



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, August 4, 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)
Denyce Gavin
George Adams
Paul Golding

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Katy Callies
Kerrie Walters
James Naegele (vice chair)

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:

Leslie McIntyre

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

GUEST:

Joanna Wilson – Advocate
Stephanie Riddle – Mid Rogue Foundation
Betsy Miller – Ombudsman

STAFF:

Jeremy Wolf, APD District Manager
Ann Marie Alfrey, Rogue Valley Council of Governments Executive Director
Diana Burney, APD District Office Specialist
Reba Jane, APD Grants Pass Case Manager Supervisor
Brady Sherriff, APD Grants Pass Case Manager Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS: What song do you have committed to memory?

PUBLIC COMMENT: n/a

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: n/a

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

CONSIDERATION OF NEW DSAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

- Sharen Yeager – Application approved.
- We have one more person applying for membership – Joanna Wilson, we should have her application in time for approval at the October meeting.

BUDGET PLANNING 2025 - 2026:

- Medford Multicultural Fair 9/27/25 – We are signed up and booth has been paid for, we need people to work shifts.
 - Kerrie and Katy said they will take a shift, they but haven't given their times yet
 - Cody will take the 9:00– 10:00 & 10:00-12:00 shifts, then work at the OSCI booth.
 - Joanna is available for any shift, just let her know.
 - Paul would like to take a shift.
 - George and Leslie are interested, but transportation will be a barrier with RVTD service changes coming in September
 - Transportation can be paid from the annual DSAC budget as well.
- Review and update of DSAC Planning Meeting documents
 - The top four speaker choices from the list are -
 - How we can better help the homeless – Grants Pass needs help and resources from Medford; we could facilitate an information exchange. (Paul)
 - Mental Health Programs – NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) – their last presentation with us was in 2023 (resources to help with all he changes and cutbacks that are coming).
 - Southern Oregon Consortium for Accessibility in the Arts (Kerrie 12/2024) – Julie Simon, SOCAA Board Secretary / Co-Treasurer (John made contact 4/2025)
 - OHA Civil Rights
 - What event would we like to do this year? Doing another DSAC Disability Awareness Training for ODHS Staff and or other groups was brought up, since it was so well attended and received. We can keep discussing it at future meetings.

UPDATES & NEWS:

Jeremy –

- Oregon Project Independence Medicaid (OPIM) is out there and doing well.

- Emergency kit bags and generators are available for individuals receiving long term care services, people can contact their case managers for more information.
- Federal budget updates – the state has a web page that provides updates on the bills and legislation that has passed.
<https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/news/pages/federal-updates.aspx>
- Brady Sherriff is the new manager at the Grants Pass APD office. He will be co-managing the case managers with Reba Jane Degreyt and filling the position that Joel Walkup vacated when he moved to California.
- Fariborz Pakseresht, the ODHS Director will be retiring 10/1/25. Liesl Wendt is expected to be the next ODHS Director, pending senate confirmation in September and has been the deputy director for the past seven years.

Ann Marie –

- Four-year plan – they just finished up final removal of track changes. It is on the RVCOG website or send Ann Marie an email to get a copy. The plan is updated annually, and she will talk to us more when the next one is due.
- Oregon Project Independence Medicaid (OPIM) has over 100 active cases that have gone through the APD process and been transferred to RVCOG for case management.
- A new case manager started a few weeks ago and another one should be coming in the next month. They are still recruiting and hoping to find a bi-lingual case manager. They might also be adding a case aide. All their case managers do all their programs - OPI classic will be reduced to almost nothing, OPIM will be huge. There is also Veteran Directed Care, running the ADRC phone line, Options Counseling and the Family Caregiver program.
- George inquired about housing. There has been a push to make sure infrastructure (water, sewer, etc.) is in place when building new units. They are working with their member jurisdictions to help them find grants or other fundings. They are also looking at help them update their building codes, so they are compliant with current regulations. They are also pushing for accessible housing as there is a lack of them in the rental community. The Jackson County Community Long Term Recovery Group has been hosting housing summits or seminars and there is one coming up in either October or November, which will be centered around accessible housing. On 7/28/2025 Governor Kotek signed five bills that break down barriers to housing construction – HB 2138, HB 3031, HB 2258, SB 684, HB 3145 -
<https://apps.oregon.gov/oregon-newsroom/OR/GOV/Posts/Post/governor-kotek-signs-bills-that-break-down-barriers-to-housing-construction>

INFORMATION SHARING:

- Accessible Parking Workgroup –

- We had a great presentation from Tiana Tozer & Ric Spady from the Portland Police Bureau Disabled Parking Enforcement Unit at the last meeting. The next meeting on 8/12/25 should include Lorine Thompson, the Employee Parking / Transit Coordinator from the City of Houston.
- We are getting ready for tabling, as the Medford Multicultural Fair is coming up on 9/27/25.
- George mentioned that at the Medford airport one of the two guards had just given out 2 disabled parking tickets when he was there and Joanna mentioned that her daughter saw a police officer in Portland measuring to see if vehicles were parked too closely and wrote a citation.
- More enforcement at the Walmart parking lots is needed. The security guards do not response to outside requests. It was suggested that we discuss this at a city council meeting. Paul reported that South Walmart only has ten accessible parking spots and North Walmart only has four, two of which are for wheelchair vans. South is also lax on electric scooters and heard that the batteries were being stolen from them. North seems to have plenty of electric scooters, but they will only go so far into the parking lot before they turn off.
- Maybe we should make a presentation to the City of Medford regarding the accessible parking issues.
- SAC / DSAC Joint Advisory Council –
 - This group needs a new chair, as Liz James is no longer able to fill that position. It looks at advocating for all issues that have to do with older adults and adults with disabilities and keeping tabs on what's going on at the state legislature and keeping abreast of what bills are out there that we should advocate for because they're advancing services or rights. It can be intense while work is happening, but it cools off when the legislature is not active. Leslie has been attending when she can.
 - Paul will attend as much as possible If you are interested, please contact - natalie.mettler@ashlandoregon.gov, 541-552-2482
- Announcements and Upcoming Events –
 - Joanna – They have received \$20,000 in funding to start a deaf and hard of hearing group where people can come and learn sign language. Anybody is welcome. They are setting up a Facebook page - Deaf Activities of Southern Oregon. It will be a place that will show local activities, like which plays will be interpreted, bowling, picnics, potlucks. The deaf and hard of hearing folks tend to be isolated, so they would like to come together to reduce loneliness. They will meet twice a month for summer, but only once a month during fall and winter. There will not be one specific location, but it sounds like it will

- mostly be in Ashland. You won't have to use sign language and there will be interpreters there.
- Cody is getting married 10/4/25 – Congratulations Cody!
 - George reported that medical rides from CCOs for medical appointments will be cutting out shopping before or after the medical appointments after September.
 - George reported that RVTD / Valley Lift is cutting back 17% of rides after 9/2/25. As a result of the funding uncertainty, RVTD will reduce service by eliminating several routes, decreasing weekday hours of operation and eliminating service on Saturdays. The changes will take effect on Tuesday, September 2, 2025.
 - <https://rvtd.org/news/service-cuts-planned-due-to-federal-funding-delay-public-open-house-friday-july-11/>
 - It was reported that Meraki or other companies like it are expensive – \$400 to \$800 for wheelchair transportation. RVCOG is working on transportation to help with the cuts and might be able to come up with an alternative idea.
 - Paul mentioned developing a letter to the senators and representatives from DSAC that clearly show how these transportation cuts are going to adversely affect the disabled community. Cody, Paul and George will work on it.
 - George reported on Oregon Care Partners (OCP) and how they are going to make sure that all home care partners – nursing homes, adult foster homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, case manager, etc., are aware of autonomic dysreflexia and digital stimulation and how it applies to paraplegics and quadriplegics.
 - George reported that the Medicare Advantage Over the Counter (OTC) cards – will no longer exist after 12/2025.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:35

NEXT MEETING: October 6, 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 for alternate format.