



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, May 5, 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.

DSAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bonnie Huard
Cody Guinn
Denyce Gavin
George Adams (vice chair)
James Naegele (chair)
Katy Callies
Leslie McIntyre
Paul Golding

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Kerrie Walters

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

GUEST:

Joanna Wilson – Advocate
Taylor Johnson – Mid Rogue Foundation
Stephanie Riddle – Mid Rogue Foundation
Patrick Vejar – APD, Medford Disability Services Office Supervisor
Riah Safady – Health Equity Manager, Jackson Care Connect
Becky Foster – Senior Health Insurance benefits Assistance (SHIBA)
Brooke Kirkland – Senior Health Insurance benefits Assistance (SHIBA)

STAFF:

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

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS: What Is the Most Beautiful Thing You Have Seen in Nature?

PUBLIC COMMENT: n/a

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: n/a

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2025 MINUTES: Minutes are unanimously approved as presented. (Denyce, Cody 2nd)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR DSAC OFFICERS: We hope to rotate chair and vice chairs so that everybody gets experience, but it is not necessary.

ELECTION TIMELINE -

- **May 5, 2025** - Call for Nominations at the May regular DSAC meeting.
- **June 2, 2025** - Nomination period ends 5:00pm.
- **June 4, 2025** - Staff to send email with nominee's names to members to submit their votes
- **June 25, 2025** – 5:00pm voting ends. Staff to call members that haven't yet submitted their vote.
- **June 27, 2025** - Announce the results.

JUNE DSAC MEETING, DO WE WANT TO CANCEL, DUE TO OUR JUNE EVENT? It was unanimously approved to cancel the June 2, 2025, meeting. (Denyce, Leslie 2nd). It was noted that there is also not a meeting in September of this year.

SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS ASSISTANCE (SHIBA)

PRESENTATION: Becky Foster, SHIBA Volunteer Counselor did a great presentation with a power point slide that will be provided with the minutes. She answered all the questions that were sent to her before the meeting and they are in the power point slides. A few other notes from the presentation are -

- Slide 5, Prior Authorizations - MA = Medicare Advantage plan.
- Medigap plans do not typically need prior authorizations.
- Call a Ride helps with transportation in Jackson County.
- For 2025 out of pocket expenses for drugs is capped at \$2,000 for the year, which is a reduction from \$8,000 from last year.
- 541-857-7780 is the number for Medford / Jackson County. If you go to their website, it has the numbers for other counties. Shiba.Oregon.gov.
- For Josephine & Douglas Counties the phone number is 541-646-3461.

UPDATES & NEWS:

Jeremy –

- Oregon Project Independence Medicaid (OPIM) – APD is working to implement a way to have documents signed with Docu-sign in the future. If successful, they can hopefully use it for other documents as well.
- Home Care Worker (HCW) applications – Coming soon, there will be a way to apply and renew online, then be routed to local offices for handling. Employment verification will still need to be done in person.

- Denyce asked if there are any updates about Medicaid cuts. Nothing is concrete or communicated yet, it is on hold. The state has a webpage where updates will be posted as they are received.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is federally funded and administrated by the state, ODHS is still waiting for information and can't come up with a plan without knowing what levels the cuts will be.

Ann Marie –

- We hired a part-time, bilingual, bicultural community outreach coordinator. Louis Sabania started on 5/1/25, and he will be doing a lot of training before he starts engaging with the community at meetings and tabling at events.
- We hired two new case managers that will be starting mid-May and mid-June. They will be working on Oregon Project Independence (OPI) classic, Oregon Project Independence Medicaid (OPIM), veteran directed care, family caregiver program, the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) phone line and other things as they arise.
- Thank you to APD partners helping with OPIM, it seems to be going well.
- Is there transportation for vets available? Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) lost their funding for veteran rides. Reach out to the ADRC at (541-618-7572), there are some transportation funds available and they might be able to help with rides for folks receiving Medicare and vet's benefits. There is some point-to-point transportation available in Josephine County, using grant dollars from Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Rogue River has a unique position - Josephine County Transit (JCT) will drive down to Rogue River and TransLink will drive up to them. The college has special transportation also.

INFORMATION SHARING:

- Accessible Parking Workgroup –
 - We are still working on the presentation for the July O4AD meeting and working on getting materials to start tabling at Walmart and other appropriate places.
 - Discussion about an email that John sent regarding accessible parking for law enforcement. Diana will forward out to this group.
- Disability Awareness for ODHS Staff Event –
 - We are doing a short trial run on 5/16/25 at the venue at 2:00pm if you would like to come – presenters strongly encourage.
 - We are hiring John VanSickle to help with the technical stuff at the event.
 - As of this morning, we have 46 people registered, 25 virtual and 21 for the in-person.
 - We are creating certificates and surveys for attendees.

- We need to figure out how to spend the rest of our budget before the end of June.
 - Maybe cameras, microphones, speakers for events.
 - There is a good bakery in Phoenix to get pastries.
 - More branded items, as we gave away a lot at the Senior Fair.
 - We are not able to do a raffle or purchase prizes for the event due to policy.
- I need to send Denyce and James 3X shirts.
- SAC / DSAC Joint Advisory Council –
 - Paul - SAC presentation today from Opportunities for Housing Resources & Assistance (OHRA). They are in Ashland, have grown to 46 navigators and help low-income people build better lives.
<https://ohrahelpp.org/>, 541-631-2235
- Announcements and Upcoming Events –
 - George reported that the Jackson County Expo will be making some ADA improvements in the next couple of years, such as paving the gravel areas and making the restrooms bigger. The Jackson County ADA coordinator might be looking into buying a van or bus that can offer affordable after rides to and from the fair after Valley Lift's hours end and run until 11:00pm for seniors and disabled from most cities in Jackson County.
 - George discussed an upcoming Medford Land Development Review meeting on 5/7/25, which will be having a pre-application conference to discuss a proposed multi-family development of 552 units. He is wanting to have at least half of the units be ADA accessible and is in communication with the engineer. This meeting will not have the opportunity for public comment, but written communication can be sent to the planning director at any time.
 - George reported that Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) committee will be getting information about transporting people with disabilities to the CCOs.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

NEXT MEETING: July 7, 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.