



Administration Office  
Area Agency on Aging  
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www.rvcog.org

## **Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) Senior Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes**

Monday, December 1, 2025, 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, Virtual meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89249620009?pwd=qKymfN131SKQPRswjwyj1fDarOc0ky.1>

Meeting ID: 892 4962 0009 Passcode: 734456 Dial in 1-408-638-0968

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### **PARTICIPANTS**

- Ann Marie Alfrey – SDS Program Director/Executive Director
- Ava Walters – SAC Member
- Diana Burney – DSAC Liaison (joined 1:00pm)
- Jon Pfefferle – Nutrition Program Director
- Kathleen Iriawan – APD Supervisor APS
- Kerstin Sachse – SDS Staff
- LeAnne Turnbull – SDS Staff
- Luis Ibáñez – SDS Staff
- Monique Clark – SDS Program Supervisor
- Natalie Mettler – SAC Chair
- Noriko Toyokawa – SAC Member
- Connie Saldana – RVCOG Lifelong Housing Specialist

### **GUESTS**

- Luisa Guardione – Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist
- Mike Stanek – Advanced Care Life Services
- Dave Gross – AARP Volunteer
- Shea Chehey, Volunteer Coordinator, Jackson County Fuel Committee
- Kathy Mc Neil, Jackson County Fuel Committee
- Clint Wilkins, Future Design - Elders Action Network, Project Lead
- Bob Leonard, Future Design - Elders Action Network

### **SAC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

- Ana Gonzalez – APD D8, Deputy District Manager
- Cherie Linnemeyer – SAC Member
- Deb McCuin – CSSU Liaison
- Eleanor Ponomareff – SAC Member
- Jennine Greenwell – SAC Member

**CALL TO ORDER** – Natalie M. called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

## **GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS**

**Introductions of guests and public comments** – Everyone briefly introduced themselves

**Review and approval of November 03, 2025, Minutes** – Noriko T. motioned to approve the November 03, 2025, minutes as written. Ava W. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Luis Ibanez report on work accomplished.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT & OTHER TOPICS**

- Recommendation of Mike Stanek as a new SAC Member to the RVCOG Board.
- Eleanor P. Resigned as a SAC Member.
- January 29, 2026, is the Member orientation at RVCOG and the orientation is offered to additional guests.
- Noriko is questioning her term duration. Le Anne will investigate.

## **AAA LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

**SDS Director Report** – Ann Marie A. reported

- Accessible Housing Workshop was held by JCC LTRG and RVCOG was represented by Connie Saldana. Event was well attended.

**SDS Supervisor Report** – Monique C. reported

- Heavy case loads on OPI-M participants.
- UNITE collaboration for transportation is still ongoing.
- OPI-M staff are working hard. Over 200 consumers are enrolled and numbers are growing.
- RVCOG is still looking for bilingual Case Manager. Luis is still a big help with

**Nutrition Director's report** – no report.

- Brief update on meals served and Food & Friends is tracking on goal. Medicaid recipients' numbers are up by 12%

**Aging and People with Disabilities District Manager Report** – Kathleen I. reported

- APD is no longer determining SNAP benefits eligibility. This is being done through the Oregon Eligibility Partnership. SNAP Program is currently running normally. No interruptions are expected.
- Original State 357M budget shortfall was revised to a 63M shortfall. New State budget is presenting a smaller shortfall. Still a work in progress. A 5% reduction list was requested. New directions are expected.

## **RVCOG Community Outreach Coordinator – Luis I. reported, libanez@rvcog.org**

- Luis gave a brief overview of his accomplished work in the past 6 months.
- Early positive responses are received and possible avenues to administer services have been identified.
- Following is a brief summary shared in the chat of the attended events

### **COMMUNITY VOICES ON THE MOVE – A Story of Listening, Service, and Hope (2025)**

#### **Dedication**

This document is dedicated to the seniors, caregivers, workers, youth, immigrants, LGBTQ+ community members, and neighbors who shared pieces of their lives with us. Their words and presence are the heart of this story.

#### **Introduction – Why I Show Up**

This work is more than outreach. It is about witnessing dignity, fear, healing, exhaustion, and hope in real time. From tabling at festivals to riding the bus beside strangers, each encounter taught me that trust is built face by face.

#### **Health Fair – Jackson County Fairgrounds (June 31, 2025)**

Demographics recorded: White 165 | Latino 32 | Brazilian 3 | Asian 7 | Ukrainian 3 | Indian 5.

215+ families engaged. 105 emergency kits distributed (80 English / 25 Spanish). Medboxes were in constant demand due to high retail cost.

Story: Younger families came seeking guidance for aging parents — worried about food access, medications, and housing stability.

[PHOTO PLACEHOLDER: Health Fair RVCOG table & donors interaction]

#### **Juneteenth – Pear Blossom Plaza (June 19, 2025)**

Visitor estimate: 80.

Prompt: 'What would make your life better?'

Voices included:

- Free healthcare
- Childcare
- A summer without fire smoke
- Free access to universities
- Love, understanding, compassion
- Unity and freedom
- No rent
- Being in recovery
- More honesty, less spin
- Justice and accountability

Story: Many answers came quickly and emotionally — no hesitation, no filters. Basic needs and deep moral hopes stood side by side.

[PHOTO PLACEHOLDER: Juneteenth poster board full of community answers]

#### **Pride Day – Rogue X Center (June 28, 2025)**

Prompt: 'What does community mean to you?'

Responses included words such as Love, Safety, Kindness, Acceptance, Chosen family, Support + empathy, Unity, Freedom, Healing, Belonging, 'You are welcome here.'

Second question: 'What matters most to you?' yielded responses including:

- Honesty, accountability & loyalty
- Equality
- Being safe to express myself
- Family & friends
- Being heard
- Living without fear
- Treating others fairly

Story: For many, Pride was not celebration alone — it was sanctuary. Data collection was secondary to human connection.

[PHOTO PLACEHOLDER: Pride Day community panels with written responses]

### **Hispanic Heritage – Twin Creeks Park (Oct 3, 2025)**

Attendance: 2,500 total, ~200 booth engagements.

Prompt: '¿Cómo te sientes con lo que está pasando?'

No responses written publicly.

Story: Silence was the message. Stories were whispered, shared privately. Many attendees expressed guardedness rooted in lived experiences of political fear and migration trauma.

[PHOTO PLACEHOLDER: Hispanic Heritage booth and community gathering]

### **Multicultural Fair – Pear Blossom Park (Sept 27, 2025)**

Partial demographics captured:

White: 75 women / 10 men

Latino: 24 women / 4 men

Asian: 2 women / 1 man

Black: 9 women / 2 men

Prompt: 'What does multicultural community mean to you?'

Key quotes:

- Combating ignorance with acceptance
- A place to belong
- Unity in diversity
- Sharing traditions and food
- Networking, keeping each other safe
- Love and caring

[PHOTO PLACEHOLDER: Multicultural Fair response board]

### **Bus Observations – Riders We Meet Every Day**

Observed: Latino workers commuting, parents with children, caregivers supporting disabled adults, seniors, youth.

Stories: One mother rocked her child quietly. A disabled rider greeted drivers by name. A woman openly discussed recovery and sobriety on the phone. Many rode in silence carrying unseen burdens.

Safety: Hazardous driving documented on Route 10 (speeding & abrupt braking).

[PHOTO PLACEHOLDER: Central Point bus station and daily riders]

### **Emerging Patterns Across All Work**

- Housing and healthcare insecurity persist everywhere.
- Belonging and safety are central human needs.
- Latino communities show hesitancy to speak publicly – trust must be earned.
- Transit is a lifeline for working families, seniors, caregivers, and disabled riders.

- Recovery and mental-health journeys recur quietly throughout our interactions.

### **Reflection – Data Became Faces**

I can still see the tired young mom, the senior anxious about food security, the bus rider in recovery bravely speaking hope. These aren't statistics — they are neighbors.

### **Recommendations**

1. Expand bilingual and multilingual outreach.
2. Develop culturally safe listening tools.
3. Establish Senior Corners at community events.
4. Strengthen transit safety & driver compassion training.
5. Deepen mental-health & recovery partnerships.

### **Closing – Why This Work Matters**

Community is not a service category — it is relationship. Every conversation moves the needle toward dignity, trust, and hope. Continued support keeps this bridge of listening alive.

### **Featured Community Based Organization/Agencies:**

Jackson Co Fuel Committee presentation about their campaign with the Public Utilities Commission to guarantee that vulnerable older adults and adults with disabilities don't have their power cut off. Shea Chehey, Volunteer Coordinator, Jackson County Fuel Committee [jcfuelcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:jcfuelcommittee@gmail.com).

### **Focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Equity Vs Equality <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0N22PMdF1U>

Followed by discussion

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee – Natalie M. reported**

- Mike Stanek's interview was conducted
- Upcoming agendas and presentations for the upcoming year were discussed
- Member recruiting and Officer positions were discussed

### **C&O Committee – Natalie M. reported**

- SAC brochure is still being updated
- Next quarterly meeting is January 26, 2026

### **Council Development – no report**

### **SAC/DSAC Joint Advocacy Committee – no report**

### **DSAC – Diana B. reported**

- Accessible Parking workgroup is working on presentations being updated.
- Indoor events are being searched.
- Accessible Parking enforcement has decreased since COVID and projects are being discussed to help with this issue.

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**Presentation:** Future Design - Elders Action Network - Clint Wilkins [clintwilkins@gmail.com](mailto:clintwilkins@gmail.com) Future Design Group, Project Lead and Bob Leonard: [climatebob1@gmail.com](mailto:climatebob1@gmail.com)  
Future Design creates role-playing workshop where folks represent different generations, and points of view, and "negotiate" towards future solutions to pressing problems (for example, the environment).  
Followed by discussion

**ADJOURN** – Natalie M. adjourned the meeting at 2:32 pm