



Senior and Disability Services

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Area Agency on Aging

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 17, 2019
TO: OCWCOG Board of Directors
FROM: Randi Moore, OCWCOG Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director
RE: SDS Program Updates

Oregon Department of Human Services Aging and People with Disability Services Launches Survey of In-Home Consumers in 2019

In May 2018, Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between APD and the Oregon Law Center, Legal Aid Services of Oregon, and Disability Rights Oregon. The MOU was the result of long discussion between legal advocates and the State regarding changes that had been implemented in the Medicaid *Long-Term Services and Supports* program in October 2018. Within this agreement, APD committed to completing a survey of consumers receiving in-home services with the hope of understanding how the October changes had affected them. Topics that will be covered include consumer satisfaction with service plans and in-home care agencies, consumers ability to direct home care worker schedules, satisfaction with home care worker schedules, unmet needs, timing and frequency of tasks, need for use of assistive devices, and need for environmental modifications. The results from the survey will be shared with stakeholders. If significant unmet needs are found, APD agreed to convene a workgroup to meet the unmet needs that are Medicaid covered services. Follow up surveys are to happen two more times at three-year intervals.

Advocates from around the Nation Attending n4a’s Aging Policy Briefing in Early March

With the convening of the 116th Congress, aging and disability services advocates from across the nation will be descending on Washington to attend the n4a *Aging Policy Briefing*. Attendees will have comprehensive discussions about the major priority and policy shifts that may happen in Washington based on the November elections and discuss what these changes mean for aging and health care policy advocates. Policy issues discussed will include Federal health care and aging programs, including Medicaid, Medicare, and the Older Americans Act, as well as related aging priorities like transportation, caregiving, elder justice, and more.

It is critically important that the Aging Network be ready to work with the new Congress as Democrats assume control of the House of Representatives and Republicans expand their majority in the Senate. The *Policy Briefing* is an opportunity to engage early with the new Congress. SDS Director Randi Moore will be attending the event, and is looking forward to a day visiting with our State delegation, hearing the latest policy information, gaining new insights from national experts, and discussing advocacy strategies.

Home Care Commission Appointment

The Oregon Home Care Commission consists of nine Commissioners appointed by Governor Kate Brown for up to three (three-year) terms; five Commissioners are consumers of homecare services and the other four represent the Oregon Department of Human Services, the Governor's Commission on Senior Services, the Oregon Disabilities Commission, and the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD).

SDS Director Randi Moore was recently confirmed the O4AD Commissioner on the Home Care Commission. Representing O4AD on the Commission, provides OCWCOG with an opportunity to have an impact on the quality of homecare services for seniors and people with disabilities. This has been a top priority for SDS since the Secretary of State Audit which was released in 2017 found that though Oregon's In-home Services Program leads the nation in maximizing clients' independence and choice in long-term care services, there were short comings in vital components of the program that put consumers at risk. This audit, its findings, and finding local solutions to the highlighted issues have been the focus of the Care Planning Committee, a subcommittee of OCWCOG's Senior and Disability Services Advisory Councils, for the last year.