



Aging & People with Disabilities (APD)
<https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/agency/Pages/apd.aspx>
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)
in partnership with the Area Agency on Aging
Monday, April 7, 2025
Virtual Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS & CHECK IN – Called to order. This is a regular meeting of the DSAC. All DSAC meetings are open to the public. Visitors are welcome. This meeting was recorded.

DSAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bonnie Huard
Cody Guinn
Denyce Gavin (mark excused for last mtg)
George Adams (vice chair)
James Naegele (chair)
Katy Callies
Kerrie Walters
Leslie McIntyre

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

GUEST:

Paul Golding - SAC
Riah Safady – Health Equity Manager, Jackson Care Connect
John Dorris, Assistant Director of NW ADA Center

STAFF:

Jeremy Wolf, APD District Manager
Ann Marie Alfrey, Rogue Valley Council of Governments Executive Director
Diana Burney, APD District Office Specialist

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS: As the weather starts warming up, what is the first activity you are looking forward to?

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jeremy updated us on the office issues that were discussed at the last meeting. He spoke with the managers and procedures were reviewed. The offices couldn't identify what could be causing the issues. He would be happy to revisit if specific examples can be provided.

George reported that the Biddle Road office has unsatisfied consumers, as applications were turned in, then they go missing. Jeremy will report it to that manager.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2025 MINUTES: Minutes are unanimously approved as presented. (Cody, George 2nd) Bonnie abstained, as she wasn't at that meeting.

APPROVAL OF PAUL GOLDING'S DSAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:
Katy, Denyce 2nd. Approved unanimously.

NW ADA CENTER - John Dorris, Assistant Director:

- The Northwest ADA Center is region 10 of the national ADA network, which responds to the specific needs of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska.
- They are a source for objective, unbiased, accurate, current information about the ADA and related laws for the public, businesses and governments.
- They are not advocates, compliance officers, lawyers or "ADA police".
- Different ADA center regions have different grants and priorities based on their resources and populations. Example regions 5 & 7 do more with adaptive sports programs.
- All the centers provide research, and this program is connected to disability justice studies at the University of Washington.
- They provide free confidential technical assistance.
- Fair Housing Accessibility First is the best resource for housing questions, although they are smaller and have a larger backlog.
- They help businesses to become ADA and to see that changes are not necessarily going to be too expensive.
- Everything is confidential, there is a little bit of data retention for the grant recording, but nothing is kept for enforcement purposes or to report to anybody.
- Their ADA has two different titles. Title 1 is employment, like working with a human resources department for an accommodation. Title 2 is program access.
- The center provides 88 trainings on a sliding scale in person or virtually and a lot of them are free. They range from 60 - 100 minutes and can be customized.
- They do not have resources to provide funding for grants or loans, but they can refer to agencies that do.
- 800-949-4232 is the national network number and will route you based on your area code. Their email nwadactr@uw.edu is the best way to communicate with them. Their website nwadacenter.org has lots of resources on it.
- Under the ADA there are minimum percentages of how many accessible parking spaces that hospitals, airports, etc. should have. Generally, it is 2 – 4%.
- If there are areas in a business that are not accessible, you will want to speak with the manager of that business. You can also file a complaint with Oregon

Bureau of Labor & Industries (BOLI) for a civil rights violation. If the business is unable to comply due to an administrative or financial burden, they are required to have documentation.

UPDATES & NEWS:

Jeremy –

- Oregon Project Independence Medicaid (OPIM), started for the public last month and there is an uptick in people signing up for services, primarily at the Senior Services Office (SSO).
- The Access Senior Fair is tomorrow from 9 – 5 at Rogue X in Medford, ODHS APD will be there with a booth.
- In the past few weeks several legislative presentations have been done by ODHS / APD director level people regarding ODHS programs. If you would like to see them, they are on the state of Oregon website.
- Federal level changes – there are no changes yet in any programs, just speculation. The state has a page on their website with updates. Jeremy will share when he hears of any changes.

Ann Marie –

- The Access Senior Fair is tomorrow. They also have a booth, and they have a breakout session at 11:30am to talk about the Area on Aging.
- Federal Health and Human Services reorganization – They are combining many different, separate departments, and it is impacting them at the local Area on Aging. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) was disbanded and merged in with other things. It was the federal agency that was providing regulations and guidance for the Older American Act funding. Some regional staff have been laid off and some offices are now closed. They are not threatening funding cuts to the Older American Act, but we are still working in the current budget. There will be more information coming. There should be some warning before anything is cut, as budgets are done ahead of time.

INFORMATION SHARING:

- Accessible Parking Workgroup – we meet once a month and our next mtg is tomorrow at 2:00pm.
 - We are working on materials for doing tabling at Walmart and/or other places.
 - We are updating our presentation that we did for the RVCOG to present at the July O4AD meeting.
 - We are working closely with Karen at the DMV to better improve their website & documents, and she is also helping with our local projects.
 - For example – she has been given a small space to add accessibility parking and links to the new DMV manual and she tried to get pertinent questions added to the driving test. In

addition, she had created a brochure that will be given out with each parking placard.

- Accessible parking enforcement changed significantly post COVID. Updated stats would be great to receive.
- Security companies are not permitted to cite for accessible parking violations, but could they leave educational materials? Diana will add this to the next accessible parking meeting.
- Disability Awareness for ODHS Staff Event – 6/10/2025 at the Phoenix Plaza Civic Center from 1:00 – 4:00pm. We are working on some logistics, but it is coming together. The flyer is 95% done – need just need to add the Zoom Link after Diana meets with a state training unit specialist later this week. The panel presenters have a meeting on 4/29/24 at 10:00am at the Central Point Library.
- SAC / DSAC Joint Advisory Council – Leslie has been attending the meetings. Liz James is the Senior Advisory Council (SAC) chair and she's been preparing the agenda. It is full of links to advocacy trainings that are out there on the web, and she has also been tracking different bills that might be of interest to older adults and adults with disabilities. Diana forwarded that email out last week and will send it out again today. There a few things out there for accessible housing and trying to get the minimum requirement for accessible housing up to 10%, but also how do you define accessible housing? As it is one thing to create the requirement, but what does that actually look like?
- Medicaid on the Chopping Block: Advocacy Updates Webinar from 3/25/25 Recap – there wasn't much to report from that training. It was ambiguous with no concrete information.

Announcements and Upcoming Events –

- George – RVTD started a new route on 3/17/25. Route 41 serves previously unserved neighborhoods in Central Point, connecting residents to key destinations such as schools, hospitals, shopping, and employment centers. It operates Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 5:30pm, with hourly service. This new service provides critical connections to the Route 40 and Route 61, allowing residents in these newly served areas to access RVTD's broader transit network.
- George reported that he was told in the commissioner meeting that care giver hours would be cut on their anniversary date. Jeremy stated that there are no cuts at this time. The federal budget isn't set to be in place until September. Nakisha is our APD director and Jane Ellen is our policy director, and they will make the decisions on program policy.
- George reported that the Home Care Commission voted for a new curriculum for state providers. Their meetings are on YouTube if you are interested in seeing what they do.

- George reported that there are changes coming for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT). They would like to make it more streamlined for people in wheelchairs to get to their appointments on time.
- George reported that there is a new ODOT ADA committee, let him know if you are interested in joining it and he can put you in touch with Brenda.
- Riah wanted to remind everyone that the Jackson Care Connect (JCC) Spring Conference is coming up on April 24 and April 2025. If you would like to attend, please register asap.
- Riah shared that the 32nd Annual Native American Student Union Pow Wow is this weekend at SOU on 4/12 & 4/13/25, Diana will email the flyer this afternoon.
- Riah reminded us that there are no current cuts in OHP or programs and encourages everyone to utilize those benefits.
- Cody reminded us that the Handcycling Event is on 4/19/25 from 9:00am – 2:00pm at Don Jones Park in Central Point. There will be an egg hunt & other activities for kids, wheelchair maintenance and a BBQ.
- Diana mentioned that the RVCOG has updated the DSAC contact info on their website and is also going to include our meeting agendas, minutes, etc. It will mirror what the SAC currently has on their page. We need to add a group photo as well.
- James has applied to be on the Oregon Advantage Medicaid Committee.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

NEXT MEETING: May 5, 2:45 – 4:30

This message is also attached as a PDF file for accommodation purposes. This document will be provided in alternate formats upon request, including but not limited to language other than English, large print, captions, braille, audio file, American Sign Language interpretation. Please contact APD.ServiceEquityCommunications@odhs.oregon.gov for alternate format.