



Senior and Disability Services

1400 Queen Ave SE • Suite 206 • Albany, OR 97322
(541) 967-8630 TTY/Voice • 1-800-638-0510 TTY/Voice

203 N Main St • Toledo, OR 97391
(541) 336-2289 • (541) 336-8103 TTY/Voice • (800) 282-6194



Area Agency on Aging

DATE: June 1, 2016
TO: Senior & Disability Services SSAC/DSAC
FROM: Dave Toler, Senior and Disability Services Director
RE: **Senior & Disabilities (SDS) Director Updates**

Livable Communities

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' (OCWCOG) SDS is partnering with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Oregon to facilitate discussion with cities and counties across our region to consider a Livable Communities Initiative that will ensure our communities are designed and maintained in a way that is user-friendly for residents age 1-101.

One critical element of a Livable Community is housing. OCWCOG is now dedicating staff time toward bringing the Life Long Housing (LLH) certificate program to this region. The LLH certificate ensures that a home meets a designated number of design criteria that remove mobility barriers into and around the interior of our homes.

After a very successful kick-off event with AARP Oregon at the Albany Golf & Event Center last month, OCWCOG will be reaching out to jurisdictions across the region to engage in further discussion about adoption of the Livable Communities' Initiative with the intent to build a collaboration that will attract national resources toward this endeavor.

Private Admissions Assessments

While OCWCOG Medicaid programs focus primarily on consumers who are income eligible for Medicaid services, our responsibility also lies with private-pay consumers who are entering our most institutional setting in the Long Term Care system: the Nursing Facility.

OCWCOG is bringing on additional staff to provide Private Admissions Assessments (PAA) to private-pay consumers in our region to ensure that they have the information they need to make the most appropriate decision for their situation. In some cases, a PAA may result in opting for a less intensive setting in the community such as an Assisted Living Facility or Adult Foster Home.

Area Plan

To help guide our next four-year Area Plan (2017-2021), SDS sent out a community partner survey to nonprofits and local governments throughout the region. In addition, SDS is reaching out to two target populations in the region: Native Americans and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Over 60 responses have been received identifying the gaps in services, as well

as suggestions to simplify our public interface in order to make it easier for these partners and the general public to access our services.

As Council members are aware, April's Senior Services Advisory Council/Disability Services Advisory Council (SSAC/DSAC) meeting was hosted by the Siletz Tribe in Siletz, and we are planning on a Siletz focus group later in June. While informing us for our Area Plan is the immediate objective, the longer term goal is establishing a strong partnership with the tribe, and this initial meeting was a very promising step toward that end.

Meals on Wheels (MOW)

One of OCWCOG's highest profile programs is *Meals on Wheels* (MOW). Unfortunately, the program has been operating on subsidies from other funds for many years. SDS's goal is to make MOW a self-sufficient program by June 30, 2018.

One way to accomplish this goal is to begin reducing services for our region. A few years ago, frozen meals that provided a nutritious meal for MOW participants over the weekend were terminated. Given the critical service this program provides for hundreds of vulnerable older adults throughout our communities, further reducing this program is an option of last resort.

Rather than further reducing MOW in our region, SDS is opting for a second strategy which will be to significantly broaden our community support and revenue streams for MOW. SDS is developing a MOW Resource Development Plan embracing strategies toward expanding regional support for MOW. An immediate first step will be to sharpen our presentation with more professional and consistent program branding. Stay tuned for a new MOW look!

Eligibility for Medicaid/SNAP

The shared caseload model has been fully implemented for both Albany and Corvallis offices. The result is significantly decreased wait times for consumers either first time enrolling or renewing their benefits. What was once a 2-4 day wait time is now typically 1 day. We will be moving toward adoption in Lincoln County as well. We anticipate the shared workload model to be implemented in September in Toledo.