

## Joint SSAC-DSAC Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

**SSAC Members Present:** Suzette Boydston, Chair; Catherine Skiens, Vice Chair; Bill Hall, Commissioner; Anne Brett, Kimberly Kimball, Mark McNabb, Bill Turner, Doris Lamb, Chris Barnes, Dewey Konopa, Janet Shinner and Fawn Metcalf.

**DSAC Members Present:** Mike Volpe, Chair; Suzanne Brean, Vice Chair; Rusty Burton, Terry Brown, Edythe James, Lee Lazaro, Sherry Rocha, Jann Glenn and Mark Frederic.

**Guests:** Mitzi Naucler, Margaret Wells, Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Jenna Bates, Victoria Short, Rachell Jefferson and Cathy Savage.

**Members Absent:** Lee Strandberg and Pete Rickey.

**Staff:** Lisa Bennett, Ann Johnson, Mary Kay Fitzmorris, Terri Sharpe, Randi Moore, and Sarah Ballini-Ross.

1. Suzette Boydston called the meeting to order at 11:00am.
  - Introductions were made including guests.
2. Approval of Joint SSAC-DSAC May Minutes:
  - **ACTION: Suzanne Brean moved to accept the May 5, 2015 SSAC/DSAC Joint minutes as written. Catherine Skiens seconded. Motion carried.**
3. Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Update (Alicia Lucke, RSVP Supervisor):
  - Alicia Lucke, RSVP Supervisor for Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties provided an overview on the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). RSVP recruits, trains and places volunteers 55 and older with non-profits in our communities and provides them with liability coverage, mileage reimbursement and a way to give back to the community. They operate on a \$130,000 federal grant that requires a 30 percent match, which to date they have met. There are six areas of focus which include; Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship Healthy Futures, and Veteran and Military Families. Alicia would like to see Economic Opportunity, Education, and Veteran and Military Families expand in the coming years. This will involve sitting with the Advisory Councils and discussing where to move forward. She'll be writing a grant that will cover 2016 – 2019.
  - RSVP's main focus at this time is with Veteran and Military Families. Current data shows there is a high degree of homelessness among Veterans, especially in Lincoln

County which is one of the highest in the United States. Unemployment among Veterans in Lincoln County is 5<sup>th</sup> highest in the region. Veterans are going to the VA for their benefits but not accessing all the benefits available to them such as housing and employment. There is the need to educate them and Alicia sees this as an opportunity for RSVP to come in and provide that need as a peer mentor through the Battle Buddies Program.

- Alicia asked for feedback on what everyone's thought was when they thought about homelessness, unemployment and Veterans. Catherine Skiens stated that both Linn and Benton Counties have 35 Veteran vouchers to use for housing but unless the Veteran has a case worker they are unable to place them. Alicia said that once a claim is established they can match up a volunteer who can help them navigate out a plan.
- It was mentioned that there are other Veteran organizations that are stepping up and partnering with RSVP in providing transportation to Portland for their medical appointments. Alicia has written two specific grants for this very reason.
- Bill Hall would like to give credit to Jerry Forrest and Devin Whitaker who spearheaded the last Veteran's Stand Down. Alicia stated that there is a monthly group meeting in Linn County to start a Stand Down Event in Lebanon this coming November.
- On a final note, Alicia shared a newsletter report that announces Houston becoming the largest city to end homelessness. This means bringing homelessness down to a functional zero by having a system and vouchers in place for those that are chronically homeless. Alicia feels this is a good long term goal for RSVP. Bill Hall stated the model they used was called "Housing First" and by providing them a home it gave them stability to deal with the other issues that led them to homelessness in the first place.

4. Legislative Meetings Review (Mike Volpe, Catherine Skiens, Suzette Boydston, Lisa Bennett):

- Mike gave an overview on the Legislative meetings that he, Catherine, Suzette and Lisa attended with Senator Sara Gelsler and Representatives Andy Olson and Dan Rayfield. One issue that they advocated for was Oregon Project Independence (OPI) for people under 60 with a disability. Lisa expanded on what Mike was saying explaining that OPI for seniors over 60 years of age has been in place for awhile. Our area was chosen to do a pilot program for people with disabilities under the age of 60. Randi Moore was invited to testify before a committee where she was able to provide some specific facts on how the money was used and the impact it has in the community.

- Lisa stressed that if someone was interested in meeting with a Legislator they should set up appointments with their Legislators for their area; there is a better chance of getting an appointment and being heard. Lisa also recommended someone from Lincoln County attending the Legislative meetings next year so their issues will be heard as well. As it was, they did not get in to see Representative David Gomberg because there were no constituents from Lincoln County. If anyone in Lincoln County would like to meet with Representative Gomberg they should call Lisa. Kimberly Kimball and Doris Lamb noted they are both interested.
- Mike stated that in the last session they mentioned adding supplements to staffing in the Senior and Disabilities offices and to create incentives to offer more programs.

#### 5. Oregon White House Conference on Aging Review:

- Many Council Members attended the Oregon White House Conference on Aging and felt it was a success. One thing that was mentioned was how transportation kept coming up in the discussions. Anne Brett's group reflected on how giving service to others for a paycheck is not enough and can even dehumanize the recipient. Service needs to be given through the heart and with compassion. The question was how to educate others on passionate listening and not just serving needs but serving life.

#### 6. Lunch Break and Networking (30 minutes)

#### 7. Intensive Case Management (Sarah Ballini-Ross):

- Sarah Ballini-Ross, Health Systems Transformation Liaison, gave an overview on the Health Systems Transformation position which differs across the state, depending on the region. Sarah works with the two Coordinated Care Organizations; Intercommunity Health Network in Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties and Trillium Community Health Plan in Lane County. Coordinating Care Organizations are bringing together all kinds of care under one group that includes physical, behavioral, and dental health for people that receive Medicaid. IHN works with Senior and Disability Services to coordinate care for IHN consumers that are receiving long term services and supports through a Memorandum of Understanding.
- Sarah is part of a seven member team; three which are state employee and four that are Type B AAA employees that are contracted with the state.
- Sarah also works to identify gaps and problem solving with the current delivery system. A grant was written to reduce utilization in the ER Department for those consumers that did not have an existing primary care provider.

- Sarah expanded on the Intensive Care Management Program which is funded through an Innovation grant through Oregon Department of Human Services, Aging and People with Disabilities and Intercommunity Health Network CCO. There is one full time staff member who works with consumers to help reduce their emergency room visitation. Criteria for the Program are; the consumer must live in Linn County, they have to be an IHN CCO member, they must be an existing consumer with Senior and Disability Services, and they must have had three or more ER visits in a month. The ICM Program is strictly voluntary and provides hands on support. By working with others and having their voices heard this empowers the consumer to talk with their doctors about their problems.
- Chris Barnes asked Sarah where she gets her referrals for the ICM program. Sarah stated that referrals are internal from Senior and Disability Services. There are seven consumers enrolled in the ICM Program at this time. Because of Linn County's high ER use and large Medicaid population it was selected as the pilot site.

#### 8. Issues/Advocacy Committee Meeting Update:

- The Issues and Advocacy Committee met on May 18<sup>th</sup> where Rodney Schroeder, Director of Northwest Senior and Disability Services, updated the Committee on Federal and State level issues that are going on in the Legislature at this time. Rodney will be giving further updates at the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting that goes from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Nicole Palmateer, Director and Lobbyist of the O4AD, will provide a summary after the Legislature wraps things up at the July 21st meeting and on August 18<sup>th</sup> Mike McCormick, Director of Aging & People with Disabilities, will come speak to the committee. Lisa emphasized the committee is open to all members of SSAC and DSAC and anyone who wants to be involved should attend the meetings. At this time everyone is on the list to receive information but soon the list will be limited to committee members.
- Mike added that one of the updates that Rodney went over involved the Department of Labor issue. At the Federal level it was decided that homecare workers would no longer be paid at a flat rate for the number of hours worked but will get paid overtime hours after working 40 hours per week. This ruling will have a huge impact on Seniors and Disability Services. Lee Lazaro is concerned with the increase in minimum wage and feels that there will be many positions eliminated which could change and affect the quality of life with people with disabilities. Lisa feels both issues are important and will have a big impact on communities. She suggested the Issues and Advocacy Committee work on both.

## 9. Announcements:

- Lisa has copies of the 2014 reports on:
  - Resident and Community Characteristics Report 2014-Adult Foster Homes
  - Resident and Community Characteristics Report 2014- Assisted Living, Residential Care, Memory Care
  - Oregon Nursing Facilities Report 2014
- There will be no July meeting.
- In August Representative Andy Olson will be coming to speak to the Advisory Councils
- In September Lisa is looking into having the meeting at the Veteran's Home in Lebanon.
- Rusty announced that the train excursion from Lebanon to Sweet Home is up and running.
- Rusty shared that Mayor Paul Aziz is in the process of getting the Strawberry Festival parking lot fixed for the disabled and seniors.
- Lee shared that he is on the planning committee for the 2016 Public Transportation Conference and with this being the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the theme of the Conference will be on transportation for people with disabilities. At this time he is in the process of securing Marilyn Golden as a speaker. Ms Golden is a disability rights advocate and is one of the top speakers in the U.S. on ADA compliance being enforced. She was also involved in writing parts of the ADA. The dates of the conference are October 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> and will be held in Eugene. There will be a number of speakers and workshops related to seniors and people with disabilities. Lee will provide more information as he receives it.
- If the timing is right Lee would like to see if Marilyn Golden could come speak to the Advisory Councils. Lisa suggested having her speak at the Issues and Advocacy Committee meeting since the timing of that meeting would be closer to when Ms. Golden would be here.
- Lisa asked that if anyone would like to be on the Issues and Advocacy Committee to contact her. Those that would like to receive emails include; Suzanne Brean, Lee Lazaro, Rusty Burton (regular mail), Edythe James, Sherry Rocha, Mark Frederic, Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Margaret Wells, Janet Shinner, Dewey Konopa and Mitzi Naucler.

## 10. Adjournment:

- The SSAC/DSAC Joint Meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm.
- The Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe.
- The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 4, 2015.