

Senior Services Advisory Council

DATE: Friday January 18, 2019 **TIME:** 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

Lane Council of Governments 5th Floor,
Buford Meeting Room
859 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401

CONTACT: Kate Scott, 541-682-4137; kscott2@lcog.org

1. Minutes & Agenda

Documents:

SSAC AGENDA 1-18-19.PDF
SSAC MINUTES 11-16-18.PDF



MEETING NOTICE

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A G E N D A

1. Call to Order, Introductions Diane R.
2. Consideration of and Additions to Meeting Agenda Diane R.
3. Consideration of the last Council Meeting Minutes Diane R.
4. Veteran Benefit Specialist Update Sara L.
5. Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative Update Kay M.
6. Call for Next Meeting Agenda Items and Reminder of Next Council Meeting Diane R.

March 15th, 2019 1:30PM – 2:30PM
859 Willamette Street, 5th Floor Buford Meeting Room
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7. Adjourn Diane R.

The above facility is wheelchair accessible. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and assisted listening devices can be provided with 48 hours notice; call (541) 682-4498.

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Friday, November 16, 2018

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Buford Room — Park Place Building
859 Willamette Street – Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Rogers, Chair; Julie Austin, Ruth Beardsley, Hoover Chambliss (via phone), Rod Holst, Suzanne Huebner-Sannes, Kay McDonald, Brittany Oom, Amy Scott, Barbara Susman.

EXCUSED: Ken Viegas

GUESTS: Beverly Cridland, Lorelei Cesario

STAFF: Kate Scott, Brooke Emery, Emily Farrell, Tammy Lanz, Haven

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Ms. Rogers called the meeting to order at 1:29 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

Ms. Rogers thanked Ms. Susman for facilitating the last meeting when she was unable to be present due to her recent surgery.

2. Consideration of and Additions to Meeting Agenda

The agenda was accepted by consensus.

3. Consideration of September 21 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Susman moved, seconded by Ms. Austin, to approve the September 21 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Susman thanked Ms. Feldman for the minutes. She said most of what was written about the Senior Companion program was in the past tense but the program was still alive. Answering Ms. Rogers' inquiry she said people could help the program by sending checks and by bringing the program to their own communities and groups to help recruit volunteers. She shared that the Cascade Manor Activity Council had requested a presentation for about 40-60 residents.

Ms. Rogers clarified that an income limitation for being a Senior Companion meant some people would not qualify but there were other S&DS programs with no limitations on volunteers. Ms. Huebner-Sannes commented that Elder Help needed volunteers and the S&DS contracted volunteer coordinator of that program recruited volunteers who then worked with staff to be connected with seniors.

4. Lane Senior Support Coalition (LSSC) Overview

Bev Cridland handed out documents titled "LSSC - Help Support a Senior," "Lane Senior Support Coalition Senior Emergency Support Fund Application," and "2018 Emergency Requests by Location." She reported that LSSC began as a nonprofit through which monies were disbursed

from a large bequest to support Meals on Wheels and Senior Meals. In 2011 it had initiated the emergency support fund to provide support to needy seniors for things not covered by anyone else. Last year it had expanded to provide financial support for unpaid family caregivers through a grant of about \$18,000. The coalition wanted to continue with that and with providing support to low income older adults in either rural or urban Lane County. LSSC received no public funds but relied entirely on donations, grants, and fundraising. Its board members were all volunteers and there was no paid staff.

Requests for assistance were referred by the Area Coordinator or case manager at S&DS and no requests came directly from the public. This meant LSSC did not have to do its own eligibility testing and could ensure that those referred were eligible for what they needed. It was one of the many resources to which the ADRC could refer someone looking for help to solve a problem.

Ms. Cridland shared examples of cases: a woman who had cracked her upper denture did not have the funds to repair it so was super gluing it. Another person had run short of funds to buy her insulin so LSSC got her a supply to carry her through until her other financial issues were fixed. LSSC paid the providers of service and did not send money directly to clients so in these two cases it had paid a dentist and a pharmacy. Other types of requests had involved helping with a phone for someone hard of hearing, getting batteries for electric wheelchairs, home heating assistance, pet expenses (if caring for a pet contributed to the health and mental well-being of a client and to the motivation to maintain independent living), and getting a Costco card in order to buy tires.

Ms. Cridland noted that needs had increased from 12-13 requests each year in the first few years to 80 last year and more than 70 so far this year. She could not remember turning down a request and said Area Coordinators and Case Managers were diligent about getting all the information needed when making a referral and were very careful with LSSC's resources.

Requests were received from all over Lane County but most were from Eugene (17 in 2018) and the second most were from Florence (11), possibly because of an active case manager or because there were lots of older people in Florence who were not in great financial shape. Ms. Cridland had worked with St. Vincent in Oakridge to get things like appliances for clients, some of whom were living on \$600-700 per month. It only took one thing going wrong to tip such people over the edge. LSSC took care to protect the privacy of clients and even board members did not know their names.

Ms. Rogers clarified that the doorway to help from LSSC was through Senior Connections. Ms. Scott advised that people could call the ADRC at 541-682-3353 to be screened and referred. Ms. Rogers asked whether LSSC could help an individual in Elmira who did not have a ramp to get into the house. Ms. Cridland said LSSC had helped with things like that and depending on the cost it may not be able to cover all of it but the ADRC knew of people in the community who could help with such projects, sometimes as volunteers.

Ms. Rogers knew of someone else in Leaburg living in a 5th wheel without propane who previously had been assisted by Temple Beth Israel. Ms. Cridland said LSSC had assisted with utilities before and if the person did not have an S&DS Case Manager she could contact the ADRC.

Ms. Susman recognized and thanked Ms. Cesario for her decade of work with LSSC. She asked

whether LSSC worked with Love Inc and Ms. Cridland responded that they had worked together on some projects. She suggested to Ms. Scott that the upcoming presentation at Cascade Manor about Senior Companions also could include information about Love Inc.

Responding to Ms. Austin's question about how LSSC solicited donations, Ms. Cridland said LSSC approached lots of people through presentations at clubs like the Lions and community organizations like this one. Its board also put on fundraising events like the recent annual garden party and a casino night with Waterford Grand. Coin boxes for people to drop in change had been placed around the community and lots of grant writing was done (Haven had expressed interest in helping with that).

Answering Ms. Rogers' request to be informed about future fundraising events, Ms. Cesario said organizations and individuals in the donor data base typically were sent e-mails or mailed flyers if an e-mail address was not provided. She invited anyone wanting to be on that list to let LSSC know. Ms. Scott added that because it involved fundraising, to avoid conflicts she would not add council members to that list but they could do so as individuals.

Mr. Holst asked about the Fred Meyer and Amazon reward programs. Ms. Cridland replied that anyone with a Fred Meyer reward card could designate a non-profit they wished to support. Joining Amazon Smile allowed one to order from Amazon and to select a non-profit to support with every Amazon order (at no cost to the individual).

Ms. Cridland announced there would be a bingo event November 29 at the downtown Cornucopia that would create some donations and more information about that was available on the LSSC website.

At Mr. Chambliss's requests, Ms. Scott agreed to share more information with him about fundraising and how to volunteer at a later time.

5. Activity: thank you cards to Elder Help volunteers

Ms. Scott passed around cards for members to sign and which the new volunteer coordinator Katie would provide to the Elder Help volunteers. Ms. Susman mentioned that Katie had introduced herself at SPIN that week and did a great job.

6. Debrief Legislative Town Hall

At a meeting in Salem earlier in the week, Ms. Scott had learned the Department of Human Services was working on policy option packages. One involved restoring funding for the Gatekeeper Program in which community members had been trained on how to refer to APS and S&DS and then shared that information with their networks. The other concept was around providing some family caregiver services for people who were on Medicaid.

The Town Hall on November 10 had attracted about 40 attendees (Ms. Dashney and Ms. Oom were there) and Representatives Byer, Fahey, and Prozanski. Ed Necker had moderated and Brenda Wilson had represented staff. The Legislators had answered questions and indicated their support for expanding OPI and continuing its funding. The family caregiver policy option package was mentioned and there was interest in how to leverage Federal funds to expand programming.

Ms. Oom shared that as someone who worked at Hilyard Community Center she appreciated getting feedback from people who usually did not frequent the center. People had found it a welcoming environment that was totally accessible and had great transportation access. She described providing direct contact with the representatives as good service to the community.

Ms. Susman wondered about ways to increase the number of representatives who attend in the future. Ms. Scott shared that she had e-mailed every Legislator, left voice mails, and chosen a date that worked for the most people. The Advocacy Committee had strongly preferred that it be held on a Saturday morning. Four Legislators had confirmed they would attend and two more had indicated they might be there. She would welcome ideas for ways to get more to show up.

Ms. Susman suggested asking individual Legislators to help by encouraging their colleagues' attendance.

Ms. Farrell wondered whether a future event would occur and said she knew some Legislators were working on bills that would impact S&DS but they were reticent to talk about them until the session began and they could drop the bills. Ms. Scott said it was up to Ms. Farrell whether another event would be planned for 2019.

7. Call for Next Meeting Agenda Items and Reminder of Next Council Meeting

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Ms. Susman suggested adding Ms. McDonald to the next agenda to speak about behavioral health. Ms McDonald responded that she could only talk about the initiative and that had already been identified as a future agenda topic.

Ms. Austin expressed interest in a follow-up on the October AARP caregiver event. Ms. Scott said she had tried but was not yet successful in getting a representative from AARP to join the council.

Ms. Rogers wished everyone happy holidays and recommended they get a flu shot.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

(recorded by Mary Feldman)