

**Joint  
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)  
and  
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)  
Meeting  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, October 3, 2017**

**SSAC Members Present:** Bob Daley, Chair; Saleem Noorani, Vice Chair; Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County; Catherine Skiens; Mark McNabb; Curtis Miller; Suzette Boydston; Bill Turner; Doris Lamb; Lee Strandberg; and Marilyn Winter.

**DSAC Members Present:** Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, DSAC Chair; Mike Volpe, Vice Chair; Jann Glenn; Suzanne Brean; and Carolyn Fry.

**Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Members Present:** Suanne Jackson; Pat Shirley; and Sandy Potter.

**Guests:** Jenna Bates; Cathy Savage; Mitzi Naucler; Kath Schonau, Don Taylor; Anita Thompson; Marie Laper; Gloria Mazzeo; and Dale Hoff.

**Members Absent:** Suzanne Lazaro; Carolyn Mendez-Luck; Janet Shinner; Anne Brett; Robynn Pease; Dani Marlow; Pete Rickey; Clark Brean; Edythe James; Lee Lazaro; and Rusty Burton.

**Staff:** Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Executive Director Fred Abousleman; Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director Randi Moore; OCWCOG Program Support Supervisor Ann Johnson; Community and Program Support Coordinator Lisa Bennett; Community Services Program Manager Jennifer Moore; and SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe.

**1. Welcome, Introductions, and Additions to the Agenda:**

DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

• **DSAC:**

The June 6, 2017 DSAC meeting minutes were tabled to the next DSAC meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

• **Joint SSAC-DSAC:**

ACTION: Motion to approve the September 12, 2017 Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting minutes made by Bill Turner, seconded by Doris Lamb. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Governor's Commission on Senior Services (GCSS) Report (Suzette Boydston, SSAC Member and GCSS Chair):**

GCSS Chair Suzette Boydston gave a report on the GCSS meeting to the Councils. Both she and Catherine Skiens are part of the GCSS team and both are advocates for the aging population. The Commission has revisited their by-laws in trying to define the Commission's purpose. They developed a membership guide and are focusing on membership outreach. The Commission is looking for diversity and recruitment throughout Oregon by taking their meetings to other parts of the State, rather than meet at the State Capital.

The Commission's true focus is on *Aging as an Asset*, which GCSS Chair Boydston would like to see published in the local newspapers as partners with OCWCOG Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). Part of their job is to approve all 17 of Oregon's AAA's *Area Plans*. GCSS Chair Boydston shared that it is an honor to serve seniors on a State level and encouraged others to serve on the Commission as well.

**4. Senior Meals Advisory Committee (SMAC) Report (Catherine Skiens, SMAC Chair):**

SDS Director Randi Moore announced the *Meals on Wheels (MOW)* program is going through a rebranding across the nation, and OCWCOG SDS will embrace the national standardization (*Meals on Wheels*) to benefit from the national advertisement and promotion, as well as encompass people with disabilities who are not seniors. SDS is leaning toward renaming the SMAC, the *Meals on Wheels* Advisory Committee (MOWAC).

SMAC Chair Skiens gave an update on SMAC to the Councils. The fundraiser, *Tapas and Treasures*, put on by the Corvallis Rotary Club (thanks to Dr. Lee Strandberg) and OCWCOG was a fabulous success, benefitting the *MOW* program of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. Dr. Strandberg said their priority was to raise awareness in the community and the donations were secondary. The Corvallis Rotary, along with OCWCOG, plans on having another fundraiser for *MOW* again next year.

SMAC Chair Skiens shared Bateman Community Living, who provides the meals for *MOW*, conducted a Customer Satisfaction Survey with results showing consumers satisfaction going down in some categories. Bateman needs to abide by State regulations of low sodium, so they have been testing new spices and herbs to improve flavor. Part of the job of SMAC members is to go to different meal sites and taste the food. SMAC Chair Skiens feels sometimes the food is exceptional and sometimes not, but overall, Bateman does provide a good nutritious meal.

In the past year, there have been many Meal Site Managers that have quit or retired, and *MOW* Supervisor Diane Harvey has had trouble replacing them. Being a Meal Site Manager is a tough job and does not pay well. Currently, Albany is the only site without a Manager.

In July 2019, *MOW* will need a new five-year food contract for the program. The Committee, for review, writing, and selection of this contract, is made up four representatives from the three agencies. This is a long process, with the last contract taking four months to write. They will be starting the process in January 2019.

**5. Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives (PEARLS) Update (SDS Program Manager Randi Moore):**

SDS Director Moore updated the Councils on *PEARLS*. The State, in the last biennium, provided mental health funding that OCWCOG SDS used for *PEARLS*. *PEARLS* is an evidence-based program that allows people, prone to depression, to receive home visits from a SDS Coordinator who will go out and talk to them in their home about goal setting and social activation to reduce depression. This is an expensive program to run, and the State had concerns with cost and outcomes on a statewide basis.

However, OCWCOG SDS has had a lot of success with the program, and statewide, was the most effective in the reduction of depression at 1/3 the cost per participant. SDS Director Moore wanted the Councils to know how successful the OCWCOG team was in managing *PEARLS* and would like their help in advocating for the funding of the Program, so they can serve more consumers in the future.

SDS Director Moore will add to the State report, a supplemental report on the breakout of the three Counties, as well as a breakout of seniors and people with disabilities.

**6. Break for Lunch**

**7. Executive Committee Report and Discussion (SSAC Vice Chair Saleem Noorani):**

• **Develop consensus regarding schedule and planning for coming year**

SSAC Vice Chair Saleem Noorani reported the Executive Committee's primary focus was how to achieve efficiency and flexibility with the full Council meetings. One way to achieve this would be to have one Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting every other month; on the alternate months it would allow Committees to meet where they would focus on the work of the individual Councils. The Executive Committee also discussed the *SSAC/DSAC Calendar Draft 2018* and how they, as a Council, should use this as a tool for upcoming events, allowing them time to plan.

There was concern expressed at the September Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting of losing engagement if they went to meeting every other month. SSAC Vice Chair Noorani said ways to prevent this would be by use of emails, along with creating a blog. With a blog they could upload meeting minutes, the calendar, and ideas, thus everyone could stay connected. SSAC Vice Chair Noorani offered to create the blog and finance it for the first two years. He proposed they move forward, on a trial basis, with the Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting every other month and on the alternate months the Committees would meet.

SDS Director Moore emphasized there would still be two Councils, but this would give them the opportunity to do the work of both Councils at one meeting and use the alternative months for the Committees to do the work, reporting back at the full Council meeting. There are many Committees for everyone to be involved in. SDS Director Moore suggested trying this for nine – 12 months, past the Legislative Session, and see how well the Councils stay engaged, and decide then how to move forward.

The Care Planning Committee, which has been dormant for many years, would meet at the same time as the full Council meetings, but on the alternative months, which they would hope to start in November. This could serve as the Care Planning Committee kickoff meeting where they discuss their purpose and mission. The other Committees could also have a kickoff meeting in November giving them the opportunity to revitalize and discuss their purpose.

Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett explained that there are three Advisory Councils present; SSAC, DSAC, and ADRC. SSAC and DSAC have Committees outlined in their bylaws. There are already Committees that have both SSAC and DSAC members in them and the Executive Committee is talking about making more of the SSAC Committees Joint Committees as well. Everyone is encouraged to come to the Care Planning Committee meeting, which will meet six times a year on the alternate months of the Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting. The Committee meetings are one to one and a half hours long and are open to the public.

With DSAC not having a quorum to vote on the proposed calendar changes, SDS Director Moore suggest conducting an email vote for both SSAC and DSAC, so the proposal can be clearly spelled out.

ACTION: Motion for SSAC to conduct an email vote on the proposed calendar changes made by Curtis Miller, seconded by Ms. Lamb. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Care Planning Committee (SDS Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett and SDS Director Moore):**

Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett said the Care Planning Committee is currently a SSAC Committee, but she is envisioning it becoming a Joint Committee meeting on the alternate months of the Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting. If the Councils approve the proposed calendar changes she would like to see the Care Planning Committee meeting start on November 7th at 11:00 am. This first meeting would be two hours to discuss what the Committee would look like. Anyone that is interested should come to the first meeting and the meetings will be video-conferenced. Community and Program Support Coordinator Bennett will keep everyone updated through emails.

SDS Director Moore said the Care Planning Committee is an opportunity to talk about the services that SDS provides. She would like to focus on quality assurance and make sure the needs of the consumers are met. This is an opportunity to revamp how to best provide services to those in our community.

**9. SDS Updates (Community Services Program Manager Jennifer Moore):**

Community Services Program Manager Jennifer Moore gave an update on the programs she oversees. The Veteran Services Program is currently recruiting for two Assistant Veteran Service Officers. *RSVP* and the *Foster Grandparent Program* have their full complement of volunteers. Alicia Lucke, *RSVP*

Program Supervisor, just came back from the National Core Association meetings in Washington, DC. *MOW* is currently recruiting for the Albany Meal Site Manager.

SDS Director Moore updated the Councils on the Provider Tax Referendum which is a tax for hospitals and insurance companies. The Legislators were able to balance the budget with the Provider Tax Referendum which increased revenue by \$550 million and helped support many of SDS's programs. However, there are groups in the State that are against the Provider Tax and are requesting it be put on the ballot for repeal, which will be voted on in January 2018, if there are enough signatures. If the Provider Tax does get repealed, there will be \$210 million less to run Medicaid and SDS programs over the biennium and the Legislators will have to rebalance the budget in February. At this time, there is a need for SSAC and DSAC to advocate to keep SDS programs funded.

SDS Director Moore said the five-year *Area Plan* is requiring an update at the end of January. She will be bringing the updates to the Councils in December, so they can provide input.

SDS Director Moore shared the new Service Priority Levels have been implemented as of October 1st. The State has come up with a transition plan for those consumers who no longer qualify for services. SDS Director Moore would like to have a discussion at the first Care Planning Committee meeting to review how the transitions are going and how consumers are being affected. There will also be a tutorial on the Client Assessment and Planning System assessment tool.

Dr. Strandberg shared the form SF36 will show whether the patient's health status is changing.

#### **10. Announcements:**

OCWCOG Executive Director Fred Abousleman announced *CelebrateLBL* – the Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Regional Awards and Recognition Dinner will be held November 2nd at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center, on the Oregon State University Campus. Tickets are \$40 and includes admission to the silent auction and dinner. To register, go to [www.CelebrateLBL.org](http://www.CelebrateLBL.org).

OCWCOG Executive Director Abousleman announced, as of October 1st, Program Manager Moore has been promoted to SDS Director. SDS Director Moore has been with OCWCOG for 12 years and will remain in charge of all Medicaid programs. Recently hired Community Services Program Manager Moore will oversee the *Meals on Wheels Program*, *Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)*, *Foster Grandparents Program*, and *Veteran Services*.

SDS Community and Support Program Coordinator Bennett announced the Issues and Advocacy Committee will start meeting again to prepare for the short Legislative Session in February. They are looking at meeting in the last half of October. They will also try to meet with Representative Andy Olson from Linn County in November, Representative Dan Rayfield from Benton County in December, and Representative David Gomberg from Lincoln County in January. SDS Community and Support Program Coordinator Bennett would like everyone's engagement when meeting with State Legislators.

Ms. Boydston announced Samaritan is relinquishing the Senior Companion Program Grant effective November 30th. Samaritan has sponsored since 2002; have served thousands of homebound seniors at no cost to them; and have engaged hundreds of low-income seniors in service to their homebound seniors. Ms. Boydston will be retiring December 22nd, but will continue as a senior advocate.

Suzanne Brean announce Edythe James, DSAC member, had knee replacement surgery and is doing well. She'll be back in December.

SSAC Chair Daley announced that Benton Hospice has changed its name to Lumina Care. Everything else is the same.

#### **11. Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:23 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 5, 2017.