opening for persons with disabilities only.
 - George - ONE system – Charts will be going into state offices to explain how to use the ONE system. There are two meetings each month with seven to nine people on the committee. Please let George know if you are having issues with the ONE system.
 - Tyler mentioned that the Josephine County digital outreach specialist, Shannon, is working on giving free computer classes at the library, maybe she can help.
 - James mentioned that his care provider is having issues with the HCW portal that is affecting his pay.
 - George – CMS – 1/1/25 there is a new rule for grievances. They must be submitted in 90 days and the state has two years to investigate and three years to comply.

- George will be meeting the new vice president of Care Oregon and will be giving her ideas for Medicare.
- There is fear in the community about some of the proposed federal funding changes. Personal letters written to our congress persons and representatives could help, as well as emails. Each person has their preference of communication, so it might be beneficial to do both.
 - The group could put a letter together.
 - We could invite Miss Black from Senator Merkley's office to a meeting to discuss Medicare changes. George will get her email address to Diana.
 - Townhalls was suggested, but it would be tough to get our group questions answered in that forum.
 - Regional representatives travel to places that the others can't make it to, maybe we can meet with them.
 - We could draft a letter, send an email and ask if they are available to come to a meeting all at one time.
- SHIBA responded to Sharen's request for a presentation at one of our meetings, and they would like to know what challenges you have with Medicare so that they can prepare a presentation for us. The following were mentioned -
 - Prior Authorizations for basic medical procedures and equipment, especially with advantage plans. One example is a new tire for a wheelchair.
 - Durable Medical Equipment, injections take many weeks and are not automatically authorized.
 - Care Oregon told people that the drug formulary and other information after people were signed up with them.
 - People waiting more than five hours to get into the hospital / emergency room.
 - Being prescribed a higher dosage of medication because the medication is significantly cheaper with the higher dosage.
 - The big changes with the advantage plans.
 Diana will reply and get SHIBA scheduled for a future DSAC meeting.
- Diana asked if anybody would like some of our branded items and new brochures to share? James would like both and Cody would like some brochures.

- James asked if there is still local mental health hospitalization, as he knows two people that were sent to Portland instead of a local hospital. There are two in Medford, one in Grants Pass, they do not have many beds, so that might be why they they sent to Portland.
- Katy asked about resources for a person with autism. HASL is a great place to start, as they help with paperwork for Social Security in Jackson and Josephine County. Tyler offered his assistance, as he knows people to contact. Living Opportunities and Creative Supports are great resources too. There is an attorney in Medford on Central Avenue that might be able to help too.
- Diana's internet cut out for a moment early in the meeting and it discontinued the transcription and cut out all chat comments prior to when it failed. The recording was intact with only a brief spot missing. Please let her know if anything is missing from the minutes.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Meeting adjourned at 4:20

NEXT MEETING – March 3, 2025, 2:45 – 4:30

This message is also attached as a PDF file for accommodation purposes. This document will be provided in alternate formats upon request, including but not limited to language other than English, large print, captions, braille, audio file, American Sign Language interpretation. Please contact APD.ServiceEquityCommunications@odhs.oregon.gov for alternate format.