



Administration Office
Area Agency on Aging
(541) 664-6674 • FAX (541) 664-7927 • www.rvcog.org

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

Monday, October 5, 2026, 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, In-Person & Virtual meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89249620009?pwd=qKymfN131SKQPRswjwyj1fDarOc0ky.1>

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

PARTICIPANTS

- Natalie Mettler – SAC Chair
- Ava Walters – SAC Member
- Noriko Toyokawa – SAC Member
- Tyler Johnson – SAC Member
- Joanna Wilson – SAC Member
- LeAnn Peabody – SAC Member
- Dave Gross – SAC Member
- Ann Marie Alfrey – RVCOG Executive/AAA Director
- Monique Clark – RVCOG SDS Program Director
- LeAnne Turnbull – RVCOG SDS Staff
- Luis Ibáñez – RVCOG SDS Staff
- Sunshine Redline – RVCOG SDS Staff
- Jon Pfefferle – RVCOG Nutrition Program Director
- Melanie Greeley – RVCOG SDS ADRC Lead

GUESTS

- Leah Swanson – AllCare Health
- Charles Ter Bush - AARP Foundation Tax Aide
- Kat Scott – SHIBA & CVN
- Luisa Guardione – Options of SO
- Diana Bennington - CVN
- Diana Burney – DSAC Liaison, Admin Specialist ODHS APD SDS Office

ASL Service Providers:

- Daniel Swartz – ASL/English Interpreter
- Sarika Mehta– ASL/English Interpreter

NOT PRESENT:

- Monica Guterrez –SAC Member
- Leslie McIntyre – SAC & DSAC Member

CALL TO ORDER – Natalie M. called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS – SAC Chair - none

Introductions of guests and public comments – no introductions due to full agenda

Review and approval of September 14, 2026, Minutes – Ava motioned, Noriko seconded, Natalie approved

ANNOUNCEMENT & OTHER TOPICS

- Please identify yourself before speaking so the ASL interpreters know who is speaking

AAA Leadership Report - Ann Marie Alfrey

- Ann Marie and Monique attended O4AD AAA Directors Retreat. Focused around OPIM, the breadth of the program, questions about how services are being reimbursed, the funding cap. The State changed something at the end of September that we should do differently and should have started in July. Things are changing so fast, they are not able to send out new instructions before they are effective. We are struggling to keep up with influx of approvals from APD. Workload and staffing have been issues. Have 3 newer Case Managers in training, still a struggle. State thinks that 70-75 is a full caseload for this program. Sending 30-40 new approvals a month. Funding is not there to add new Case Manager's to carry the caseload. Hiring for a Case Aid position to help take some of the caseload off Case Manager's and SDS Director.
- Had quite a few Elected and perspective Elected attend the Candidate Forum. This provided us with the opportunity to share what our struggles are. So, when they are doing their work at the State or Federal level, they are aware of how their funding decisions impact their constituents and the work we do.

SDS Report – Monique Clark – no report

Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) Report – no report

Presentation: Charlie Ter Bush, cterbush@gmail.com, AARP Foundation Tax Aide

Standing Committee Chair Reports

- *Executive Committee* SAC Chair Natalie Mettler
 - Met on September 21st, talked about feedback on the Candidate's forum and how to improve it for the future. Needing new officers Chair and Vice-Chair by end of Fiscal year which is June 2027.
 - November meeting has a presentation by Upstream Access.
 - Monthly meetings after November will go through the RVCOG AAA programs having staff presenting on OPIM, Behavioral Health; PEARLS and OPAL, Veteran Directed Care etc., to help SAC members have a robust understanding of these programs.
- Jon Pfefferle – Food & Friends Nutrition
 - update on \$10k grant from Round House foundation. Did a survey asking volunteers if they would like to receive a \$10 or \$25 gift cards or for the money to be rolled into the volunteer mileage reimbursement bank. \$4,200 was spent on gift cards and \$5700 will be used to reimburse volunteers for mileage.
 - AAA Management will be attending O4AD fall quarterly. Will be talking about Medicaid delivery and how to mitigate fraud, waste and abuse when providing services.
 - Participated in OLLI Open-House in August. Participated in a team senior podcast on August 25th airing this fall. The entire AAA completed a Cultural Competence training in September to assist us in strengthening our engagement with our native American partners, participants and community members. Tabled at the Multicultural fair in September. Going to Southern Oregon Pride in October in Ashland.
 - In July & August served over 45,000 meals with 41,000 being Meals on Wheels participants.
 - In a volunteer deficit and feeling it. Food & Friends program is on the list for Workfare for SNAP recipients for volunteer opportunities.
 - Are needing to hire a couple employees. The Jackson County Outreach Coordinator's last day was September 30th. Zara Davis has been promoted to that position effective October 1st. Office Specialist II position available in Medford. In Josephine County we are hiring a Volunteer Coordinator as well.
 - Kitchen update, September 25th city of Central Point submitted the CDBG grant for the F&F Kitchen project. Grant request is \$1.5 million to help remodel and furnish facility. Award announcement in Nov or Dec.
 - Meal site facility tour in August with Ava and Natalie with Jon.

- Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) – Melanie Greeley
 - ADRC offers free information and help on issues regardless of income. People call in with several types of needs. Top 5 needs are: 1st - APD office referrals for Medicaid in-home care, long-term care services and the OPIM program. 2nd - legal services, needing help filing for a trust or will and finding an attorney to help with evictions. 3rd - housing resources, 4th financial assistance, 5th Food & Friends meal services. Deanna and Janna also help on the phone line. They assist an average of 180 calls per month. Melanie shared examples of a couple of calls that they assisted with on the ADRC line.
- Communications & Outreach Committee (C&O) Chair Noriko Toyokawa
 1. Education for the General Public

SOU Class Visit: Adult Development & Aging

 - Location: EP 294, SOU
 - Date/Time: 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - Guest Speakers: Ava, Luis, and Natalie
 - Purpose: Share information about the needs of older adults and services provided by RVCOG and community partners.
 - DSAC/SAC: I will continue discussing opportunities for Dave and Diana to join the class later in the term to share their roles and service information in class.
 - SAC Member Participation:

SAC members interested in sharing their experiences, ideas, or roles to raise public awareness of the needs of older adults and promote age-friendly communities are welcome to contact Noriko Toyokawa at toyokawan@sou.edu.
 2. Supporting Other SAC Committees

Discussion for October 26 C&O Committee Meeting

 - How can C&O support other SAC committees?
 - What additional tasks or outreach activities could C&O support?
- SAC/DSAC Joint Advocacy Committee, no August meeting Chair David Gross
 - Will be meeting Oct 19th. Andrea Meyer from Oregon AARP will be presenting on the process of how bills get made into laws. Also, the banning or regulation of Crypto currency kiosks.
 - Will be attending O4AD meeting as well, to learn more about HR1 implementation.
 - Have been asked to prepare to discuss concerns about transportation in a Breakout session.

- Home & Community Based Care Committee (HCBC), Chair Ava Walters
 - Putting some framework around the setup from people coming to and from home. Medicare/Medicaid insurance. Looking at private long term care insurance. How does it work for everybody not just those with Medicaid. Meeting on the 14th with someone from APD to speak on their programs.
- Disability Services Advisory Council Diana Burney
 - Melanie giving the ADRC presentation at the DSAC. Placing an ad in the RV vibes. One membership position open.

Adjourn – Natalie adjourned the meeting at 1:56 pm