



MEETING: Senior Services Advisory Council

DATE: Friday November 17th, 2023

TIME: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

1:00 pm	1. Call to Order, Introductions	Judy D.
1:01 pm	2. Consideration of Meeting Agenda & Minutes for September	Judy D.
1:03 pm	3. Agency Updates/Discussion	Marisa A.
1:33 pm	5. Recurring updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OPI• OAA• Other Program Updates• Committee Updates	Marisa A.
1:45 pm	6. Updates from Council Members	All
1:55 pm	7. Consideration of Future Agenda Topics	Judy D.
2:00 pm	8. Adjourn: Reminder of Next Meeting: January 19, 2024	

Public Comment is limited to 3 minutes.

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MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Friday September 15, 2023
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Conference Call – Lane Council of Governments
859 Willamette Street – Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dianne Robertson, Judy Dashney, Katy Lenn, Rae VanZendt, Suzanne Huebner-Sannes, Andy Fernandez, Judith Moman, Daniel Reti, Barbara Susman, Lisa Lightner, Hoover Chambliss (SSAC Liaison), Judith Moman

ABSENT: Kay McDonald, Amy Scott, Beth Brooks, Teresa Cowan, Cynthia Sharp, Joan Wilkerson

STAFF: Marisa Andrews, Tammy Lanz, Jackie Low, Leah Chisholm, Laura Campbell

1. Call to Order

Ms. Andrews called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Ms. Lanz took roll call.

Quorum was met.

Ms. Dashney introduced four new council members. Ms. Andrews shared all new members recommended were appointed by the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board. Ms. Andrews shared council member information in the agenda packet.

2. Consideration of Meeting Agenda & Minutes for May

Ms. Dashney asked for additions or edits to the agenda. Ms. Moman requested to add team building activity through volunteer work. Ms. Susman requested to add more information on Addus.

Ms. Dashney asked for edits or corrections to the May meeting minutes. There were none.

MOTION: Ms. Moman motioned to approve May minutes. Vote passed unanimously (11:0).

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

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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 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.

Mr. Reti asked where the increased need from fundraising dollars came from. Ms. Chisholm explained the cost of supplies for to go meals tripled during the pandemic and many costs are associated with increased need of the service and loss of pandemic funding.

Ms. Moman asked to clarify that to go meals would end. Ms. Chisholm advised to go meals were being phased out as Café 60 locations reopen for dine in service.

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Ms. Lightner asked how long the temporary kitchen was needed. Ms. Chisholm provided a timeline of December 11 to January 3. Ms. Lightner asked how many days were needed. Ms. Chisholm stated the site provided meals Monday through Friday and reduction of days in operation would be considered.

Ms. Chisholm said cost-reduction measures were taken which included the decreased supply cost associated with to go meals at Café 60, the alignment of Senior Meals benefits with LCOG policy, and the move of substitute rovers from employee status to temporary status. She advised the program sought to hire two additional substitute rovers.

Ms. Susman said she would publicize the need for volunteers and requested a flyer be emailed to council members. Ms. Andrews said she would email a flyer.

4. 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.

Mr. Reti asked if this would open LCOG to potential lawsuits. Ms. Andrews advised it did not as we can only authorize the service. She said once OPIM came out the people who were cut could return to the OPI or OPIM program. She said the 54% cut for OPI 60 plus program would be effective November 1st. She said in the interim they expect some who were eligible for Medicaid to transition in order to continue services.

Ms. Susman asked if there was anything the Advisory Council could do. Ms. Andrews asked for advocacy to representatives and provided a list of representatives and district maps in the meeting packet. She said she would email the packet to council members. Ms. Andrews said ODHS is aware of the impact in our county. Ms. Susman asked if there was clear information on what should be communicated and timeline; can also take back to peers and encourage them to get in touch as well.

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- 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.

Ms. Robertson asked S&DS was recruiting out of town as well. Ms. Andrews advised yes and would also host virtual open house. Mr. Reti asked pay range and Ms. Andrews said she would email the pay range. Ms. Andrews will share open house information.

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.

Ms. Dashney asked about the delay. Ms. Andrews shared all agencies in Oregon are delayed. Mr. Reti asked for talking points. Ms. Susman asked to reach out to let councils know how they can be of assistance.

Addition: Team Building Activity

Ms. Moman suggested team building activity for the council to participate in some of the programs offered through volunteering. Asked if there were one or two opportunities as a council to participate in to learn about the work being done. Ms. Andrews supported idea of being involved. She said this was staffed with Directors and Volunteer Coordinator and they were determining what this would look like. She said LIHEAP season was coming up and volunteers needed to stuff envelopes. She said one day opportunities at meal sites were complicated because volunteers are needed on an ongoing basis.

Addition: Addus and New Horizons

Ms. Andrews snapshot of benefits and employee benefits and working on getting information. Ms. Susman felt this would be helpful to compare and better understand each agency and what is or is not offered.

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5. Updates from Council Members

There were no updates from Council Members.

6. Consideration of Future Agenda Topics

Nakeisha Knight Cole APD State Director.

Ms. Huebner requested presentation from Senior Connections on changes and how it is working. She said Cottage Grove had difficulty finding volunteers for Senior Connections. She asked about the body of work and how councils can reach out to their community for volunteers, as well as how each area was being served by Senior Connections. Ms. Huebner recognized need for volunteers at meal sites. Ms. Andrews clarified volunteer outreach for Meals on Wheels occurs internally with the Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator and that rural medical escort also solicited volunteers and filled positions.

7. Adjourn

Ms. Andrews adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Reminder: Next Meeting November 17.

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