

**Issues and Advocacy Committee
Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 16, 2020**

SSAC/DSAC/ADRC Operations Council Members Present: Suzanne Lazaro, Co-Chair; Mike Volpe, Co-Chair; Mitzi Naucler; and Doris Lamb.

Guests: Cathy Savage.

Members Absent: Claire Hall; Anne Brett; Catherine Skiens; Lee Strandberg; Bill Turner; and Saleem Noorani.

Staff: Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director; Ann Johnson, SDS Program Supervisor; Kim Cooper, SDS Executive Assistant; and Terri Sharpe, SDS Administrative Assistant.

1) Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chair Suzanne Lazaro):

IAC Co-Chair Suzanne Lazaro called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

2) Advocacy for *Older Americans Act (OAA)* Reauthorization (SDS Director Randi Moore):

SDS Director Moore updated the IAC on the *OAA* reauthorization bill which is making its way through the Federal government system. The House passed a version of the bill but currently the bill is stalled in the Senate. SDS Director Moore suggested doing outreach in the tri-County region for Older American's month which is in May. She suggested doing a media campaign which would involve placing a weekly ad which focuses on programs that *OAA* supports. For example, one week would be focused on *Meals on Wheels (MOW)*, the second week - Family Caregivers, the third week - Evidence Based Health Promotion, and the fourth week - Elder Justice or Elder Abuse Awareness. The idea is to place a quarter page ad in the local newspapers with a picture of a consumer or volunteer, along with an explanation of *OAA* and how *OAA* funding supports programs in the community. Also included would be information on how to reach out to Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) for more information, and if the bill has not passed the Senate by May, then a request for them to reach out to their Senator to advocate for its passing.

Co-Chair Lazaro suggested emphasizing local programs that *OAA* dollars support, such as the Grace Center in Corvallis and North End Senior Solutions (NESS) Club in Lincoln City, thus making it more community based rather than government driven.

Co-Chair Volpe asked what percentage of *MOW* is supported by the *OAA*. SDS Director Moore said it is the majority of the *MOW* funding but it does not cover all of the expense of the meals. SDS is allocated *OAA* funds for the biennium regardless of the number of meals served. They rely on grants and fundraising to help subsidize the cost.

Co-Chair Volpe asked what the total cost of *MOW* is.

ACTION: SDS Director Moore will get the *MOW* numbers and email them to Mr. Volpe and the IAC.

Mitzi Naucler suggested emphasizing that OAA dollars are only a small part of the program's funding and not being fully subsidized by the Federal Government. It is the community working together to help provide for these programs.

SDS Director Moore asked for other ideas on how to get information out into the communities. Other ideas included: linking with other advocacy groups such as Health Care for All; Facebook; Samaritan; posters to hang in City Halls, courthouses, senior centers, libraries, community colleges, OSU, YMCA; retirement communities, churches, support groups, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians medical center, movie theaters, and a digital slideshow that churches or service groups could educate others on.

SDS Director Moore recapped on the list of topics they would focus on: *MOW*, Family Caregivers, *Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)*, Health Care Givers, and Elder Justice.

ACTION: SDS Director Moore said after SDS Executive Assistant Kim Cooper does a research cost analyst on outreach, she'll get back to the IAC on the findings. The IAC can decide then if they think it is a good use of OAA funds.

ACTION: SDS Director Moore will continue to track what's going on in the Senate and will reach out to the IAC when she hears that the OAA reauthorization bill is going up for a vote.

3) Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities (O4AD) Pre-Session Calls:

SDS Director Moore said O4AD Director Nicole Hazelbaker has set up two webinar calls to inform advocates on what is happening in the Legislative session. They are scheduled for Tuesday, January 28th, 9:00 – 10:00 am, and January 30th, 9:00 – 10:00 am. The information is the same so they would only have to attend one. This will be done through Zoom. SDS Director asked the IAC whether they would like to have a room booked at OCWCOG or phone in on their own. The IAC chose to phone in on their own.

ACTION: The invite with the call information will be sent out to the IAC along with any script provided.

4) Legislative Session and Advocacy:

SDS Director Moore said that with the short Legislative session, she doesn't think O4AD will be putting forth any legislation, and O4AD will not be organizing a Day at the Capitol. However, SDS Director Moore likes the idea of going to the Capitol and meeting with Legislators to build on SDS's relationship with them. The last session resulted in the Legislation fully funding *Oregon Project Independence (OPI)*, the *OPI* pilot, and a significant increase in funds for Case Managers. SDS Director Moore would like the focus of this visit to be on thanking the Legislators for their support along with data showing how SDS is using the increased funds to improve people's lives.

Co-Chair Lazaro asked about increased funding to speed up background checks. SDS Director Moore said they did increase funding but the Home Care Commission (HCC) hasn't reported out recently on the results. However, she feels that the speed of background checks have improved with SDS. Co-Chair Lazaro feels they should recognize the Legislators for this as well.

ACTION: SDS Director Moore will ask the HCC for their data along with asking SDS Case Managers if they have seen an improvement.

Co-Chair Lazaro said there are still issues the IAC can bring to the Legislators as well as thanking them. SDS Director Moore agreed especially in the area of the Home Care Workers (HCW). They can ask the Legislators to put some pressure on the HCC to do more recruitment and workforce development. Co-Chair Lazaro asked if O4AD Director Hazelbaker was aware of the HCW issue. SDS Director Moore said she wasn't sure and she is not sure if it's a statewide issue.

ACTION: SDS Director Moore will email O4AD Director Hazelbaker and O4AD Chair Lee Girard after the IAC meeting to make them aware of the issue with the HCW and ask how the Councils can do advocacy around this issue.

Co-Chair Lazaro asked the IAC if there were any other issues that need to be addressed.

SDS Director Moore said the Legislative session begins February 3rd and if anyone hears of any issues, they should send them to her so she can add it to their talking points.

ACTION: At the February 4th Joint SSAC-DSSAC meeting they will discuss dates to meet with the Legislators at the Capitol.

5) Other Business:

SDS Director Moore announced that the pilot program she proposed to the State was passed and funded. The program provides *OPI* funds to Tribal members to pay a family member to care for them without going through the official HCW process. This allows the consumer to hire the family care giver and distribute the money as they see fit. With the extra safety systems put in place, the State approved the program.

SDS Director Moore said SDS is trying to establish a Tribal liaison in the Toledo office to provide a contact person for the Tribe to reach out to.

The next IAC meeting will be in March to plan the Older Americans month campaign in May. Co-Chair Lazaro suggested meeting in early March, for she will not be available after the 13th. Co-Chair Volpe feels it is important to have a recap of the short session as well.

ACTION: SDS Director Moore will find a date to meet in early March and email it to the IAC.

6) Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe