

SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (SSAC)

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Present: Bob Daley, Chair; Catherine Skiens, Vice Chair; Suzanne Lazaro; Doris Lamb; Anne Brett; Lee Strandberg; Mark McNabb; Doris Lamb; Saleem Noorani; Curtis Miller; Suzette Boydston; Carolyn Mendez-Luck; and Janet Shinner.

Guests: Mike Volpe; Cathy Savage; Lee Lazaro; Pete Rickey; Mitzi Naucler; Sandy Potter; Carolyn Fry; Marilyn Winter; Marie Laper; Robynn Pease; Kath Schonau; and Don Taylor.

Members Absent: Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County; Bill Turner; and Dani Marlow.

Staff: Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director Dave Toler; Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett; SDS Program Manager Mary Kay Fitzmorris; and SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe.

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

Chair Bob Daley called the meeting to order at 11:04 am. Introductions were made including guests.

2. Approval of Minutes:

ACTION: Motion to approve the SSAC December 6, 2016 minutes made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Saleem Noorani. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Chair's Report:

Daley is involved with a project through the non-profit organization, *Oregon Humanities*. He facilitates for the *Conversation Project*, where they reinforce the skills of having conversations. There are about 40 Conversations that *Oregon Humanities* host and the one coming up that Daley is involved with is called *Talking about Dying*. This is the second time he has facilitated for this Conversation. It was well received the first time so they found funding to offer it again. The idea is to grow our culture so we can talk more comfortably about death and dying in the hopes of preparing better for it. The program is very discussion oriented where individuals are encouraged to share their experience of following someone through their death and dying experience. Most people who participate feel relieved to be able to talk about the end of life.

Another Conversation Daley has been a part of is *Place, Belonging, and Power* and how the three topics intersect. In different locations there are different Conversations and different challenges that come up such as homelessness or the extremes between poverty and wealth.

Daley appreciates being part of the program, because it is an opportunity to address some of the challenges of our culture and our era. Conversations take place at both Statewide and local levels. Daley will let people know when there are any Conversations taking place locally.

4. Information Sharing:

Pete Rickey shared he attended a first aid training for veterans, held by Samaritan Health Services. This is an ongoing event and the next meeting will be held in March. At the event they are taught simple awareness of mental health issues and how you can deal with them both professionally and personally. The event Rickey attended was focused on Veterans, but they also provide events for seniors and for youths. Rickey ran into Kyle Hatch, the Veteran's outreach for Samaritan Health Services, who said he would be interested in attending one of the Advisory Council meetings and perhaps giving a presentation on the organization. Rickey will give Daley Hatch's contact information.

Suzanne Lazaro shared there is training at Good Samaritan Hospital on Thursday, March 2nd from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm that offers mental health first aid.

Suzette Boydston shared Helen Beaman, a contracted employee through the OCWCOG, is providing mental health services. SDS Director Toler said both Beaman and Marie Laper in Lincoln County will be getting trained for mental health first aid with emphases on geriatrics and disabilities. They will also provide consultation on mental health to providers, but not direct services to clients. If anyone is looking for that resource they should contact Toler and he'll forward the information to either Beaman or Laper.

Lee Lazaro shared the Benton County Board of Commissioners approved funding for the County's Special Transportation Program for the 2017–2018 biennium. This includes funding for the *Dial-a-Bus Program* and specialized transportation for seniors and people with disabilities, *Linn-Benton Loop*, Albany Car Ride, City of Adair Village, Grace Center, Janice House, support for the Senior and Disability Service Program, and the Samaritan Senior Companion Program. The Commissioners will be formerly approving the funding at their meeting being held on February 24th.

L. Lazaro also shared that the Healthy Active Community Environment team in Benton County is now focusing on the *Corvallis to Albany* bike path. Benton County has now formed an Advisory Committee, which Mr. Lazaro is a member of, where they will be focusing on the path and different alternatives for the path.

L. Lazaro shared that on August 21st there will be a solar eclipse. Oregon is the first state where the eclipse will show, so the State is the focus of international

attention. They are expecting anywhere from 400,000 to 1 million people arriving in this part of Oregon, anywhere from Madres to Benton County, for this event. There is a planning group planning for this.

Mike Volpe asked L. Lazaro how often the Dial-a-Bus goes from Benton County to Linn County. L. Lazaro said the best connection between the two counties would be the *Albany Corvallis Connection* that runs three days a week between Corvallis and North Albany, and into the City of Albany proper. The best public transportation would be the *Linn-Benton Loop* which is a six day a week service that covers the Albany area and Linn-Benton Community College. The Linn Shuttle is another means that will take you into Sweet Home and Lebanon.

S. Lazaro shared she found an evidence based program called *Healthy Moves for Aging Well*, through Partners in Care, as a possibility for a Health Promotion Program for SDS to work on. Ms. Lazaro spoke with the administrator of the project letting her know of her interest. She feels it would be a good fit, it's a simple program and cost effective. They will be rolling it out in early spring and will keep the Councils updated.

5. Adjourn for Lunch/Joint Meeting:

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 am. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2017.