



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, July 14, 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 (chair)  
George Adams  
James Naegele (vice chair)  
Leslie McIntyre  
Paul Golding

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:**

Bonnie Huard  
Denyce Gavin  
Katy Callies  
Kerrie Walters

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:**

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

**GUESTS:**

Joanna Wilson – Advocate  
Stephanie Riddle – Mid Rogue Foundation  
Jene Chanquet – OEP Program Manager  
Rosemary Hernlein – OEP Program Manager

**STAFF:**

Ana Gonzalez, APD Deputy District Manager  
Ann Marie Alfrey, Rogue Valley Council of Governments Executive Director  
Diana Burney, APD District Office Specialist

**CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS:** What Is Your Favorite Summer Food?

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

James - Payroll Home Care Workers – There is only one person at the DSO that can help with entering the HCW payroll. This has happened with three different HCWs. She doesn't have a cell phone, and he lives too far out for her to use the box. Ana will reach out to Patrick V and Mickey M, the supervisors at the DSO. If you are ever having a difficult time getting in touch with somebody at one of the offices, please call the main number for that office and ask to speak to a manager.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** n/a

**APPROVAL OF MAY 2025 MINUTES:** Minutes are unanimously approved as presented. (Cody, Leslie 2nd)

**RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS:**

Congratulations to Katy & Leslie for their first 3 years and full first term of service with the DSAC! They will be receiving certificates in the mail soon.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW DSAC OFFICERS:**

The votes have been tallied and Cody is the new chair, and James is new vice-chair.

**OREGON ELIGIBILITY PARTNERSHIP (OEP) Jené Chanquet & Rosemary Hernlein:**

Jene and Rosemary are both program managers for OEP and Jene gave a brief overview of what OEP does. They do financial eligibility / renewals for all the ODHS programs for Self Sufficiency (SS) and Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) in District 08, which is Jackson and Josephine Counties. For APD it is Long Term Care (LTC) programs, working alongside the case managers. OEP works on the financials and the case managers work on the level of care. The pay-ins went away for in home care, but if in a facility, they still must pay them. If in a facility, from the eligibility side, cell phones can be submitted as a utility deduction. From the case manager side, consumers get to keep approximately \$200 a month, which is called a Personal Incidental Fund (PIF), which could be used to pay for cell phones or other incidental items. <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/agency/pages/oep.aspx>

**THERAPEUTIC SOUND SCAPE AMBIANCE FOR ODHS LOBBIES Jene & Rosemary:**

OEP is trying to create welcoming lobbies and environments and is wanting to get guidance from the DSAC regarding using sub-sonic sound. ODHS is now required to have one lobby per office instead of having multiple lobbies. There are a variety of individuals with a variety of needs, and it has been challenging. One of the ideas is to create an environment where there are sub-sonic sounds for a calming effect. They are very low in tone, like waves, calming to the ear. There is psychology data from that shows it could be helpful, but they are unsure if it has been used in other state office. Some offices can get pretty loud, so they are hoping to find a way to have a calming effect instead of an escalation effect. Leslie mentioned that she would be leery about it, as with her blindness, she has very sensitive hearing and thinks that it could be confusing and cause her to get overwhelmed. She also has experience with a neuro A-typical child with autism and ADHD, the sounds would not work for her at all. Would it affect pacemakers?

**UPDATES & NEWS:**

**Ana –**

- The Disability Services Office (DSO) and the Senior Services Office (SSO) started their merge today. The DSO works with disabled consumers under 65 and the SSO works with consumers 65 and older. Our district is the last in the state to transition to this. As of today, they are now both APD offices. The Long-Term Care (LTC) / case manager intakes will be done at either office for any age now. Within the next month, month and a half, each of the 47 case managers in Jackson County will carry a mixed case load of people with disabilities and seniors. OPIM created a huge impact on the SSO case managers, and the work needed to be balanced. The DSO is at 28 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Medford 97501, 541-776-6210 and the SSO is at 2860 State Street, Medford 97504 541-776-6222. Please let Ana & Jeremy know if you hear of any negative impacts on the community.
- APD is offering emergency kits and portable power stations to long-term care clients that receive care in their home. The first batch went quickly and more have been ordered. Connect with your case manager for more information. The items will be delivered to the consumer's home.
- Provider Navigator Program – This is an additional resource for our Home Care Workers (HCW), which is a group that contracts with the state, which is connected to CareWell who will be providing one-on-one support for HCWs. They can help with the process of becoming a HCW, making sure they have the training to keep their HCW number; help with the renewal process and help with entering their time into the Provider Time Capture system (PTC). There are state requirements for ODHS to be compliant with real time entry. The entry of historical time is not compliant (not clocking in and out in real time). The state has not enforced that yet, but it is required. This entity can spend up to 20 hours to help with challenges to help HCWs become independent. The staff at the local offices do not have the time to work with every HCW, so this resource will be really helpful. HCWs can refer themselves, no need to call the case manager or employer. However, the case manager or HCW coordinator can refer also people. The link is - <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/providers-partners/homecare-workforce/pages/navigator.aspx>

**Ann Marie –**

- Shout out to everyone that was involved with the DSAC Disability Awareness for D8 ODHS staff event on 6/10/2025. It was well done, well attended and she is very impressed with the amount of RVCOG case managers that attended.
- Shout out to Jeremy and Ana's team. Oregon Project Independence Medicaid (OPIM) has been a huge lift, and it is going better than expected. It is the first time that consumers will go through APD for eligibility and the assessment, then be transferred to RVCOG for their case managers to carry the case. It is leveraging Medicaid for an increase in services for the

Oregon Project Independence classi (OPI), to keep folks in their homes as long as possible and not have to go to a facility. Eligibility is similar to Medicaid, except there is a higher resource limit, instead of \$2000 the amount is equivalent to six months in a skilled nursing facility. It also has a higher monthly income limit of just over \$5000 a month. It allows up to 20 hours a week of in-home care and other ancillary services. It is an expansion to OPI classic, which provides up to six hours a week of help in the home.

- RVCOG hired another case manager, Bill, a week or so ago. Recruitment is still being worked on.

### **INFORMATION SHARING:**

- Accessible Parking Workgroup –
  - We had guest speakers from the Portland Police Bureau Disabled Parking Enforcement Unit at our last meeting and got some great information. Diana hopes to have the notes wrapped up soon for distribution.
  - We are working on a presentation for the for the Older Adult and Disability Services Advisory Council members that attend O4AD meeting soon.
  - We are gathering materials to start doing tabling and will be attending the Medford Multicultural event September 27, 2025
  - Ann Marie said that we were mentioned several times in the O4AD meeting for all the great work we are doing.
- Disability Awareness for ODHS Staff Event (Budget) –
  - The event went great!
  - Attendance – 75 total
    - In person 47 including presenters
    - Virtual – 28 including ASL
  - We have gotten good feedback from our survey -
    - As of 6/16/25 – there were 18 surveys completed –
      - In person attendance – 11
      - Virtual attendance – 7
  - Diana has not had an opportunity to review the video yet, but she will be sending thumb drives of it to the people that requested one soon.
  - Diana has not reviewed the photos yet but will be soon and will include on the thumb drives.
  - We spent most the 24-25 budget – there was only \$193.65 left.
- SAC / DSAC Joint Advisory Council –
  - No updates currently.
- Announcements and Upcoming Events –

- Sharen's vacant position – Ana reported that they are still waiting on DAS and position management to reclassify and release the position. They were told in February / March it could be up to six months.
- George reported for the Valley Lift Committee – their September meeting has been moved up to August to get an update on RVTD, Valley Lift and TransLink. Valley Lift might be reduced due to budget cuts; providers might be reduced to five.
- George reported that 500 ODOT employees are being laid off at the end of July due to budget cuts. The roads may not get plowed this winter.
- George reported that the North Medford I-5 exit to the Rogue Valley Mall will have a new traffic pattern soon. A new traffic light is going in that area as well at George's request. The reason for the widening of the sidewalk at Hwy 62 / 99 is due to safety for bicycle and pedestrian use, so that both can use it.
- Diana reminded us that the next DSAC meeting will focus on planning for the new \$4000 budget that will need to be spent by June 30, 2026.
- Diana mentioned recruiting information that Joseph emailed out on 5/22/25. He is working with the APD communications team, and they have developed an advertising / marketing strategy, that will include ODHS & APD social media platforms, Next Door App & local community newspapers.
- Joanna would like to become a member again; Diana will send paperwork to her.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 4:00

**NEXT MEETING:** August 4, 2025, 2:45 – 4:30

This message is also attached as a PDF file for accommodation purposed. 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](mailto:APD.ServiceEquityCommunications@odhs.oregon.gov) for alternate format.