



Administration Office
Area Agency on Aging
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Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) Senior Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 14, 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
- Monica Guterrez –SAC Member
- Leslie McIntyre – SAC & DSAC Member
- Dave Gross – SAC Member
- Tyler Johnson – SAC Member
- LeAnn Peabody – SAC Member
- Joanna Wilson –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

GUESTS

- Diana Burney – DSAC Liaison, Admin Specialist ODHS APD SDS Office
- Daniel Swartz – ASL/English Interpreter
- Malina Lindell – ASL/English Interpreter
- Jennifer Fross – Josephine County Public Health
- Ana Gonzalez – APD District 8
- Karen Alexander – Hearts with a Mission
- Leah Swanson – AllCare Health
- Olivia Robinson – Age+ Community Outreach
- Silvia Ceron – OREM - ODHS
- Brion Pinkerton – US Dept Veterans Affairs Community and Partnership Coordinator

NOT PRESENT:

- Jon Pfefferle – RVCOG Nutrition Program Director

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 comments

Review and approval of August 3, 2026, Minutes – Dave Gross motioned to approve, Tyler Johnson seconded, Natalie approved.

ANNOUNCEMENT & OTHER TOPICS

- Welcome new SAC member Joanna Wilson
- Mike Stanek had to step down from his role on the SAC
- Candidate Forum, Friday, September 18, 2026, 9:00am to 11:00am. This is being held at RVCOG Office, 155 N 1st St., Central Point, it is a hybrid event.

AAA Leadership Report - Ann Marie Alfrey

- First year update was submitted and received. Haven't received any feedback on it yet.
- Four different required policy changes that are to align with Federal level with the Older Americans Act which will be implemented next year.
 - One of the policies is regarding carryout meals from the meal sites.
 - Title VI coordination policy. This is the funding stream available to Native tribes, Monique has coordinated with for services made available to them.
 - Luis has been a key component to ensuring that we are out in the community looking for opportunities to connect.
- The State is looking at proposals of an across-the-board 5% cut. They will be looking to AAA's for ideas or preferences from where funding might be cut.
- HR1 bill impacts funding streams for Oregon and Medicare. Tyler Johnson mentioned that as of October 1st, state are going to have 75% of the administrative costs of SNAP shifted to them due to HR1.

SDS Report – Monique Clark

- Hired a new Case Manager, Teleska Kasper. She is a return employee to RVCOG.

Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) Report – Ana Gonzalez, Deputy District Manager for APD -Adults & People with Disabilities

- Officially and permanently closed 28 W 6th Street location and are down to one location. All APD is housed at 2860 State Street Building. Working on merging phones, faxes and

emails. Things are settling down now. Created more cubicle space for staff. Phone calls may take 2-3 days to be returned.

- It is necessary for some lines to be disconnected; a notice will be sent out prior to disconnect. They don't have enough staff to man all the phone lines since the loss of the building.
- Implemented timeframe reduction for OPIM intakes.
- Hiring pause was lifted for exempted positions, there is no pause currently, but have to go through an approval process that will take a bit longer to fill the positions and recruit for them. Open recruitments for several case managers in both JaCo and JoCo.
- Agency with Choice program is live, providing counseling. State of Oregon pays AWC to manage clients with home care workers. Same in-home care rules apply to this program regarding hours.
- Emergency response and fire response. Have managers on call that would reach out to clients that would be impacted by the emergency to make them aware of the situation.

Presentation: Luis Ibanez, RVCOG Outreach Coordinator

Focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Diversity Includes Disability video

Standing Committee Chair Reports

- Executive Committee SAC Chair Natalie Mettler
 - At meeting on Aug 17th discussed still have a need for Vice Chair for the SAC.
 - Listed upcoming Presentations through the end of the year.
- Communications & Outreach Committee (C&O) Chair Noriko Toyokawa
 - Has 3 goals: first one is improvement for enhancement of more intergenerational community building, second is strategies for services, third is we need some kind of support services, including financial security education or workshop for women at risk of homelessness
 - Any SAC members who are interested in these issues and have resources contact Noriko to meet one-on-one for specific information.
- SAC/DSAC Joint Advocacy Committee, no August meeting Chair David Gross
 - Waiting to see what is coming before the legislature.
 - The candidate forum is this Friday, getting to meet some of the candidates
 - Looking forward to finding out info from the O4AD
 - How bills get passed in October
 - Any advocacy issues, let them know
 - Confirmed to serve on Oregon Prescription Drug affordability board

- Home & Community Based Care Committee (HCBC), Chair Ava Walters
 - Today's meeting presenter is Jonas Woolfer talking about Aging and People with Disabilities Diversion and Transition Program.
 - In the education mode of trying to figure out our circle of influence, where our boundaries are, what we do and working on where our funding streams are.

- Disability Services Advisory Council Diana Burney
held the 1st Monday, 2:45-4:30pm
 - Will have an ADRC presentation in October
 - Accessible parking has been doing a lot of planning. PSA is on hold due to funding
 - Hoping to do some tabling soon. Got a list of events from LeAnne.
 - Trying to find out if any cities in our district have volunteer police that are cite for incorrect accessible parking usage.
 - Working on a presentation for the Housing Authorities who have expressed interest in one.
 - Cody, a DSAC member, attended the Medford Public Works Department meeting in August regarding the Downtown Parking Management plan. He added input about accessible parking which was well received.

Adjourn – Natalie adjourned the meeting at 2:04 pm