

**Joint
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)
and
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)
Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

SSAC Members Present: Saleem Noorani, Chair; Robynn Pease, Care Planning Committee (CPC) Chair; Suzanne Lazaro, Issues and Advocacy Committee (IAC) Co-Chair; Mitzi Naucler; and Lee Strandberg.

DSAC Members Present: Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Chair; Lee Lazaro, Vice Chair; and Mike Volpe, IAC Co-Chair.

Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Members Present: Sandy Potter.

Guests: Cathy Savage; Joann Cvar; Richard Montgomery; Allison Hobgood; Julie Arena; Tomas Hernandez; and Sheila Stiley.

Members Absent: Commissioner Claire Hall, Lincoln County; Bill Turner; Doris Lamb; Jasper Smith; Dawn Rustrum; Carolyn Mendez-Luck; and Mark McNabb.

Staff: Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director; Ann Johnson, SDS Program Supervisor; Alicia Lucke, Community Service Program (CSP) Supervisor; Anita Lengacher, CSP Supervisor; Kim Cooper, SDS Executive Assistant; and Terri Sharpe, SDS Administrative Assistant.

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Additions to the Agenda (DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald):

DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Introductions were made including guests.

DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro requested an addition to the agenda to hear from Lee Strandberg regarding his work in tracking COVID among the Native Alaskan populations.

Addition to the Agenda: COVID tracking among the Alaskan Native Populations (Lee Strandberg):

Lee Strandberg reported that he is collaborating with an agency in Little Rock, AR, who received a two million dollar NIH grant in cooperation with a firm out of Sitka, AK to track COVID symptomology among the Alaskan Native populations. Health coaches, trained to recognize the symptoms of COVID, are contacting the Native rural Alaskans and anyone with symptoms is sent a COVID test. In addition to working with rural Native Alaskans on COVID, they are also addressing diabetes and hypertension, with the intent of increasing rural Native Alaskans overall wellness. They are also working with Comcast to expand the cell network in rural Alaska.

2. Approval of Minutes:

ACTION: Motion to approve the October 6, 2020 Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting minutes made by IAC Co-Chair Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Lee Strandberg. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Home, Opportunity, Planning and Equity (HOPE) Board Presentation (HOPE Coordinator Julie Arena):

Julie Arena coordinates the HOPE Board, a Joint Advisory Board for Benton County and the City of Corvallis. HOPE is data driven in their approach to develop long-term policy recommendations for the City of Corvallis and Benton County on the issues of homelessness, housing, and long term plans.

Ms. Arena presented a PowerPoint on the work and plans HOPE is doing. Click [here](#) to view the PowerPoint HOPE Advisory Board Update.

Ms. Arena walked the Councils through the Hope Community Website <https://www.co.benton.or.us/health/page/housing-and-homelessness>, hosted by Benton County. On the HOPE Community Engagement page, HOPE's four priority areas can be found along with links to surveys. Ms. Arena asked that anyone who is serving individuals to take the first survey that asks providers how they feel about coordinating care, working with other providers, and co-locating services for long term planning efforts. The other three surveys are for the general public which she encouraged everyone to take as well.

DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro questioned where the different populations of homelessness Ms. Arena referred to in her presentation, (disabled, people of color, Hispanics, and indigenous Native Americans) are residing. The homeless population, he feels, that are most visible are Caucasians. Ms. Arena said her data comes from the women and men shelters, along with the daytime drop in center, who've reported that they are seeing a real disproportion of people of color, specifically indigenous, black, and Pacific Islander. More information on this can be found on the HOPE website under the Point in Time (PIT) count analysis.

Lee Strandberg asked if there is any model in the United States that they want to achieve and has anyone solved the problem of homelessness. Ms. Arena said no one has solved homelessness, it's a complex issue, but there are places that have successful models that show people transitioning from homelessness to housing. They are looking at co-locations of services, particularly in Phoenix, AZ and Austin, TX where they have a campus like model where they co-locate a comprehensive resource center with multiple different providers, along with a campus that is spread-out with emergency shelter options and transitional options for different populations. States, unlike Oregon which does not have a sales tax, can fund their models through their tax payer's dollars, where Benton County funds primarily with property and local taxes. Because Oregon does not have the tax infrastructure to fund things other states are funding, HOPE looks at Medford and Eugene for successful models.

CPC Chair Robynn Pease asked if HOPE, at the City and County level, will be able to present a model to the public that they can strive towards, like the campus consolidation of services model. Ms. Arena said the goal is to have a plan that the community adopts and then the City and the County, in conjunction with local service providers, can go for State, local, and Federal funding to get it done. In regards to a timeline, things are happening now. Last month and this month has been the community engagement portion on the four priority topics. The Board will look at survey results and feedback from listening sessions in January, put together policy recommendations in February and March, and the City of Corvallis and Benton County will take the recommendations to their March budget discussions. She thinks a resource center in a campus like setting will be a longer process, more in the three to five year range which would involve an outside consultant. HOPE is doing long term planning rather than emergency reactionary work.

DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald suggested having Ms. Arena do a follow-up session in a few months.

ACTION: Julie Arena will share her PowerPoint with SDS Director Randi Moore and SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe to distribute to the group.

4. Care Planning Committee (CPC) Report (CPC Chair Robynn Pease):

CPC Chair Robynn Pease reported the CPC met on November 3rd where SDS Director Randi Moore provided an update on the 2021-25 *Area Plan* data tables which will include a story format. The CPC also continued to express an interest in data sets that addressed broad areas of elder justice, nutrition, transportation, housing, and family caregivers for Tribal elders.

A PowerPoint presentation on the Stand by Me (SBM) program in Oregon was presented. This is a financial coaching model program that is embedded in community organizations to help individuals and families become financially stable. The SBM program will roll out in Benton County, which will be followed up in Linn and Lincoln Counties, with the long term goal of going statewide. More information regarding the program will be shared with the joint councils as it develops.

Richard Montgomery from Legal Aid asked for input on prioritization of legal aid case priorities. If anyone has any input to share with him they should reach out to Mr. Montgomery directly.

The next CPC meeting will take place on January 5, 2021 at 11:00 am.

5. Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee (MOWAC) Report (CSP Supervisor Anita Lengacher):

CSP Supervisor Anita Lengacher reported that the meal sites are closed but they are continuing to offer takeout. They are delivering about 21,000 meals every month across the region but there is a decline in the takeout meals, mostly due to folks switching over to home delivered meals. They have plateaued on new referrals. The meal site managers are doing great. There was an incident in Lincoln City where a volunteer tested positive for COVID and a few people had to quarantine but they were able to keep the site open for takeout and deliveries by bringing in other members and volunteers to run the site. They are working closely with Lincoln City's Director of Parks and Recreation and the Lincoln City's Community Center to ensure that they have plans in place to mitigate circumstances like this.

They are in the process of purchasing two trucks, one for the Newport kitchen and the other for the valley sites.

There are no significant changes to staffing. They are following procedures for sanitation and social distancing the best that they can.

Mike Volpe asked how *MOW's* numbers in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties compare statewide. CSP Supervisor Anita Lengacher said everyone is seeing an increase in meals being served but does not have any specific numbers. Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties are serving about 2,000 more meals per month than they served last year. They do plan for a two to three percent increase annually but with COVID they expected a much larger increase. SDS Director Randi Moore said the Older Americans Act (OAA) funds provided an increase of \$600,000 due to COVID. CSP Supervisor Anita Lengacher said *MOW* was provided additional funding in order for them to serve consumers two meals per day rather than the one.

DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro asked how the homeless population in need of meals are getting them. CSP Supervisor Anita Lengacher said *MOW* is working with the micro shelters (shelters for the homeless population with medical conditions) in Benton County to get hot meals to those

individuals regardless of age. *MOW* does need an address in order to deliver meals on a daily basis.

Allison Hobgood said meals can be delivered if individuals are sheltered in some way, such as in motels. If they are in homeless camps then their food securities are met from other sources.

SDS Director Randi Moore said in the past they have worked with people in having them pick up their meal from a meal site.

SDS Director Randi Moore said they had a nutrition roundtable before COVID and the stakeholders at the table all agreed that they would like to meet regularly to ensure they have efficient and effective ways of delivering food to all the populations. SDS Director Randi Moore would like to see Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center Director Allison Hobgood at the table.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore will put Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center Director Allison Hobgood on the nutrition stakeholder list.

6. Executive Committee Report (SSAC Chair Saleem Noorani and DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald):

SSAC Chair Saleem Noorani reported that several ideas and proposals were brought forward as goals for the Joint SSAC-DSAC to work on for 2021. One idea he felt had good merit was to allow seniors, who have qualified for homecare, have money allocated to them directly so they can hire individuals to assist them and pay them directly.

ACTION: Motion to approve the 2021 Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting schedule made by CPC Chair Robynn Pease, seconded by Mitzi Naucner. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Senior Corps COVID Update (CSP Supervisor Alicia Lucke):

CSP Supervisor Alicia Lucke reported that Senior Corps and AmeriCorps went through a rebranding and now they are under one logo, AmeriCorps Seniors that covers three programs:

- Retired Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP) – unpaid peer professional role;
- Foster Grandparent – tutoring in local schools;
- Senior Companion Program – helps other homebound seniors.

CSP has run all three programs for the last three years and all reside under one umbrella which allows them to create efficiencies with their budget and staff. They have many volunteers and when they age out of one program they can volunteer for another.

COVID's impact on the programs:

- The RSVP program's tax aid volunteer's season was cut short due to COVID but they hope they will be able to do something virtually in 2021.
- The Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program (Medicare Counseling) had 586 client contacts with 206 in Linn County, 165 in Benton County, and 207 in Lincoln County. Everything was done remotely. This is down from last year where they had around 900 client contacts.
- The Foster Grandparent program was hit the hardest when the schools shut down, and when they do open up, there will be limited traffic which precludes volunteers from going back into the schools. The program adopted a virtual model and provided laptops to any volunteer who wanted to be trained. A pen-pal program was developed with Albany's

Boys and Girls Club with staff screening all letters for appropriateness. They will also be doing prerecorded Zoom recordings of grandparents reading different lesson themes to the Linn and Benton County Kidco Head Start preschoolers. There are volunteers working with the Philomath elementary schools in their Google classrooms as well as being very active in the College Hill classroom. In all three Counties they are rolling out going virtual with their Start Making a Reader Today (SMART) volunteers as well as getting out some book distribution.

- The Senior Companion program has shifted more toward grocery pickups and front door deliveries. There has been a sharp incline of depression so volunteers are talking with clients on the phone. They have also assisted with SDS in making routine calls during the fires, to those that have lost their homes.
- The staff and volunteers meet every two weeks via Zoom. CSP Supervisor Alicia Lucke gave kudos to OCWCOG's IT department in getting laptops to volunteers and staff that needed them.
- Volunteers with the Foster Grandparent program and the Senior Companion program receive a \$3.00 per hour stipend. Due to COVID the Federal Government has allowed the volunteers, going off their 2019 work schedule, to fill in any hours that they did not spend working on the COVID safe activities as unemployment. This will end at the end of the year but in anticipation of this CSP Alicia Lucke is working on a grant to help supplement their stipends going forth.

8. Area Plan Updates (SDS Director Randi Moore):

Due to time restraints, SDS Director Randi Moore said she would hopefully have most of the final draft of the *Area Plan* to share at the February meeting.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore will have a draft of the *Area Plan* sent to the Councils before the February 2, 2021 Joint SSAC-DSAC meeting for them to review prior to the meeting.

SDS Executive Assistant Kim Cooper said there would be a public hearing for the *Area Plan* at the first of the year.

SDS Director Randi Moore said she asked OCWCOG's Executive Director Ryan Vogt to attend the January CPC meeting to update everyone on the large turnover of the OCWCOG's Board of Directors and how he will bridge the gap between SDS and the Board.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore will email to the Councils her document on SDS's 2020 accomplishments.

In following up on the Request for Proposals (RFP), SDS Director Randi Moore said SDS awarded seven community agencies close to \$80,000 of OAA funds to help in reducing isolation, increase health and wellbeing, and increase overall wellness across the three county region. She is happy with the work the Monitor and Review Committee did and is committed to doing the RFP more frequently.

The Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) is restructuring how they work as an association. In the past they have had one person who acted as the Executive Director and Lobbyist. They split the position and have hired OCWCOG's past Community and

Economic Development Director Phil Warnock. They will be contracting for the Lobbyist position after the legislature session which starts at the end of January.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore will meet with Issues and Advocacy Committee (IAC) Co-Chairs Suzanne Lazaro and Mike Volpe to schedule IAC meetings for 2021.

IAC Co-Chair Suzanne Lazaro said because of COVID they will be doing virtual outreach and advocacy. People's commitment of time would be so minimal compared to the impact they could make. They will be working on bigger issues such as the bridge of Medicaid and Medicare and Mental Health funding. They need constituents and she encouraged everyone to please consider being involved.

9. Other Business and Announcements:

SSAC Chair Saleem Noorani shared the sad news that SSAC Vice Chair Anne Brett has passed away. She was a strong advocate, active in the community, and had served on the Council for 10 years.

SSAC Chair Saleem Noorani shared he, as AARP leadership, had Zoom meetings with Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley with the discussion focusing primarily on Social Security and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). He had asked the Senators to support increased funding for SNAP to help the hundreds of thousands of people that are going hungry. SNAP supplies food to 346,000 Americans. On average SNAP provides \$1.44 per meal for households with an adult age of 50 or older. Congress is talking about increasing benefits by an extra 10 dollars per month. SSAC Chair Saleem Noorani said this is not enough when the Federal Government is providing over a billion dollars in tax cuts to large corporations.

IAC Co-Chair Suzanne Lazaro said the IAC could add this to their Federal advocacy.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe.