



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, November 4, 2024
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)
Kerrie Walters
Leslie McIntyre

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Bonnie Huard
James Naegele (chair)
Katy Callies

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

GUEST: Danica Alexander

STAFF:

Jeremy Wolf, APD District Manager
Ann Marie Alfrey, Rogue Valley Council of Governments Executive Director
Sharen Yeager, APD Executive Support Specialist
Diana Burney, APD District Office Specialist

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS – What is your favorite movie and why?

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – None.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2024 MINUTES – Minutes are unanimously approved as presented. (Kerrie, Cody 2nd)

SHIBA (Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors) – They did not respond to a request to come to the DSAC meeting. It is a busy time of year for them. We hope to have them come to a future meeting.

DISABILITY AWARENESS EVENT PLANNING – We have had some conversation about our big event for the year and have decided on doing a Disability Awareness Seminar. APD is working more closely with other ODHS programs, and we have information to share. It could consist of segments of three speakers sharing their expertise on disability topics, and we can invite Aging and People with Disabilities (APD), Oregon Eligibility Partnership (OEP), Self Sufficiency (SS), Child Welfare (CW) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). There is a lot of planning to do. It could take months of planning for this event. As an example, the ODHS director recently came to Medford, and it took three months to plan it and 75 – 100 people were scheduled to attend. The DSAC hasn't done anything like this before.

- Possible speakers and topics could be –
 - Barbara Robertson with Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services recently completed a pilot to test accessible technology throughout APD offices.
 - General disability awareness that would discuss wheelchair etiquette, service animal etiquette, etc.
 - For Deaf culture, Eric Crook would be good, as he lives in the area, has been part of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing workgroup, has a degree on the topic, and is very articulate and is well respected.
 - Bridges Oregon could be another good presenter, as we have worked closely with them in the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Workgroup for seven years.
 - Julie Simonson from Southern Oregon Consortium for Accessibility to the Arts might be a good resource.
 - Jackson County Mental Health
 - Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) has cut a bus in half for w/c users to check out, get comfortable with - Mike would be a good resource to talk to about it.
 - There are only a few spaces in each bus for wheel chairs which makes it difficult to schedule appointments because one might have to wait for the next bus if there isn't sufficient room. Maybe as a tabler?
 - Valley Lift - Tim Fountain, maybe as a tabler?
 - Ready Ride – both counties

- The seminar would likely need to be hybrid, which would add some complexity.
- There is currently \$3,811.12 remaining in this year's budget. This event shouldn't be very expensive, maybe \$2,000.
 - George mentioned that Joseph Lowe, APD program analyst for DSACs, is trying to increase our budget, it would likely not happen this year though.
- Budget items could be –
 - Snacks – keep it basic.
 - Fruit
 - Popcorn bags
 - Drinks
 - Venues discussed – somewhere central or south of Medford.
 - Smullin Health Education Center - Asante
 - Jackson County Mental Health has conference rooms.
 - Phoenix Plaza Civic Center might be available again soon.
 - Talent Maker City building has a conference room on the second floor, and they have an elevator.
 - Talent has a community center behind city hall.
 - Rogue X, SDS has an “in” with them, brand new facilities, different sizes of conference rooms, accessible parking, high tech. Ann Marie offered to check into the details.
 - Jackson County Health and Human Services has a large room, with tables and chairs on wheels, and technology that might be compatible to use for a hybrid meeting.
 - Harry & David training center has a separate area that is accessible but is a little further south.
 - Josephine County Senior Resource Center has large area, which is their dining room. It could be available after senior meals are served at lunch, after 2:00pm, which is likely too late.
 - Transportation
 - Fees for presenters, stipends.
 - Printing of documents – flyers, brochures, etc
- Date/Time of day?
 - We'll need to be strategic with our timing, on a weekday, between 8:00am and 5:00pm when other large meetings and training are not taking place. There are over 1,000 ODHS staff to consider. Likely, the

most attendance we would get would be about 250, if that many.

Hybrid attendance will help, as there are only so many state vehicles available for staff to travel to a live training.

- We need to have time to promote it and get all the agencies involved, minimum of three months.
- 10:30 – 11:00am at the earliest to start.
- Maybe a half day?
- After lunch would be better so we won't need to serve lunch, from 1:00 – 4:00 or 4:30 at the latest.
- Maybe May or June, before people start vacations?
- Who else should be invited?
 - RVCOG board
 - DMV – discuss accessible parking.
 - City leaders
 - APS
- Who will be in the planning group –
 - Kerrie – maybe
 - Leslie
 - James
 - Katy
 - Diana
 - Sharen will set up a meeting.
- We will want people to pre-register for the event.
- Consider members that will need transportation to the event.
- We can have some tablers there to share information.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING WINDSHIELD CARDS and SAC & O4AD QUARTERLY PRESENTATIONS –

- A few postcards were mailed out to all DSAC members last week.
- Cody gave out some of the cards and DSAC brochures at the wheelchair maintenance workshop. People were interested, and he might have more people to come to our meetings in the future.
- Kerrie took some to Cheryl at HASL and put one on a vehicle at Costco. She also took some to a chiropractor so he could share with his client in Brookings. In addition, she has left a message for the Josephine County Chamber Director. Everyone she has shown the card to has had a story about how this issue has affected them.
- Ann Marie would like some cards and might be able to have more printed. She would also like to have a PDF format of one.

- We will make accessible parking flyers later, single sided on paper for bulletin boards and for a broader distribution.
- We could purchase plastic or cardboard postcard holders/stands to send with distribution of the cards.
- It would be great if security guards at large stores and/or shopping centers could use them.
- If you do approach somebody, it's all in how you present the information, it could be better to say, "Did you know you could be fined for parking here" instead of "You know you aren't supposed to park here".
- The cards are also a great reference tool to each of us, with the QR code, etc.
- SAC and O4AD Presentations – They both would like DSAC to do a short presentation to them about these cards. Sharen will get more input about this later.

UPDATES & NEWS

Jeremy –

- Oregon Eligibility Partnership (OEP) transition in District 8 (Jackson and Josephine counties) - The Grants Pass APD lobby is officially closed, and that building is now using a single shared ODHS lobby.
- Fariborz Pakseresht, the ODHS director, was in Medford on 10/22/24 and met with staff and community partners. They are compiling information from the visit to share later.
- Adult Foster Home (AFH) wage and rate survey study - In 2023 the Oregon legislature asked ODHS to complete a study on their rate methodologies, which was done by a contractor. They've completed that survey and analysis and public comment closed at the end of October. It is being compiled into a final report to the legislature. AFH wage and rate study information: <https://www.healthmanagement.com/burns-reports/or-dhs-wage-and-rate-study/>
- ODHS has a new regulatory webpage that has weekly updates on licensing facilities and adult foster homes regarding any regulatory actions that are being taken. The website went live last week. **Regulatory page:** <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/licensing/apd/Pages/updates.aspx>

The purpose of this page is to inform the public about these regulatory actions. Information on all other sanctions, including other license conditions, civil penalties, and survey history can continue to be found on the [ODHS Licensed Long Term Care Compliance website](#).

- Nakeshia Knight-Coyle, APD Director and Jeniffer Stallsworth, Chief of Staff were in Grants Pass the week before and met with staff in Josephine County.

Ann Marie –

- The new four-year area plan is due in March and the deadline was extended to the end of March 2025. Once they go through the needs assessment survey, they will share the information with SAC, DSAC and community partners, including gaps in services, services that are working well, things that are not working so well. They must go through a public comment period, then it goes to the RVCOG board for approval before submitting it to the state.
- SDS is working with the Oregon Wellness Network, which is part of O4AD. They received some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and part of the grant requirement is that they share with the 16 Agency Areas on Aging (AAAs) in Oregon. Some of the requested funding will be for their behavioral health program, PEARLS, helping folks experiencing mild depression with one-on-one counseling in their home. They have also requested funds for restarting some transition services from hospitals. It used to be called Colman Care Transitions. It is an extra component to help with that difficult space when someone is being discharged from hospital, connecting all the community support services, APD supports, SDS supports, their health insurance, etc. to make a successful discharge from the hospital.
- SDS is also creating a new part-time position at the RVCOG, which other agencies call a community outreach coordinator, that can help with reaching out to underserved populations. They need to be culturally competent, as well as bi-lingual.
- Food and Friends is always looking for volunteers for food sites and deliveries during the day on weekdays. For more information call, 541-955-8839 for Josephine County and 541-734-9505 x 2 for Jackson County or go to <https://rvcog.org/home/sds-2/food-friends-meals-on-wheels/food-friends-volunteer/> Food & Friends is a Meals on Wheels member. Trio at the Access kitchen makes the meals, using the older American Act nutritional regulations that they must follow. The meatloaf is popular as is taco Tuesday. They also have low salt and diabetic options. There are other medically tailored meals, however they are frozen and come from a different kitchen.

INFORMATION SHARING

- Sharen shared for Joanna that prior to the Ron Wyden town hall visit there were protesters, so he cancelled all in-person events.
- DSAC quarterly virtual meetings – Sharen reported that attendance is dwindling, and Joseph would like some feedback. He sent out an email to all members and will be sending another one. You can contact him directly or you can let Sharen know and she will pass it along. Please attend the meetings when you can. The meeting is for all DSAC members and staff that support the DSAC. There is a segment where each DSAC shares about things they are doing. He is wondering if the date and time should be changed, if different topics should be covered, etc. Kerrie said she will try to attend to talk about the windshield cards. Our DSAC is pretty active, but not all areas are, and we can be good examples for others.
- George received an email from ODHS SNAP Oregon. They are starting a pilot program called The Restaurant Meals Program and are creating a task force to provide guidance as this new program is created. More information can be found here - https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/agency/Pages/ssp-rmp.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- George received an email from Justice in Aging regarding nursing homes debt collection practices. More information can be found at - <https://justiceinaging.org/nursing-home-debt-collection-practices/>
- George received an email from OHA regarding information sessions about changes to OHP's benefit structure. There are member proxy sessions on 11/7/24 and CCO and open card sessions on 11/6/24. You need to register to attend the presentations. More information can be found at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORHA/bulletins/3bef062>
- George received an email that ODHS and APD is looking for HCW employers to participate on the Carina Advisory Committee.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Meeting adjourned at 4:34

NEXT MEETING – December 2, 2024, 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