



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, May 4, 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:

Denyce Gavin
George Adams
James Naegele (vice chair)
Joanna Wilson
Katy Callies
Kerrie Walters
Leslie McIntyre
Roxanne Franklin
Sharen Yeager

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Cody Guinn (chair)

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

GUEST:

Betsy Miller, Ombudsman
Heather McNeil, Energy Trust of Oregon
Monique Clark, RVCOG

STAFF:

Ana Gonzalez, APD Deputy District Manager
Ann Marie Alfrey, Rogue Valley Council of Governments Executive Director
Diana Burney, APD SE Medford
Trevor Gaither, APD SW Medford
Patrick Vejar APD SW Medford

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS: What is Your Favorite Way to Accessorize?

PUBLIC COMMENT: n/a

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: n/a

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2026 MINUTES: Minutes are unanimously approved as presented. (Denyce, George 2nd)

CALL FOR DSAC OFFICER NOMINATIONS:

- Here are the annual election timelines –
 - **May 4, 2026** - Call for nominations at the May regular DSAC meeting.
 - **June 1, 2026** - Nomination period ends 5:00pm.
 - **June 4, 2026** - Staff to send email with nominee's names to members to submit their votes
 - **June 25, 2026** – 5:00pm voting ends. Staff to call members that haven't yet submitted their vote.
 - **June 29, 2026** - Announce the results.
- James will not be eligible for nomination, as his term ends 06/30/2026.
- A member can nominate themselves.
- Please submit your nominations to Diana by 6/1/26 5:00pm. She can accept them via email, text, phone call. diana.l.burney@odhs.oregon.gov or 541-613-7230.

PRESENTATION FROM ENERGY TRUST OF OREGON – Heather McNeil

- Heather gave a great informative presentation, which will be attached to the minutes. Below are a few bullet points -
 - They are funded by the major Oregon utility companies.
 - Some services are available for everyone - based on utility bills, not income.
 - Energy burden is defined as a household paying more than 6% of household income toward energy utility costs.
 - Before 1990 there were no regulations about insulation or energy efficient appliances for new homes.
 - There are cash incentives for residences.
 - For rental properties, they will need to work with the landlord in most cases. However, they can use the income of the tenants to get potential no-cost improvements.
 - Manufactured homes built before 1995 could qualify to be replaced with a new manufactured home.
 - On the resources page it has an Online Home Evaluation Tool, a link to find vetted contractors and Low Cost and No-Cost Tips to Save Energy.
 - There is a new financial ranking system coming in June that should open programs to even more people.
 - They can also help with batteries for solar systems – contact one of their solar contractors to get a bid.
 - Contact information - www.EnergyTrust.org or 1-866-368-7878
 - heather.mcneill@energytrust.org or 541-930-0606

UPDATES & NEWS:

Ana –

- The Disability Services Office (DSO), Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Adult Foster Home (AFH) / Transition Coordinators buildings on Sixth Street in Medford suddenly closed temporarily a week ago Friday. There is no timeline for when it will open again, as there is a lot of work to be done. They have the same phone numbers and have mostly been relocated to the Senior Services Office (SSO) at 2860 State Street in Medford. VR has been relocated to the White City office.
- Long-term care (LTC) financial appointments will have their own scheduling board soon, possibly in June, separating them from SNAP, TANF, etc., as those appointments tend to be more complex and take longer. Those workers will be specifically training and primarily working on the LTC cases in person and by phone.
- APD is on a six-month hiring pause for vacancies. This means that when a position vacates, it will likely be close to a year before the position is filled with current hiring practices.
- ODHS transformation – all ODHS programs will be under one umbrella, except for OEP, which will be joining later. District 8 is piloting the administrative hub, which will be potentially streamlining five core administrative functions. The hubs will be by region, our region (5) will contain districts 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11.

Ann Marie –

- The annual updates to the four-year area plan will be shared with DSAC soon for review and input.
- Food and Friends are working on a property transfer from the city of Central Point for their old public works facility by the elementary school and Albertsons to use as their new industrial kitchen. The transformation will be a long and expensive project. Energy Trust is working with them, and a preliminary drawing has been done. Fundraising opportunities will be coming soon.
- Senior and Disability Services (SDS) is just shy of 400 active participants in the Oregon Project Independence Medicaid (OPIM) program. That is a significant increase in cases to manage, especially with the loss of two case managers and only one successful hiring out of two new case manager positions. He started in April and is training and they are recruiting for the other position. Shoutout to APD for their partnership.

INFORMATION SHARING:

- Accessible Parking Workgroup –
 - The last meeting was cancelled, so there are no updates at this time.

- SAC / DSAC Joint Advisory Council – Dave was unable to attend today, 5/18/26 2:30pm is the next meeting, they do not have an agenda yet and the appointment will come out soon.
- George's Updates –
 - ONE system changing, adding new character limits for answers needed when signing up on the ONE system. New account setup will require a picture to validate access. They are considering using CAPTCHA also for verifications.
 - Valley lift has a new app to help consumers not be late for their rides, which uses AI. It will text you to let you know when and where your ride is expected.
 - Care Oregon has a new security system to protect Medicare and people that are dual eligible. They will send out a security word that they must use so you know it is okay to give them information. This should curb scams aimed at venerable groups.
- Announcements and Upcoming Events –
 - George - Central Point Expo 8/13/26 – ZZ Top & Cheap Trick concert
 - Joann – Barnes & Noble's book club – Deaf & Signing Journey. Hearing folks can join as well. You can join up for their newsletter at Mcaso.org/daso.
 - Denyce and others are frustrated with the home care worker system. APD offers workshops weekly to assist caregivers with using the Provider Time Capture (PTC) system or assisting with the renewal process. There are also navigators that APD can refer caregivers if they need additional assistance. The PCT system is a state of Oregon requirement due to HR1.
 - Roxi is devoting Mondays to DSAC work, please let her know if you need help with anything.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:26

NEXT MEETING: June 1, 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.