



MEETING: **Disability Services Advisory Council**

DATE: Friday, November 17th, 2023

TIME **10:30AM –11:30AM**

LOCATION:

In Person at 859 Willamette St., Eugene, OR 97401. Buford Room, 5th floor.
OR

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81093184945?pwd=rNWw2ceOgizliOWUD3JqqsrTvPs4AZ.1>

Meeting ID: 810 9318 4945

Passcode: 748697

• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

CONTACT: Marisa Andrews, 541-682-4512, mandrews@lcog.org

A G E N D A

10:30 am	1. Call to Order, introductions	Marisa A.
10:31 am	2. Consideration of Meeting Agenda & Minutes for May	Marisa A.
10:32 am	3. Vote on New DSAC Members	Marisa A.
10:35 am	3. Agency Updates / Discussion	Marisa A.
11:15 am	6. S&DS Recurring updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OPI• OAA• Other Program Updates• Committee updates	Marisa A.
11:25 am	7. Updates from Council Members	Marisa A.
11:28 am	8. Consideration of Future Agenda Topics	Marisa A.
11:30 am	9. Adjourn: Reminder of Next Meeting – January 19, 2024	Marisa A.

Public Comment is limited to 3 minutes.

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MINUTES
DISABILITY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Friday September 15, 2023
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Conference Call – Lane Council of Governments
859 Willamette Street – Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT: Hoover Chambliss, Elaine Eiler-Mough, Lucy Zammarelli, John Ahlen
ABSENT: Joe Basey, Melanie Carlone, Jeanne Barter
STAFF: Marisa Andrews, Tammy Lanz, Jackie Low, and Leah Chisholm

1. Call to Order, Introductions

Ms. Lanz opened the meeting of the Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) at 10:35 a.m.

Ms. Lanz called roll and announced one excused absence for Jeanne Barter.

Ms. Andrews introduced staff present. Jackie Low was the S&DS Executive Assistant and would be taking minutes for the Council. Leah Chisholm was the Program Manager for Older American Act (OAA) Programs and the Senior Meals Program.

Quorum was not met. Marisa advised the Council would not vote on new members. Recommendations and consideration of meeting minutes would be emailed to council members.

2. Consideration of Meeting Agenda & Minutes for May

Approval of the Meeting Agenda and the Minutes for May votes would be attained via email.

3. Senior Meals Program – Updates & Overview

Ms. Chisholm shared she had been in her role at Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) for seven months and had served OAA Programs in four Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in three states since 2007. She said her long-term goal was to serve Lane County.

Ms. Chisholm stated in fiscal year (FY) 2024 there were ten locations for Senior Meals which reduced by one from the previous year. She said the sub-contract with the River Road Annex Center was eliminated based on funding and lack of opportunity from low participation. She stated this geographical area was rich in food resources and she shared that another Senior Meals site was nearby. Senior Meals staff included one Lead worker, two Kitchen Assistants, nine Site Coordinators, and five Substitute Roving Site Coordinators. There were approximately 200 volunteers to serve the program which decreased from 400-500 pre-pandemic.

Ms. Chisholm said three Café 60 sit down dining sites were successfully reopened in the past month and grab and go was retired at these locations, which included Northwest Neighbors in Eugene, Oakridge and Junction City. The next meals sites to open would be Creswell and Cottage Grove in

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September; Florence and Veneta in October; Coburg in December; and Springfield in mid-January. She stated Senior Meals must return to pre-pandemic requirements before May 11, 2024, which included no longer offering grab and go meals. She said there was mixed messaging as the State had advocated to continue to go meals and it was determined this was not possible at a federal level.

Ms. Chisholm shared the Senior Meals Program would participate in a joint fundraiser with Meals on Wheels America and Jiffy Lube in October. She said the fundraiser provided the opportunity to donate to local Meals on Wheels programs after the purchase of an oil change at Jiffy Lube. She said the proceeds from this fundraiser would be split with Food for Lane County and that participating Jiffy Lube locations were located in Eugene, Bend, and Douglas County.

Ms. Chisholm advised the Springfield meal site at Willamalane Adult Activity Center would be closed for three weeks in December due to renovation. She said the program sought a temporary location to serve meals Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and that included a receiving kitchen and freezer space. She said if the location shifted outside of Springfield consideration was needed for volunteers and if they would be willing to drive the extra distance.

Ms. Chisholm said there was no longer pandemic-era funding available and funding levels had gone back to normal and were drastically less. She said the pandemic brought more participants and though funding decreased the need had not gone away. The Senior Meals Program implemented a countywide waitlist at Senior & Disability Services and Food for Lane County (FFLC) that went into effect July 1. Ms. Chisholm said there was estimated need to use \$700,000 in fundraising dollars this fiscal year. She said cost-reduction measures were taken which included the decreased supply cost associated with to go meals and the alignment of Senior Meals benefits with LCOG policy. She said the program was over authorized in OAA clients and that the hope was not to close services, but that people would organically close if they transitioned to higher level of care, such as Title XIX. She shared pandemic-era exceptions for eligibility were ending and cautioned the need to use fundraising dollars was not sustainable.

Ms. Zammarelli asked with inflation and cut in food stamps, was there any sense that either state or federal government were going to assist elders with food insecurity that may not qualify for Meals on Wheels. She said she heard a lot about food issues and that Food for Lane County has less and less availability for food banks. She asked what was seen as up and coming issues.

Ms. Chisholm said the biggest challenge was rising food cost and that a lot of people who lost jobs through the pandemic relied on food stamps. She emphasized the importance of Café 60 and that it offered the same exact meal and dietary plan. She clarified Meals on Wheels and congregate are different monies that cannot comingle and that making sure people who are not homebound and capable of getting out to a Café 60 know it exists is important. She said she was finding that Oregonians have a resistance to Café 60. She said Lane County and Oregon were unique in that we allow Meals on Wheels pick up for rural areas with special scenarios. Just because eligibility may be expanded does not mean funding will also be expanded. She said it was important to empower people to come in and sit down for cost saving. She said the vendor, TRIO, was doing a lot of work to make food taste and look better and had done a great job with their new kitchen manager. She said food insecurity will continue to be an issue and there was only so much the Senior Meals Program could do.

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4. New DSAC Recommendations & Vote

Approval of the DSAC Recommendation votes would be attained via email.

5. S&DS Recurring Updates

- a. OPI** Oregon Project Independence (OPI) serves 293 consumers and provides limited hours for those who don't qualify for Medicaid. OPI serves adults aged 60 and over and OPI Pilot serves adults under age 60. Ms. Andrews shared OPIM has not come to fruition and staff heard it would roll out in December with a January start. She said there was nothing in writing or solidified timelines. Ms. Andrews said that at the beginning of the year S&DS was tasked with removing participants from the waitlist and putting them on services by the state. Without OPIM being an actual program and the delay of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to approve the OPIM waiver, S&DS have had to put a waitlist in place. She said S&DS has to reduce the number of consumers on the program in order to make the traditional OPI program last through the whole fiscal year regardless of OPIM. She clarified this only applies to OPI 60 plus, and that OPI Pilot was not affected. She said the OPI service priority level is traditionally 18 and was reduced to 15. She said 129 people had to be removed from the OPI 60 plus plan by November 1 and there was a need to reduce budget by approximately \$40,000 a month. Ms. Andrews said case managers will meet with consumers as many may qualify for Medicaid and could transition services. She said this program is funded by state legislature and when consumers call wanting to be on this program S&DS shares that we want them to advocate to legislature on this issue as there is not enough OPI funding to sustain a program. She said the OPIM program has been promised and in discussion but cannot rely on it at the moment. She asked the council to advocate with legislature as it impacted consumers' care and availability to live at home.

Ms. Zammarelli said she was disappointed to hear the status of OPIM. Ms. Andrews shared S&DS was advocating to partners with ODHS and there was a need to share reality of what our consumers will face. She said the date for reduction is planned for November 1st.

Mr. Ahlen said there was a coordinated lobby day in Salem in the past, but this changed during pandemic. He asked if there were plans to do something similar in the future. Ms. Andrews shared O4AD is the umbrella of all Area Agencies on Aging in Oregon and there was a plan to hold a day in the next session.

- b. OAA** Ms. Andrews shared the respite program was on waitlist due to funding. She specified that pandemic era funding is no longer available and going back to pre-pandemic funding levels were not enough to meet the need.

c. Other Program Updates

Ms. Andrews reported the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) received 586 calls in July and 578 calls in August.

Ms. Andrews shared there was a cohort hiring beginning the next week with a hire date November 13th. Having difficulty filling Adult Protective Services (APS) specialist and outreach was being performed for APS positions specifically.

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Ms. Andrews stated S&DS receives funding through the state from a full-service contract; all services are in the contract and S&DS invoices the state for salaries. She said the biennium contract ended June 30th of this year and at that time S&DS did not have the next contract. She said S&DS was currently operating without contract and status quo with services but were unable to invoice the state for them reimburse for the work done in July or August. She said they have been told by the state it is with the procurement department at the Department of Justice (DOJ). Ms. Andrews said Lane Council of Governments have had to use their own money to pay bills and payroll, totaling approximately \$4 million so far. She said they have not had to do this in the past and hoped they would receive the contract soon, however there was no date or timeline to receive contract. She shared this was a state advocacy opportunity for councils as the impacts were real to our consumers. She said it was important to be transparent with councils.

6. Updates from Council Members

There were no updates from Council Members.

7. Consideration of Future Agenda Topics

Mr. Chambliss requested continuous updates. Ms. Andrews shared the idea of a future newsletter to provide updates between meetings.

8. Adjourn

Ms. Andrews adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Reminder: Next meeting November 17th.

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MINUTES
DISABILITY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Friday May 19th, 2023
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Conference Call – Lane Council of Government
859 Willamette Street – Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Ahlen, Jeanne Barter, Elaine Eiler-Mough, Daniel Reti, Barbara Susman, Jackie Templeman and Lucy Zammarelli.

ABSENT: Robert Phillips, Melanie Carlone, Joe Basey, Andy Fernandez, Teresa Cowan, Joan Wilkerson, Kim Davidson-Ruby, Kay McDonald, Hoover Chambliss, and Amy Scott.

STAFF: Marisa Andrews and Tammy Lanz.

1. Call to Order, Introductions

Tammy Lanz opened the meeting of the Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) at 10:36 a.m.

Ms. Lanz called roll.

A quorum was not present.

Ms. Andrews stated that she would attain the votes via email for the Contract Amendments.

2. Consideration of Meeting Agenda & Minutes for March

Approval of the Meeting Agenda and the Minutes for March votes would be attained via email.

3. Contract Proposals & Vote

- In-home Services

- Addus & New Horizons

- Addus provides in-home care services to Lane County consumers with Oregon Project Independence (OPI) and Older Americans Act (OAA) respite care. Consumers now have the option of choosing between Addus or New Horizons for these services. The

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Fiscal year 2022, the rate for OAA Respite, OPI Pilot and 60 Plus was \$28.00. There was a \$4.00 increase in Fiscal year 2023. In December OPI-M should receive approval of the State waiver and at that time, the majority of OPI people will be moved over to it. The traditional OPI program will remain. If the OPI-M approval does not take place, Addus and New Horizons will continue to allow service for those currently on OPI and OAA Respite services at the lower rate of \$32.92 for Fiscal year 2024. To stay within budget of Fiscal year 2024, a waitlist will be necessary for people to respite care services.

- From July through February, Addus provided 13,944 hours of home care and personal care services and 3,707 hours of respite.
- Horizon has currently provided 1,825 hours of home care and personal care services and nearly 1,170 hours of respite care.

The State set aside personnel funding for the implementation of OPI-M. This funding is also expected for the first portion of Fiscal year 2024. This will greatly benefit the actual service cost budget with providing the current level of service and for those joining in the future.

○ OPI ERS

Consumers have the choice of two companies, Assured Independence and Lifeline Systems, previously known as Phillips. Assured and Lifeline provide emergency response and medication management at home. The Mobile Help Button, Phillips Wi-Fi, or Go Safe Mobile Help Button services are available and do not require internet connection. There are two budgets, OPI 60 Plus and OPI. The budget can sustain quite a bit more consumers. SBS is proposing to the LCOG Board \$38,000 for OPI 60 Plus and \$9,000 for OPI Pilot to be able to continue to provide the service. The current contract allows for one more extension. When OPI-M rolls out, the cost of all of these services will be funded through Medicaid and the OPI-M program.

● Food Service Consortium/TRIO

Trio is the provider for the Senior Meals program. They are under contract with Northwest Senior Disability Services as the lead agency for the food services procurement consortium. Northwest SDS takes the lead in the contract, working along with Oregon Cascades for better buying power. TRIO operates the kitchens located in Salem, Newport and Eugene where they prepare the food, then use trucks to deliver to the meal sites for home delivery, center dining or Grab-n-Go meals. The contract is a volume-based variable rate. Currently, the Fiscal year 2024, the Consortium agrees they will serve 488,100 hot meals and 224,500 frozen meals. TRIO agreed to a 4% increase from this current fiscal year due to an increase in the cost of food, labor and transportation, etc. This is the final year of this contract. For the Annual Fiscal year 2023, currently S&DS has provided 86,659 meals and 116 hot meals had been projected.

Ms. Barter asked what is the capacity for specialized, medically required diets.

Ms. Andrews stated The Older Americans Act (OAA) regarding congregate and home delivered meals services, does not require the provision for medically tailored meals, however there are nutritional requirements for older adults that need to be met through the OAA. Those standards are met in addition to S&DSs' nutrition standards, which are set by the State and Federal Government. Medically tailored meals are being considered as an option, a revenue source for the Senior Meals program and for those with needs that meet the medically tailored meal. It would be a different program outside of the traditional meal service.

● FFLC

Food For Lane County provided in the fiscal year 2022 over 107,000 meals through their program Meals on Wheels. They also provide Medicaid OPI, Medicaid SPPC, OPI, OAA

programs and OPI-Piloted meals. The contract is a volume-based variable rate and is \$6.23 per hot meal and \$5.59 per frozen meal. Fiscal year 2024 projections for FFLC are 72,000 hot meals and 40,000 frozen meals for a total of 112,000 meals.

- **Senior Law**
Senior Law administers legal services and provides civil legal assistance to persons and economic and social needs in Lane County. This includes people in poverty, those with many years of public benefits, those experiencing disabilities, as well as those over the age of 60. There is no charge for assistance and most services are provided free of charge. Oregon Senior Law has projected that they will be able to provide 3,536 service hours at their requested rate from \$25.44 to \$25.45.

Ms. Barter, in reference to the 3,000 hours of service provided, asked if that was in name only, such as people calling in to ask a question and not really providing any good legal services.

Ms. Andrews commented that the number of service hours and the number of people served are only based on the intake. Those with a case that they are in need of assistance with or those needing a will are being served, but S&DS funding does not cover the full cost of those services. Senior Law uses their in-kind dollars to fund the remaining costs. They are always in need of volunteer lawyers.

Ms. Templeman mentioned that she was told that Oregon Law would only assist people with matters involving domestic dispute, legal status or home evictions.

Ms. Andrews replied that was incorrect. She receives monthly invoices with the breakdown of the case or service types provided. Volunteer base was very limited after COVID, so they were not able to serve as many, but they are back to normal operations.

4. Vote: July Council Meeting

The July Council meeting has the option to take a break and then return in July or September.

Ms. Andrews will attain the votes via email for the July Council meeting decision.

5. DSAC Recruitment June 2023

DSAC recruitment will begin in June or July and then will open up for applications shortly after.

Ms. Andrews requested that members please share this with their networks, once she submits.

6. Recurring updates:

- OPI 60 Plus is serving 232 consumers and 26 Pilot consumers. OPI-M funding will be received in Fiscal year 2024, helping with the budget for salary and service.
- ADRC in March had 547 calls. In April they had 408 calls. They are taking live calls.
- Oregon Money Management is serving 148 consumers.
- Legal Services has served 560 consumers year to date with 3,052 hours of service.
- OAA Respite program has provided 5,660 hours of family caregiver traditional respite.
- Senior Meals, Meals on Wheels and Cafe 60 from July to April served 42,823 congregate meals and 85,264 home delivered meals.

- FFLC served 90,812 home delivered meals. The reopening of the meal site will begin with one possibly towards the end of June and the remainder of the sites in July and August.

Ms. Templeman stated that she was concerned with the lack of variety at the Food pantries, as well as the availability, which causes her to have to visit multiple sites, even then coming away with very little. Being disabled and with diet restrictions this makes it nearly impossible to eat. She is concerned for the older disabled folks with limited mobility and health issues, as well as those with transportation issues. She has been unable to reach anyone at FFLC to speak with them regarding her concerns.

Ms. Andrews said that she has a good contact for Ms. Templeman to speak with someone at FFLC, adding that she would also follow up in email to them.

7. Updates from Council Members

There were no updates from Council members.

8. Consideration of Future Agenda Topics

Ms. Zammarelli would like to do a Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) presentation either to share one or to do a joint presentation.

9. Adjourn: Reminder of Next Meeting - July 21, 2023

Ms. Andrews adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan (LCOG))

