

**Joint SSAC-DSAC Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Thursday, September 29, 2016

**SSAC Members Present:** Bob Daley, Chair; Catherine Skiens, Vice Chair; Suzette Boydston, Mark McNabb, Suzanne Lazaro, Janet Shinner, Doris Lamb, Saleem Noorani and Dani Marlow.

**DSAC Members Present:** Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Chair; Mike Volpe, Vice Chair; Suzanne Brean, Lee Lazaro and Pete Rickey.

**ADRC Members Present:** Kristi Murphy.

**Guests:** Jessie Grow Hodges, Carolyn Fry, Cathy Savage, and Pat Shirley.

**Members Absent:** Bill Hall, Commissioner; Lee Strandberg, Bill Turner, Jann Glenn, Rusty Burton, Anne Brett and Edythe James.

**Staff:** Dave Toler, Lisa Bennett, Mary Kay Fitzmorris, Ann Johnson and Terri Sharpe.

**1. Welcome, Introductions, Additions to the Agenda (Bob Daley, SSAC Chair):**

Bob Daley called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.  
Introductions were made including guests.

**2. Approval of the September 6, 2016 Joint Minutes:**

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the September 6, 2016 SSAC/DSAC Joint meeting minutes as written made by Catherine Skiens, seconded by Dani Marlow. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Area Plan Review (Dave Toler, SDS Director):**

- Dave Toler, SDS Director, gave an overview of the final draft of the 2017 – 2020 Area Plan to the Councils. Prioritizing Discretionary Funding and Target Populations were discussed at the September 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Dave continued discussion on the topic along with other key elements of the plan. New to this plan, from past years, is the addition of Behavioral and Mental Health which is woven in throughout the six critical state-defined areas of the plan.
- Dave provided spreadsheets of the SDS Budget to help answer any questions that were raised at the last meeting. The section highlighted in green is the main area where discretionary funding will be applied:
  - Title IIIB – Administration and Support Services

Title III C-1 and C-2 Meals Program  
Title III D – Evidence based Health Promotions Programs  
Title III E - Family Caregiving Support Program  
Title IIV - Elder Rites

The State mandates that a minimum of 3% of Title III B funding goes toward Legal Services (OCWCOG funds at 10%) along with a small percentage going toward In-Home Services. Administration makes-up 7.6% of the total discretionary funds. Overall, discretionary funds make up about 2% of the total budget.

Mike Volpe asked what the Legal Services represented. Dave said OCWCOG has to provide legal help to their consumers in Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties.

Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) is a separate federal funding for the Meals Programs.

Suzette Boydston asked about the \$60,000 for Nutrition Counseling in the budget. Dave said it covers one-on-one nutrition counseling when enrolling or recertifying consumers in the Meals Programs at least once a year, as well as outreach when they do nutrition education through the mail to their consumers. Nutrition education is also provided on the other side of the meals menu. Kristi Murphy said the State has many training videos on their website for meal sites to use to get information out to people.

Suzette is concerned with the Older Americans Act (OAA) not being able to fully support the needs of our seniors now and is worried what it will look like in the near future with the increase in the senior population. Even with a large part of the funding going toward senior meals it still does not pay for all the meals.

Another concern is that there are zero discretionary dollars going toward transportation. This is a huge issue for consumers not on Medicaid and those on Medicaid that need transportation services for trips other than medical.

Dave added that not only is transportation a huge issue but affordable housing is one as well. Without a home it's tough to provide services and stabilize those in need. Pete Rickey said there is not enough federal funding or interest to build the low income housing that is needed even with the tax credit incentives. Pete said they used to be at 100% in finding clients housing but now they're at 98%, and foresees this dropping. Catherine Skiens said Albany is one of the highest performing Housing Authorities in the state. In Lincoln County they are worse off with a two year waiting list.

- Dave went over the six areas of the plan and highlighted what the goals are:
  - 1) Family Caregiver Programs: The goal is to enhance grandparents raising grandchildren. This is a phenomenon happening in the community and SDS would like to increase support. SDS is also focusing on increasing family caregiver supports for minorities, English as a second language, Siletz Tribe and the LBGT population. This is for Lincoln County. Linn and Benton Counties already have established programs and they would like Lincoln County to catch up.
  - 2) Information and Assistance Services in the Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRC): The goal is to continue development of the ADRC and focus on the “no wrong door” experience where the ADRC will be the last call a person will have to make for assistance.

Mike asked about the high percentage of people that do not know what the ADRC is. Dave said they should do more marketing but he does not have the staff to take the increased load and still provide good quality service. Suzanne Lazaro and Kristi Murphy both feel it is better to have the contact and know what the needs are and help them out at least some. Kristi, speaking from the State perspective, said it is our responsibility to let the community know that these services are available. She also feels it would give us more power, when talking with government leaders, knowing what the needs are and letting them know that there is not enough funding to meet these needs.

Dave is concerned with the negative repercussions if SDS cannot give quality service and people stopped calling the ADRC altogether. Suzette respectfully disagreed with Dave. She feels you can't always help everyone but if you don't try you will not have stats to take to the Legislators to get more funding. Carolyn Fry is concerned with people calling and getting put on hold for over an hour. She feels staffing is a viable concern. Suzanne Brean said there is an option of leaving a message and having a staff member call them back. Their names will also be in the system giving SDS the stats to take to the Legislators. Without the statistics it will be hard to get additional funding.

Bob summed up the discussion stating that what he hears is people wanting a balance where we serve the people that call, and at the same time, there is value in obtaining the data that shows the true need of the community.

Another goal for Information and Assistance Services is to ensure that veterans in the Veterans Service Office in Benton County are included in ADRC internal referral process. Dave said SDS has just been approved by the State to do a Medicaid match

in order to wrap around more services to the veterans. Suzette shared that Samaritan has a veteran, Kyle Hatch, who can be a resource for SDS in helping vets with assistance to services available. Suzette will bring in brochures with all the information for SDS staff. Suzette also mentioned Oregon is leaving lots of money on the table every year that could be used for veteran services that is not being utilized. Kristi said they are focusing on getting veterans registered with Veteran's Services before they go on Medicaid enabling many of them to get better benefits.

- 3) Elder Rights and Legal Assistance: The goal is to ensure investigations are completed in a timely manner and to increase public education and awareness regarding older adult abuse, neglect and exploitation. Dave feels adult abuse is about 20-30 years behind domestic violence issues in awareness of what is right and wrong.
- 4) Health Promotions: Expand mental health services for older adults and people with disabilities. SDS currently has the Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives for Seniors (PEARLS) and Powerful Tools for Caregivers. SDS would also like to increase community engagement for older adults and people with disabilities and address the service gap for dementia related diseases.
- 5) Native Americans: The goal is to continue to build a strong relationship with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. SDS has already started outreach with Adult Protective Services (APS) reaching out and resolving issues. Suzette added to the discussion acknowledging Lisa Bennett's hard work to refoster the relationship between SDS and the Tribe by arranging the first Joint SSAC DSAC meeting in Siletz earlier in the year. Suzette would like to see this happen at least once a year.
- 6) Nutrition Services: The goal is to develop financial resources and increase and stabilize the volunteer base. Dave would also like to look at how they can enhance the dining room experience. The numbers in the dining room have been declining in the past 10 years which may be contributed to not having enough experiences around the dining hour that would draw people in. SDS will start working with meal site managers in helping them work with community organizations in scheduling different events. Suzette believes site location has a lot to do with it as well. They want to continue to work with the Pet Program as well.

Dave asked for questions and comments regarding the six areas' issues and goals. Carolyn said she is concerned with the number of tasks involved throughout the six areas where 52 of the tasks require staff time, and at the same time she is hearing there are staffing issues. She is also concerned with SDS creating programs that are not sustainable and questions whether SDS should be putting their time and energy into

unstainable programs. Dave said the two programs he is most concerned about in terms of sustainability are the Meals on Wheels Program and the ADRC. He thinks they can make the Meals Program sustainable with more involvement and investment through the community. In terms of the ADRC, they are at a critical level where if they expand it they will not be able to sustain it at their current funding. Carolyn suggested a future discussion on how they can partner better.

Mark McNabb agreed with Carolyn that they have too many tasks and not enough funds and suggested prioritizing where the funds would go. He feels 52 tasks is not realistic and instead we should concentrate on no more than ten of them. Dave pointed out that less than 2% of the budget is discretionary and the rest is restricted, so where they can prioritize is a very small piece of the pie. Mark feels prioritizing is important and would let our Representatives know what is important to Linn Benton and Lincoln Counties. Bob asked if there are any options where they could highlight, for our Representatives, the areas we value more highly out of the six issues of the plan. Dave stressed that these six issues are mandated by the state and SDS has to show they are going to do something with these areas in the next four years. Mark said they need to be more forceful and let the state know what is really more important to our three counties. Dave suggested numbering the areas according to priority.

To clarify the thoughts from Council members, Lisa suggested that someone could make a motion to put the Prioritization of Discretionary Funding in a priority level. Lee Lazaro asked for clarification on what they are prioritizing; the six issue areas that the State mandated or the bulleted list (on page 22 of the agenda packet) for discretionary dollars. Dave said the Councils went over the Prioritization of Discretionary Funding list last meeting and what he is hearing is now they will be ranking the list in priority. Lee was concerned because the issue with the ADRC is not on the list but Dave informed him that Options Counseling is part of the ADRC and they could make it Options Counseling/Information and Assistance.

Pete was concerned if they should prioritize will they be backing off on the others. Mark said they should first find out if all three counties are represented and from there they will find out what area is most important for each county and if it follows through for all three counties.

Lisa suggested, as a method for prioritizing, they go with a two hand vote where everyone gets to vote on their two most important categories. Mark suggested everyone writing their priorities on paper.

Suzanne L asked for the category Behavioral Health Supports to read Behavioral Health Supports/Mental Health Supports.

**ACTION: Motion to rank the Prioritization of Discretionary Funding by the two hands method made by Suzanne Brean, seconded by Catherine Skiens. Motion passed.**

Results:

1. Meals on Wheels : 13 votes
2. Family Caregiver Support: 2 votes
3. Behavior Health Supports/Mental Health Supports: 10 votes
4. Expansion of Money Management Program: 0 votes
5. Care Transitions Hospital to Home: 1 vote
6. Options Counseling/Information and Assistance: 8 votes.

Suzette asked if there is a reason staff does not answer the phone from 8:00am – 9:00am and during the lunch hour and if they did it would give them 10 more hours. Dave will look into this.

Catherine asked if in the Executive Summary Dave could mention transportation and housing and how it is a concern for our three county area.

**ACTION: Motion to approve the Draft 2017-2020 Area Plan as written with the changes made today made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Lee Lazaro. Motion passed unanimously.**

Suzette requested they start early in the writing process with the next Area Plan and Catherine asked for more updates while the Area Plan is being written.

**4. State Licensing Organizational Changes (Dave Toler, SDS Director):**

Dave said the history has been for that office to be semi-autonomous from Aging People with Disabilities (APD), which has been problematic. They are now moving this under APD and Ashley Carson-Cottingham, APD ODHS Director, will be overseeing them as well as the other half.

**5. Social Determinants of Health (Dave Toler, SDS Director):**

Tabled to a future meeting.

**6. Application for SSAC Membership from Carolyn Mendez-Luck (Doris Lamb, SSAC Membership and Nominating Committee Member):**

**ACTION:** Motion to approve Carolyn Mendez-Luck's SSAC application and send it to the OCWCOG Full Board for approval made by Suzette Boydston, seconded by Dani Marlow. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Old Business (Lisa Bennett, SDS Community and Program Coordinator):**

- a. Establishment of business sponsors for Meals on Wheels –  
Lisa reminded everyone Dave is still looking to build a list of businesses he can reach out to for the Meals on Wheels sponsorships. If anyone has a business in mind they should contact Lisa, Dave or members of SMAC.
- b. Outreach for Meals volunteers to LBCC Culinary Arts Program and to high schools –  
Staff is currently working on this.
- c. Meals Program Mission and Vision –  
A committee has been working on a mission and vision statement. A copy is included in today's agenda packet.
- d. Legislative Strategies and Advocacy –  
There will be an Issues and Advocacy Committee meeting on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. One topic of discussion will include the Department of Human Services list for potential program cuts if there should be a cut in the budget. Lisa will send out the agenda ahead of time. The meeting will be video conferenced.

**8. Announcements:**

Suzette reminded everyone, if they haven't already, to register for the 2016 Oregon Conference on Aging, sponsored by the Governor's Commission on Senior Services on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Lisa reminded everyone the October 4<sup>th</sup> Council meetings was rescheduled for today so will not be taking place next Tuesday.

ODOT will be talking about their Americans with Disability Act Transition Plan on October 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am to 11:30 am at the COG in the upstairs large conference room.

Lee L announced the COG Board of Directors approved the bylaws for the Brokerage and appointed new members for the Brokerage. Lee expects to see the Committee more active and stated they are very engaged with Medicaid transportation issues. Lee will act as the liaison between the Brokerage and DSAC and SSAC.

**9. Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.

The Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 7, 2016.