



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, December 2, 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)
James Naegele (chair)
Katy Callies
Leslie McIntyre

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Bonnie Huard
Kerrie Walters

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

GUEST:

Joanna Wilson – Disability Advocate
Riah Safady – Jackson Care Connect
Alex Campbell, Jackson Care Connect
Krista Palmer, Sunstone Housing Collaborative
Tyler Johnson, Mid Rogue Foundation

STAFF:

Jeremy Wolf, APD District Manager
Reba Jane Degreyt, APD Grants Pass 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 Thing to Do When It Is Raining Outside?

PUBLIC COMMENT – Joanna – This is Joanna's last term on the Oregon Disability Commission, and she is advocating for getting effective communication

for pharmacists, using video remote interpreters to give medication information to the Deaf community. Not everyone has a smart phone with apps like Boost Lingo on them. The blind community has similar issues. Riah mentioned that the CCO's have contracts with free interpretive services, so anybody that is on Medicaid has access to it. Members can contact their CCO to get those services and for them to get the information to the medical provider. It is required by federal law and many medical providers are noncompliant. The medical director of Jackson Care Connect is on a language access work group and Riah will share this information with them as well as their pharmacies.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – None.

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

HOUSING INITIATIVES - Alex Campbell, Jackson Care Connect (JCC)
Alex presented a power point presentation, which will be shared with the minutes. He touched on the bulleted items below.

- Introduction to JCC / CCO (Coordinated Care Organization)
 - CCOs are non-profits, works like a health insurance company, but the member premiums are paid for by Medicaid.
- Hearing Loops
 - ARC is the Addictions Recovery Center
 - JCC can help with funding the loops for health care, but they would be happy to share their information with other organizations that are interested in getting a hearing loop system installed.
- Housing Efforts
 - JCC is investing in housing projects that will impact the most medically vulnerable.
 - Age + is working on senior housing in Talent.
 - SOREDI (Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc)
 - OnTrack – JCC is working on a grant with them. They are purchasing a motel to use for emergency lodging, which will add 12 more units.
 - OHRA (Opportunities for Housing, Resources & Assistance)
- Health – Related Social Needs (HSRN) Benefit
 - To qualify for this benefit, household income needs to be 30% of area median.
 - Wheelchair ramps and grab bars are examples of home modifications that can be done with this program.

- When requesting HRSN assistance, it will take at least a few weeks to process the requests, it isn't intended for emergency response.
- The six months of assistance is across a three-year period or until the end of the waiver.
- If you have questions for Alex, he can be contacted at campbellal@careoregon.org

SUNSTONE HOUSING COLLABORATIVE FOLLOW UP – Krista Palmer

Krista came to the August and September meetings to discuss and ask DSAC members to participate in a survey about accessible housing needs. She came to this meeting to provide follow up. Krista received six survey results from the DSAC and out of those responses –

- Half of them have their accessibility housing needs met.
- Half have the capacity to accommodate live-in caregivers, roommates, or other family members.
- 5 out of 6, reported that income limits can be a challenge in accessing housing, which is the highest issue from the survey.
- Availability of accessible accommodation housing was next highest need.

Housing is considered affordable when no more than 30% of the household income is needed for housing and housing expenses. If over that, it is considered a rent burdened. For more information about rent burden, see this link -

[Rental Burdens: Rethinking Affordability Measures | HUD USER](#)

They are receiving proposals and conducting assessments and interviews with developers and a high priority in that will be implementing universal design throughout the project.

They will also be incorporating on-site childcare facilitated by the Oregon Child Development Center.

If anyone would like to receive more information, be included in a monthly newsletter or has questions for Krista, she can be reached at

krista@sunstonehc.org.

UPDATES & NEWS

Jeremy –

- Oregon Project Independence Medicaid (OPI-M) – APD is still working on the soft rollout and moving towards the March 2025 public launch.
- Oregon Eligibility Project (OEP) transition is happening, which is mostly an internal restructuring of eligibility operations, and is supposed to be finalized by the end of December 2024.
- The Governor's proposed budget should be out soon and there will be more information about APD programs after that.

Ann Marie –

- SPD is working on the next Four-Year Area Plan update, which is due March 2025. It covers July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2029, and will include feedback from focus groups as well as information gathered through the needs assessment survey. The plan will be updated annually, and they will be sharing it with the DSAC. It will include the service equity plan, which used to be a separate requirement from the state. There will be a public comment period, so if you can review the draft, let them know if you see anything, all feedback is welcomed. Editor's note: Sharen emailed it out on 12/4/24.

INFORMATION SHARING

- Accessible Parking Workgroup –
 - A December meeting will be scheduled soon.
- Announcements and Upcoming Events –
- George – Health Evidence Review Committee (HERC). There is a new subcommittee, the Disabilities Health Advisory Panel, beginning 2025. The purpose of this advisory panel is to improve HERC research practices when considering treatments and services related to disability health and chronic diseases. You can get more information here - <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/hpa/dsi-herc/pages/index.aspx>.
- George – Medicare Care Oregon board, new developments coming next year with the Care Oregon Advantage Care Card (OTC card). Here is a link for more information about the card - <https://www.careoregonadvantage.org/members/careoregon-advantage-carecard>.
- George – ODOT ADA Committee – they will be redeveloping the committee, let George know if you are interested in participating. Applications should be available in March.

- George has been communicating with somebody in Grants Pass that is building a large apartment building for people with disabilities and has asked for his help. There might also be an apartment complex for people with disabilities coming in Jackson County.
- George and Sharen – All DSAC members and everyone that supports the DSAC are encouraged to attend the DSAC quarterly meetings. Joseph Lowe will have a representative from the ONE system doing a presentation at the next DSAC Quarterly Meeting in February 2025.
- Sharen is retiring – This is her last monthly DSAC meeting as an APD employee. Her last day working is January 24, 2025. She will be applying to become a DSAC member.
- Julie Ormand retired at the end of October 2024; Mickie Miner now supervises case managers along with Patrick Vejar. Mickie has worked for the state for a long time, most recently as the supervisor for support staff at the DSO and prior to that as a case manager in the same office.
- Sharen will send out possible December dates for the Disability Awareness event planning group.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Meeting adjourned at 4:20

NEXT MEETING – January 6, 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.