



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, October 6, 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
James Naegele (vice chair)
Katy Callies
Kerrie Walters
Leslie McIntyre
Paul Golding
Sharen Yeager

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

GUEST:

Betsy Miller – Ombudsman
Hannah - Oregon Spinal Cord Connection (OSCI)
Kelsey - Oregon Spinal Cord Connection (OSCI)

STAFF:

Kathleen Iriawan, APD Adult Protective Service Supervisor
Ann Marie Alfrey, Rogue Valley Council of Governments Executive Director
Diana Burney, APD District Office Specialist

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS: What in the last month or so makes you smile?

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joanna is involved with Oregon emergency preparedness and received brochures in multiple languages and will be giving some to Joseph Lowe and Diana so we can share them far and wide. She also brought them to the Medford Multicultural Fair to share. It has a QR code that will take you to the information online.
<https://www.oregon.gov/oem/hazardsprep/pages/2-weeks-ready.aspx>. There is a lot of information on that site and for the hearing and for the deaf. Reading and writing can be difficult for the deaf and hard of hearing, as it is usually not their first

language. They wish there was an emergency system for the deaf, as during many emergencies there are no captions. Here is the link for OHA Preparedness Tools for Oregonians -

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preparedness/prepare/pages/index.aspx>

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: n/a

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2025 MINUTES: A correction was noted by James about his caregiver having a cell phone, but that she is not always able to pay for it due to payroll issues. Corrected minutes were approved unanimously. (Paul 1st, Leslie 2nd). Note – the correction is for the July minutes.

CONSIDERATION OF NEW DSAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

Joanna Wilson – application unanimously approved. (Kerrie 1st, George 2nd)

BONNIE HUARD STEPPED DOWN FROM DSAC MEMBERSHIP.

PRESENTATION BY OREGON SPINAL CORD INJURY CONNECTION (OSCI):

Kelsey & Hannah informed us about the services that they provide and also shared many resources with us. The slideshow will be provided with the minutes.

These links were provided as resources to find out information about state changes coming due to federal requirements –

- <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/news/pages/federal-updates.aspx>
- <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/pages/federal-changes.aspx>

It was suggested that you can write to your senators, ask for calls to action and do crowd sourcing as ways you can make a difference for change.

UPDATES & NEWS:

Kathleen –

- The Disability Services Office (DSO) and the Senior Services Offices (SSO) have combined. Both disabled and seniors are being served at both offices now. Signage for the offices will likely be changing to Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), as Oregon Eligibility Partnership (OEP) works in both offices as well.
- The OPIM caseloads continue to grow, local processes have been streamlined, and things are stable. They are happy to have a close working relationship with the RVCOG.
- Federal SNAP changes will impact our communities with changes around work requirements, utility deductions, energy assistance and benefits for non-citizens. It may not directly impact the APD consumers as much as others though. You can get more information for Federal updates at <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/news/pages/federal-updates.aspx>.

- Current Federal Shutdown – they do not anticipate any impact to APD with the current duration of the closure.
- There is a new case manager supervisor in the Grants Pass office, Brady Sherriff and he comes with experience from their Roseburg office.

INFORMATION SHARING:

- Medford Multicultural Fair Recap from 9/27/2025 – Cody, Paul, Katy, Kerrie, and Joanna attended.
 - Cody was there in the morning and early afternoon and thanked Diana and the APD team that set up the booth. There were a lot less people at the event this year, but some good connections were made, and some applications were given out.
 - Joanna was there all day at the booth and walking around to the other booths asking questions and sharing the Oregon emergency information.
- Accessible Parking Workgroup –
 - Paul has been working with Walmart. They have a WIFI disable on the motorized carts and are working out the bugs. If the cart stops, there will be a yellow sign on the screen saying to back up, sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. If the carts do stop, they must be repaired and will be out for a few weeks.
 - We are taking about doing some tabling at Walmarts and other places and will be discussing that more at next week's meeting.
 - At the Medford Multicultural Fair, we talked about the accessible parking laws and handed out materials.
 - In our September meeting we had a presentation from Lorine Thompson, the Employee Parking / Transit Coordinator from the City of Houston. We learned a lot and John will be putting a synopsis from what we learned from them and the Portland Police Bureau Disabled Parking Enforcement Unit that we can present to the RVCOG at a future meeting and possibly at a City Council meeting.
 - John also created petitions for increasing disabled parking spaces and creating a volunteer enforcement program, which we started getting signatures at during the Multicultural Event 9/25/25.
- SAC / DSAC Joint Advisory Council –
 - This group has cancelled the upcoming meetings until further notice, as they do not have a chairperson. They look at advocating for all issues that have to do with older adults and adults with disabilities and keep 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. If you are

interested, please contact - natalie.mettler@ashlandoregon.gov, 541-552-2482

- Announcements and Upcoming Events –
 - Paul talked about invisible disabilities, as they are trying to find something they can wear to identify the disability, like from a lanyard. This could include people that are not able to speak, have walking problems, COPD, asthma, etc. There are symbols that they have come across but haven't found one that is recognizable. It was mentioned that the Invisible Disabilities Association likely has information about this. <https://invisibledisabilities.org/>.
 - George was promoted from Home Care Worker (HCW) Commissioner to Vice-Chair Commissioner. Leslie is also a HCW commissioner.
 - George talked about emergency home preparedness for those that need in-home care. Cody will connect him with a presentation that the Rogue Action Center / OSCl did.
 - George mentioned that an APD advocacy program committee that is being created, where somebody can nominate an advocate to the committee for voting and they will get a certificate and maybe the state would pay for their dinner.
 - George mentioned a pet program that might be in the works, where a state provider can take care of an animal for a consumer, but it must be on the worksheet with the case manager. It is up to the provider if they will accept that paid task. It is unclear how the hours for the consumer would be affected.
 - George had a meeting with the director of APD regarding a mentor program that he suggested for newly disabled people. Leslie mentioned that the Oregon Commission for the Blind is doing this already.
 - George reported that there have been recent changes to the ONE system, including more languages being added. It will be an app for phones, but it is needed for tablets. Applications will still be available on paper.
 - Congratulations Cody on your recent marriage!

MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:37

NEXT MEETING: November 3, 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.