

Issues and Advocacy Committee Notes

February 12, 2019 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Council Members: Mitzi Naucler, Catherine Skiens, Suzette Boydston, Suzanne Lazaro, Bob Daley, Mike Volpe

Guests: Cathy Savage and Brooke Josler

Staff: Randi Moore and Ann Johnson

Meeting Minutes

No quorum.

No approval of meeting minutes from last meeting.

Randi will follow up on some of the things in the September 2018 meeting minutes regarding O4AD/Nicole. Suzanne pointed out a couple of changes on the meeting minutes. Randi will send out an email vote on the minutes when they are corrected.

Question on Future Potential Government Shut Down Impact

Mike asked about SNAP and housing if the partial government shutdown happens again. Randi said SNAP consumers were affected last time with the result being early deployment of SNAP benefits for February. If another shut down happens SNAP consumers should be able to access benefits through March. Mitzi said HUD recipient cannot be evicted if the Federal government doesn't pay their portion as long as they continue to pay their portion, but Oregon has "no cause" eviction which causes concerns. There was discussion about a bill before the Legislature (HB2004) this year to address this issue. Mitzi encouraged a reach out to Legal Aid for HUD recipients who feel like they have been threatened with eviction because of lack of payment from the government.

Legislative Conference Calls

A memo was provided with the APD Legislative Conference call schedule as well as the O4AD Legislative Conference call schedule. Suzanne reminded everyone that you can submit written testimony at the O4AD website as well as the Oregon Capitol website.

Legislative Tools

Discussion was had if we would like a tool to show Council and Committee members who the elected officials are in their areas as well as other important information like what Legislative Committees our local elected officials are on and what the role of those committees are. A good tool is online for those who know how to access it and when we are in front of computers, but sometimes other formats could be helpful. Mitzi suggested something about the size of a placemat that is laminated and provided when people are at the meetings to use. Bob

suggested putting the information on the back side of the SSAC/DSAC calendar. Randi said that SDS staff would try mock something up for the next meeting, but many suggested trying to collect the info from other sources that may have already developed such tools. After this is done, we may consider doing something for our local elected delegation.

Consumer Profiles

An example of the consumer profiles created by NWSDS for advocacy purposes was provided for people to compare and contrast with the book prepared by our committee members. It was agreed to keep the intro letter and format mostly the same but potentially adding a remark to draw attention to the service cost segment of the bottom of each consumer profile, and in the letter compare this to the average nursing facility cost. Suzette added that it's important to show cost of service compared to resources that are utilized when people aren't supported such as increased ER visits. Info about how many consumers are using supports and of what kind in the legs jurisdictions would be interesting. We'll work on a less congested layout for the profile pages with the understanding that if we take off logos and agency info the package will need to remain as a whole. Individual pages won't provide agency information for question or concerns.

Day at the Capitol

O4AD's Day at the Capitol is May 9th, the second day of the O4AD Quarterly. Committee members would like to visit all eleven Legislators who serve part of our region, which means dividing and conquering if possible. Mitzi suggested a "thank you for your support of our programs and continued strong funding" postcard to be left with Legislators not from our area or that we can't get in to see. Suzanne said she would be interested in tagging along with a few that NWSDS goes to and would like to offer them the same opportunity. Randi will call Zaira and see how we can collaborate. Mike suggested seeing how many advocates from the SSAC/DSAC are willing to go and then figure out the top legs to see. Randi will pen an email asking for tentative commitment and run by Mike and Suzanne to send to full council and see if she can get an idea of who can attend. Email is to highlight that we will support with staff and talking points.

Oregon Project Independence (OPI) Bills at the Legislature

There are advocates that have supported a bill which will blend Oregon Project Independence (OPI) funds that serve senior and the ones to serve people with disabilities, making it "age neutral" and require the program to be rolled out across the entire State. O4AD is concerned about this tactic and has submitted a competing bill instead requiring the State to complete a study assessing the impact of this change. Discussion took place of the reason for O4AD's concerns and Committee members were asked to consider the information and ask Randi if they have concerns or questions. As Representative Gomberg is a supporter of the age neutral bill we will want to consider our messaging if that bill is still in play when we visit him in May. At this time it looks like it will not continue to be on the docket.

April Joint DSAC and SSAC Meeting

Conversation took place about the April Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting which is supposed to be held in Lincoln County, but we haven't found a meeting location for. Suggestions were made- Newport Arts Building, Community College in Newport. Staff will see if either of these are options for our meeting date and time.