



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, January 5, 2026
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)
Katy Callies
Kerrie Walters
Leslie McIntyre

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Sharen Yeager
Denyce Gavin

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:

Joanna Wilson
Paul Golding

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

GUEST:

Tyler Johnson – Mid Rogue Foundation
Noe Salinas – Mid Rogue Foundation
Connie Saldana – Lifelong Housing Program
Monique Clark - RVCOG

STAFF:

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

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS: What do you enjoy most about the start of the new year?

PUBLIC COMMENT: n/a

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: n/a

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2025 MINUTES: Minutes are unanimously approved as presented. (*James & George 2nd*)

PRESENTATION FROM LIFELONG HOUSING PROGRAM – Connie Saldana

Connie gave a great presentation. Here are some bullet points –

- Lifelong Housing Accessibility Checklist -
- The program was started about 12 years ago, from the recommendations from our DSAC.
- They tell the builders it only costs about 2 – 4% more to make a home more accessible.
- Once the home is scored and meets criteria, the information can be listed in the MLS.
- The checklist has been adopted by the real estate standards organization which is trying to standardize the vocabulary used by multiple listing services around the country and so wherever there's a definition of an accessible feature in their data dictionary, it came from this program.
- There is another hub in Portland that is using this program, and they are working with local manufactured home manufacturers.
- Age+ has created three developments, one in Madras and two in Talent.
- There are three apartment complexes that have also been certified.
- Contact Connie at lifelonghousing@rvcog to get the current list.
- Oregon Housing Accessibility Act of 2026 flyer –
- In Jackson and Josephine counties – there are 248,610 homes; total adults with difficulty walking are 24,550; the number of accessible homes is 7,458.
- Oregon Legislation that Encourages Accessible Housing flyer -
- When the 2026 bill number is announced, Connie will let us know.
- Oregon State Representative Pam Marsh is an advocate for accessible housing.

UPDATES & NEWS:

Jeremy –

- Budget – APD is still waiting for updated information regarding any potential reductions. It will likely come out in February.
- Leisel Wendt is the new ODHS director and has been confirmed. She is rolling out 100-day goals, which includes customer service, safety, engagement and process improvements.

Ann Marie –

- SAC / DSAC Orientation is on Thursday, 1/29/25 from 10:00 – 1:30. Food will be available, and it is a fun & informative event. If you are coming in person and have transportation barriers, they can help with that. There will also be a Zoom link. It was mentioned that 11:00am is a better time for the start of

meetings for those with disabilities. Note – after this meeting, the time of the orientation was changed to 11:00 – 2:30pm.

- The ramp redeployment program will be coming soon. The program's goal is to reuse ramps that are no longer needed.
- A question about funding for adaptive vehicles was asked and if somebody is working and has this need, there might be resources with vocational rehabilitation or the Employed Persons with Disabilities (EPD) program. Northwest Access Fund site has a multitude of adapted vehicle resources although most grants are to help modify an existing vehicle.
<https://www.nwaccessfund.org/adapted-vehicle-resources/>

INFORMATION SHARING:

- Accessible Parking Workgroup –
 - We are looking for tabling opportunities that are indoors, like flea markets and the upcoming Access Senior Fair. Let Diana know if have any events that would be good for us to attend. Tyler suggested reaching out to La Clinica and Rogue Community Health outreach team in Jackson County and Siskiyou Community Health in Josephine County to see if they have any events coming up. All Care and Jackson Care Connect might be good resources as well.
- SAC / DSAC Joint Advisory Council –
 - This group is still looking for a chairperson so they can resume meeting. If anyone is interested in being the chairperson, please contact Natalie Mettler at natalie.mettler@ashlandoregon.gov, 541-552-2482.
- George's Updates –
 - The bridge on table rock across I-5 is owned by Jackson County and it needs to be widened, but there is no current funding for it, it could be three years down the road.
 - Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) – TransLink made an executive decision to not make additional stops from doctor's offices due to funding.
 - Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) discussed at the last Valley Lift board meeting that there will be extended hours for one of the buses, which will now start at 5:00am instead of 6:00am and end at 6:00pm.
 - In May 2026 there will be a vote on a payroll tax to fund Saturday service and extended hours to 8:00pm.
 - In November 2026 the committee will receive funds from ODOT for Call-A-Ride and other out of district services, which the committee will determine.
 - George would like to get some help on getting accessibility buttons put on buildings. The doors are also supposed to be ADA weighted.

- Announcements and Upcoming Events –

MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:32

NEXT MEETING: February 2, 2026, 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.