

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments'
Joint
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)
and
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)
Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 6, 2017

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

DSAC Members Present: Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Chair; Mike Volpe, Vice Chair; Lee Lazaro; Jann Glenn; Pete Rickey; Suzanne Brean; Rusty Burton; and Edythe James.

ADRC Members Present: Sandy Potter and Suanne Jackson.

Guests: Mitzi Naucler; Cathy Savage; Teri Jefferson; Pat Shirley; Victoria Short; Marilyn Winter; Anita Thompson; Clark Brean; and Marie Laper.

Members Absent: Catherine Skiens, SSAC Vice Chair; Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County; Carolyn Fry; Lee Strandberg; Dani Marlow; Bill Turner; and Robynn Pease.

Staff: Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Community Services Program Manager Jennifer Moore; SDS Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett; Community Economic Development (CED) Director Phil Warnock; CED Planner Tarah Campi; 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 12:03 pm. Introductions were made, including guests.

2. Approval of Minutes:

ACTION: Motion to approve the May 2, 2017 SSAC/DSAC Joint meeting minutes made by Pete Rickey, seconded by Lee Lazaro. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Introduction of SDS Community Services Program Manager Jennifer Moore:

SDS Community Services Program Manager Jennifer Moore gave a brief history of herself. Prior to her new position with Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) she was with United Way. In her new position, she is responsible for managing the *Meals on Wheels* Program, *Retired Senior Volunteer Program* (RSVP), *Foster Grandparents Program*, and *Veteran Services*. She is also responsible for any community based initiative work OCWCOG might participate in. Her responsibility will be looking at community service programs' sustainability, specifically fundraising and grant writing. She anticipates growing in needs as required.

4. Legislative Update (Lisa Bennett, SDS Community Program Support Coordinator):

SDS Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett reminded everyone that the Issues and Advocacy Committee (I&AC) came up with three priorities for the Legislative session that include:

- 1) *Oregon Project Independence* (OPI) – maintaining the current funding level. OPI has been cut by 75% in the Governor's Budget and by 50% in the Co-Chair's Budget.
- 2) Funding for Long-term Care and Medicaid Services – maintaining the current funding level or increasing it, due to the increase in the number of people needing the services.
- 3) In the current budget cycle, Department of Human Services (DHS) Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) has been directed to reduce costs. One of the measures by which they are doing this is making a clearer system for evaluations of consumers for in home care services. It is expected that when these evaluations are performed, about five percent of consumers will be removed from services due to ineligibility. Many of these consumers are currently living in adult foster homes or facilities, other than their home. Council members feel that there should be an

adequate transition plan for these consumers who will be removed from services under the plan, which could result in them being left without a home.

Janet Shinner shared that these priorities and concerns were similar to the concerns of advocates from other Counties. The loss of housing for the five percent was huge because there is no housing and nowhere for these people to go.

DSAC Vice Chair Mike Volpe said the people in facilities who may be losing services, may have lost the mental and physical ability to do those tasks that have been done by caregivers. He thinks the State needs to take a different look at the sustainability programs and services, and dedicate more money to them.

SDS Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett reminded everyone that Legislative meetings are meetings at the Capitol between a Legislator and a SSAC or DSAC member, with an OCWCOG's SDS staff member present. She sets the appointment based on the Council member's availability and would like to set up more meetings in July for those wishing to participate. Volunteers included Mr. Rickey, Suzanne Brean, SSAC Chair Daley, Anita Thompson, Ms. Shinner, Doris Lamb, and DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald. Anyone else interested should reach out to SDS Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett.

5. Legislative Meetings Report (Janet Shinner, Suzanne Lazaro, Mike Volpe, Doris Lamb):

This was Ms. Shinner's first time at a Legislative meeting which she found very interesting and fascinating, particularly the different responses from the Legislators. She wanted everyone to know that it was not as intimidating as she originally thought it would be. She appreciated the fact that the Legislators were just as worried about losing OPI as the Councils are. Representative David Gomberg said the amount that OPI is being funded is not acceptable and the funding needs to increase significantly.

Suzanne Lazaro met with mostly Aides, who were young, but understood the issues because of elder relatives. She found them engaged, knowledgeable, and receptive. In regard to her meeting with Representative Mike Nearman, she was surprised with how receptive, caring, and enthusiastic he was. Ms. Lazaro feels it is important to reach out to everyone, regardless of their political leaning.

Rusty Burton questioned how many Legislators really listen to what they, as advocates, have to say. SDS Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett said there may be many Legislators that have already made up their minds but, like Representative Nearman, he knew very little about the services but was very interested in learning about them. As a result, he was very supportive of our programs.

6. Member Report (Pete Rickey, DSAC Member):

Mr. Rickey gave a history of himself and an overview of his work. He was with the Marine Corps for 30 years before joining the Linn Benton Housing Authority in 2010, in the Property Management Department. The Linn-Benton Housing Authority is made up of two sections; the Property Management Department and Case Management. Property Management's responsibilities are similar to commercial landlord responsibilities, but must adhere to both Oregon Community Housing Services and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). They conduct financial recertification and provide searches for temporary or permanent housing. They also provide tenant care screenings and needs, and act as a pathway from housing to facility care.

There are 13 case workers that deal with 2,600 families in Linn Benton Counties. There are two HUD Inspectors that work six days a week to ensure safety is being met.

Linn-Benton Housing Authority works with different Affordable Housing Programs. One program, *Tax Credits*, is based on a voucher system. There are currently 40,000 people holding vouchers in Linn and Benton Counties. There is the *420 Program*, which is a homebased, locked voucher system. There is also the *Veterans Assisted Housing Program* for homeless veterans.

The Federal Government is looking to cut \$2.25 billion from HUD and turn it over to state and local agencies to fund, which puts the Linn-Benton Housing Authority in a holding pattern. The Lebanon property that was going to be a 55+ complex is now on hold.

7. Overview of Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACT) (Tarah Campi, CED Planner):

CED Planner Tarah Campi gave an overview of CWACT to the Councils. CWACT is a standing body of OCWCOG that is staffed by OCWCOG staff, but acts as an advisory body to Oregon Department of Transportation. They provide information about upcoming transportation projects and funding opportunities for local jurisdictions throughout Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. CWACT meets every other month at the Albany OCWCOG building with videoconferencing in Toledo. Emailed updates on projects and legislature are provided to members as they become available.

One of the large grant funding opportunities they work on is *Connect Oregon*, a lottery funded program. They had three applications in the Region that were funded, which included the communication system for the Newport airport, a runway rehabilitation for an airport runway in Corvallis, and boatyard environmental work for the Port of Toledo.

The *State Transportation and Improvement Program* (STIP) is another funding opportunity. There are three applications from our Region that are under consideration, which include the City of Newport *Street Sidewalk Improvement Project*, Benton County Chapel Drive Bikeway Improvements, and City of Depoe Bay Bridge Streetscape.

There are many planning efforts currently underway with a variety at the city level and many at the regional level. They look at are how they are going to develop their transportation in the future to best meet the needs with the funding available.

The SSAC and DSAC are Ex-Officio members of CWACT and are invited to participate. There is a spot open for a member from each Council and anyone interested should let SSAC Chair Daley, DSAC Chair Molnar-Fitzgerald, or SDS Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett know. If anyone wishes to receive the email updates they should contact CED Planner Campi at tcampi@ocwco.org or call her at 541-924-8480.

8. Staff Announcements:

SDS Community Services Program Manager J. Moore and Ms. Lamb's presentation to the Newport Rotary regarding the *Meals on Wheels* fundraiser went well. The Rotary members were very interested and they will follow up with them at a later date.

SDS Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett announced Access Benton County rescheduled their meeting with the presentation from the OHSU Department of Disability and Health, regarding physical access to people with disabilities, to July 24th from 2:30 to 4:00. Everyone is welcome.

SDS Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett asked for suggestions of where to hold the SSAC/DSAC September meeting with room large enough for 40 people. September is the month where all Council members come together in either Linn or Benton County. The Veterans' Home, which they have met at in the past, was an idea as well as the OSU Credit Union, on Research Way. Mr. Lazaro offered to contact Peter Walker in regard to doing a presentation there. If anyone has any other ideas they should contact SDS Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett.

9. Member and Guest Announcements:

Jann Glenn announced that the *Valley Retriever* has been closed. Mr. Lazaro explained that the *Valley Retriever* was a private carrier based out of Newport, with its primary routes going from Newport to Corvallis and Bend. There were numerous safety violations found on their vehicles and when they failed to meet the deadline in repairing them, their service was suspended. There is the Coast to Valley

bus service that operates from Corvallis to Newport as well as to the Albany AM Track station. Presently there is no service to Bend except for Greyhound.

Mr. Lazaro announced that the May Special Transportation Advisory Committee meeting was focused on Veterans. CED Director Phil Warnock and CED Planner Tarah Campi gave a presentation on the Veteran's Program and Benton County's Veteran Service Officer Mary Newman gave a presentation on Benton County Veteran Service Program.

Ms. Glenn reminded everyone that there is no meeting in July.

10. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 1:22pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 1, 2017.