

**Joint
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)
and
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)
Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 4, 2020**

SSAC Members Present: Saleem Noorani, Chair; Anne Brett, Vice Chair; Robynn Pease; Catherine Skiens; Suzanne Lazaro; Mitzi Naucner; Doris Lamb; and Carolyn Mendez-Luck.

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

Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Members Present: Dawn Rustrum; Jasper Smith; and Sandy Potter.

Guests: Cathy Savage; Tomas Hernandez; Richard Montgomery; Allison Hobgood; Peggy McGuire; Becky Donaldson; and Anita Bailor.

Members Absent: Commissioner Claire Hall, Lincoln County; Lee Strandberg; Bill Turner; and Mark McNabb.

Staff: Ryan Vogt, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Executive Director; Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director; Ann Johnson, SDS Program Supervisor; Dawn John, SDS Program Supervisor; Kim Cooper, SDS Executive Assistant; and Terri Sharpe, SDS Administrative Assistant.

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

DSAC Chair Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Introductions were made, including guests.

2. Approval of Minutes:

ACTION: Motion to approve the June 2, 2020 Joint SSAC/DSAC meeting minutes made by Suzanne Lazaro, seconded by Doris Lamb. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Introduction of Ryan Vogt – OCWCOG Executive Director (SSAC Chair Saleem Noorani):

SSAC Chair Saleem Noorani introduced OCWCOG's new Executive Director Ryan Vogt. Executive Director Ryan Vogt has spent the last 23 years working for the State of Oregon in the Department of Human Services as well as with Oregon Housing and Community Services. He's been at OCWCOG for just over two weeks and is currently meeting with staff, OCWCOG Board of Director members, as well as City Administrators. Executive Director Ryan Vogt extended an open invitation to any Council member who wishes to speak with him regarding their hopes and dreams for OCWCOG in the future.

4. Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) Restructure (SDS Director Randi Moore):

SDS Director Randi Moore gave a brief update of the restructure of O4AD. Currently the position of Executive Director/Lobbyist is one position held by Nicole Palmateer. In the Fall, this position will split into two positions. The Executive Director position, now becoming a full time

position, will manage the Oregon Wellness Network, as well as support all the independent Area Agencies on Aging in their work. This position was recently posted on the O4AD website. In addition to recruiting for a full time Executive Director position, O4AD is also working on sending out a Request For Proposal (RFP) for a Lobbyist. This would be an opportunity for anyone interested in doing the lobbying work to reply to the RFP on what duties they would like to take on and what the cost would be to O4AD. O4AD would then enter into a contract with the awarded candidate once that happens. SDS Director Randi Moore is unsure of the time frame for the Lobbyist position but O4AD is looking for people to be part of the review of applicants and part of the interview panel. If anyone is interested they should let SDS Director Randi Moore know. Suzanne Lazaro stated she was interested.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore will put Suzanne Lazaro on the list of interested advocates willing to assist in the hiring of the O4AD Lobbyist.

5. Area Plan Update – Discretionary Funding (SDS Director Randi Moore):

SDS Director Randi Moore informed the Councils that the State has postponed the due date for the new four year strategic *Area Plan* for AAAs to June 2021. Her plan is to, monthly, bring to the Councils information and updates of the language to the *Area Plan* for consideration and approval. In the agenda packet there are two documents, the *Current Area Plan Language for Prioritization of Discretionary Funding* and the *Proposed Area Plan Language for Prioritization of Discretionary Funding*. She clarified that discretionary funding is leftover *Older Americans Act* (OAA) funds after meeting SDS's contractual obligations. She would like the Councils input regarding how to use the discretionary funds to better serve our communities.

At the request of SDS Director Randi Moore, DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro read the *Proposed Area Plan Language for Prioritization of Discretionary Funding* to the Councils for feedback.

- DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro questioned bullet item seven regarding breaking down barriers between Behavioral Health and Long Term-Service and Support programs. Inquiring how this would transpire and what the vision entails.

SDS Director Randi Moore explained that this bullet item was put in to address and identify the work of the Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative (OABHI) staff, Marie Laper and Helen Beaman. The two systems, OABHI and SDS, do not interface very well so it's Ms. Laper and Ms. Beaman's work to break down the barriers. She asked for ideas on rephrasing this bullet item.

Suzanne Lazaro shared that there are innovative hybrid housing models being developed that address seniors and seniors with mental health issues.

Robynn Pease suggested that with all the conversations taking place regarding housing, the Councils could support one or two on behalf of seniors and combine that with attention to mental illness and other types of social services support.

Catherine Skiens, who has sat on the Housing Authority for the past 22 years, stated that they have several contracts with Linn County Mental Health and several properties that house Mental Health clients. She feels it would be beneficial to invite Donna or Jennifer from Linn County Housing Authority, along with the Housing Authority in Corvallis, to a Council meeting.

ACTION: SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will reach out to Catherine Skiens for the full names of those to contact from the Housing Authority.

ACTION: SDS Director Randi Moore asked for any input on the rephrasing of the language for bullet item seven.

- Carolyn Mendez-Luck suggested the overall language needs to be more explicit when talking about equitable services and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable seniors. In light of the racial tension, discrimination, and the Black Lives Matter movement that is presently going on in the country, she feels we need to look at, in any domain that is being discussed, how those services are tailored to tweak needs of minority older adults, as well as how the services are set up, however unintentionally, to discriminate or work against the needs of minority clients.

DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro agreed with Carolyn Mendez-Luck and would like to see it reworded to embrace examining the barriers to providing equitable service to seniors and people with disabilities who are minorities.

ACTION: Carolyn Mendez-Luck and DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro will review and edit the language of the *Proposed Area Plan Language Prioritization of Discretionary Funding* document and bring it back to the Councils for approval.

ACTION: SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will email Carolyn Mendez-Luck and DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro the word version of the *Proposed Area Plan Language Prioritization of Discretionary Funding* document.

- DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro said that housing was only mentioned in the first bullet and perhaps it needs to move up in priority on the list.

SDS Director Randi Moore said she could put out a separate housing bullet but her intention was to try to keep it broad rather than specific so they wouldn't be locked into supporting a specific housing program. She suggested adding language about the importance of keeping people housed.

ACTION: Council members will look over the language of the *Proposed Area Plan Language Prioritization of Discretionary Funding* and let SDS Director Randi Moore know if there is anything missing or any concerns.

SDS Executive Assistant Kim Cooper updated the Councils on the timeframes of the *Area Plan*. The *Area Plan* workgroup will start meeting once a week through the end of the year. The due date for submission is June 30, 2021. The workgroup will present it to the Joint SSAC–DSAC for their approval at their April 6, 2021 meeting, and to the OCWCOG Board of Directors for their approval at their May 20, 2021 meeting.

SDS Director Randi Moore said she will be bringing two-to-three sections of the *Area Plan* to the Council meetings for Council members to review with the final draft presented at the April meeting.

DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro asked how the merger of Community Services Consortium (CSC) with OCWCOG ties in with the *Area Plan*.

SDS Director Randi Moore said that in regards to the merger, the leadership from CSC and OCWCOG decided to put the merger on hold due to COVID-19 and the complications of merging the two large organizations. They plan on coming back to the table in the Fall. In regards to the *Area Plan* tying in with CSC and OCWCOG, when they are talking about food

security, housing, eligibility determination, and financial security, the CSC will be part of their goals and objectives.

6. Proposals for New Partnerships and Funding (SDS Director Randi Moore):

SDS Director Randi Moore explained that discretionary funds, from the OAA, are mostly held in SDS's Title III B funding stream. SDS's allocation of those funds for the biennium is about \$600,000. Most of these funds have already been spent but what SDS is looking at is approximately \$120,000 that they have available to use toward funding innovative projects in the community. She proposed using this money through a RFP to those in the community who support seniors and people with disabilities.

ACTION: Motion to support the RFP process and decide on the number of grants and total funds to be awarded made by DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro, seconded by Doris Lamb. Motion passed unanimously.

SDS Director Randi Moore would like the Monitor and Review Committee (MRC) to get the process started by establishing the budget, narration of the RFP, and getting the RFP out to the communities. It will be up to the MRC to decide who SDS supports, what projects to consider, and the sustainability of the project. She would like the grant money to be awarded and out by September 2020. Anybody not on the MRC but who would like to help with this project should contact her.

7. SSAC/DSAC 2020-21 Committees (SSAC Chair Saleem Noorani):

SSAC Chair Saleem Noorani explained that every year the Senior Services and Disability Services Advisory Council Committee Membership gets updated and becomes effective on September 1st. He referred everyone to their packet for the updated list. Anyone that does not have the list should let SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe know and she'll forward the list to them.

SDS Director Randi Moore explained that Council members are serving on multiple committees because of the low numbers of members due to people moving, resigning, or health issues. If anyone has any concerns regarding their placement in a committee they should email SDS Director Randi Moore.

SDS Director Randi Moore let the Councils know that they are looking for new Council members, specifically for DSAC. She asked the Councils, if they knew of anyone that would be a good fit, to send her their contact information so she can reach out to them.

ACTION: All Council members need to review the committee list and if there are any concerns they need to reach out to SDS Director Randi Moore.

DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro requested the job descriptions for both SSAC and DSAC. He will be reaching out to the manager of the Oregon State University Disability Services Program to see if one of their staff may be interested in joining DSAC.

ACTION: SDS Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe will send DSAC Vice Chair Lee Lazaro the DSAC job description.

SDS Director Randi Moore stated that the Membership and Nominating Committee needs to come together in the near future to refresh their outreach material.

8. Discussion on Future Meetings (SDS Director Randi Moore):

SDS Director Randi Moore reminded everyone that at the June Council meeting they discussed the structure of the Joint Council meetings for the future. Conducting a survey was discussed but after talking with other agencies and organizations she felt gathering as a group would have to be delayed, so the Joint SSAC-DSAC meetings will remain virtual for now. As things start to return to pre-COVID conditions they will revisit conducting a survey for the Councils' input. SDS Director Randi Moore wants to be sure the virtual meetings are working for everyone and if they aren't they should let her know.

9. Other Business and Announcements:

Anita Bailor, with the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians Elders Program, announced that the Tribe has increased their meal delivery service area since COVID-19. They have reached out to Senior Centers up and down the coast to provide meals while the Tribe provides transportation. Anita Bailor also announced that they have 80 - 100 Elders that participate in the monthly Elder's Council meetings and for the last three months they have been meeting via Zoom. She noted that it has been interesting and fun to watch the meetings grow which has led to the creation of some Meet and Greet opportunities. The Tribe provides a virtual room to socialize in for a couple of hours every week.

SDS Director Randi Moore shared the sad news of the passing of DSAC member Clark Brean. Because of his death, his wife, Suzanne Brean, will be taking a hiatus from the Councils for a while. A memorial gift was sent on behalf of the Councils.

Allison Hobgood introduced herself. She is the new Executive Director of the Corvallis Daytime Drop In Center. She not only works with people in Benton County but other counties as well. She is also working and building on another service organization, with other community members and stakeholders, called the Disability Equity Center (DEC). DEC is still more of a vision of an online grassroots community. Their goal is to create a disability culture and community center that is also a hub for help with resource and assistance network navigation, as well as doing community education outreach about disability justice. Anyone interested in learning more about DEC can reach out to SDS Director Randi Moore for Allison's number and she'll be happy to talk to them directly.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 6, 2020.

Meeting Minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe.