



**Aging, Disability, and Veterans Services Division
DSAC Meeting**

Thursday, December 7, 2023, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Hybrid

In-person Location:

Five Oak Building, Oak Room, 209 SW 4th Avenue, Portland, OR

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://multco-us.zoom.us/j/99608820253?pwd=M1dVdnRNbmlHaVJZS1BVcXduc1Bz>

QT09

Meeting ID: 996 0882 0253

Passcode: 3jt=9VN+

Time	Agenda Item	Purpose	Lead
10:50 am	Meeting open for sign-on	Fellowship	All
11:00 (5 min)	Opening- Land and Labor acknowledgment	Honoring community and addressing ongoing systems of oppression	Joe Valtierra
11:05 (5 min)	Zoom (if needed) and accessibility review	Meeting access and shared understanding	Robyn
11:10 (10 min)	Opening Connections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please share your name & pronouns, any other identifiers • What was your highlight for November? 	Connection and Community building	Joe
11:20 (5 mins)	Agenda review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for public comment (Explain public comment) 	Agree on how to spend this time together	Robyn

Next Steps and Action Items

- In attendance virtually: Irma Jimenez, Cristina Nieves, Jacob Mestman
- In attendance in-person: Robyn Johnson, Alex Garcia Lugo, Olivia Lawler, Joe Valtierra, Kalah Schackman, Charmaine Kinney, Jesse Guardipee, Caroline Underwood, Gail Skenandore, Ashley Carroll, Barb Rainish, Angie Muresan, George Crittenden, Nellie Stearn, Robert Trimble
- Paper resources: Copies of the slides, notes from retreat, and visual capture

Time	Agenda Item	Purpose	Lead
11:25 (10 min)	Member updates and public comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have you seen in the community since we were last together? 	Input and advocacy	DSAC and community members

Next Steps and Action Items

- Kalah Schackman: Wanted to share experience with ADA bathroom stalls not being wide enough even though it may still be ADA compliant. Getting feedback from caregivers’ experiences with burnout and lack of support to continue doing this important work.
- Ashley Carroll: Working with Disability ERG on the new library ramp being too steep to meet ADA and be safe for people using mobility devices, pushing forward to get improved accessibility for future library buildings.
- Angie: Increased awareness of how public sidewalks and ramps are inaccessible due to being steep, uneven or roots causing hazards. Reached out to the city about these sidewalk hazards and they said the repairs and hazards will only be addressed if there are enough complaints about the specific area.
- Robyn: City has a sidewalk improvement plan that is supposed to address some of these issues but could use more community input. Advocacy does impact the City Sidewalk Improvement Plan.
- Gail: Is anyone at the county connected to HomeForward? No one is returning calls.
- Joe: We have relationships with one aspect of HomeForward with regard to housing and preventing evictions. We can look into letting them know about the response time issue and look into having a representative from HomeForward come to a DSAC meeting if advisory members are interested.
- Caroline: Concerns about those community members who may not be technically considered as disabled but are close to becoming disabled. More need for low-grade ramps, meeting rooms closer to the front door and handrails on the way to meeting spaces.
- Robyn & Joe: Lisa Strader from PBOT is our contact for accessibility at the city.
- Kalah: Can Joe expand what level of responsibility the county vs. city has over accessibility projects in the city?
- Joe: County only has jurisdiction over certain areas, this clarification is to emphasize that we’re wanting to connect the specific areas of advocacy that members are interested in with the people who can implement the desired changes.
- Alex: As far as road and building accessibility, that will mostly be under the city jurisdiction. County has some jurisdiction over what are considered more “rural roads”.
- Jesse: As a disabled Vet, I look forward to being involved with advocacy here. Having background experiences with counseling clients and being able to share what he has learned from those clients, can also support his work with the advisory council. Is interested in using advocacy to truly connect with all the diverse populations who are

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affected by disabilities. Ready to get out there and make calls, do the work. Feels that one on one conversation and interaction are the key to achieving progress with our goals.

11:35	Member Onboarding Process Overview and Paperwork <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Check-in on all paperwork ● Policy review 	Community, and relationship building	Robyn
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Next Steps and Action Items

- Robyn: Advisory councils require background checks. Council members are eligible for various stipends. Forms were distributed to new members to complete while talking through the process, then completed forms were collected.
- Paper resource: DSAC policies
- Stipend summary (more detail in DSAC policies):
 - Technology stipend up to \$600 for member to support digital and technological support to access meetings, it is a reimbursement process and can be multiple items but only will be refunded up to the \$600 amount
 - Digital access stipend - \$35/month for monthly internet access if that supports DSAC work
 - Meeting stipend - \$30 per meeting; quarterly if there is a meeting 4hrs or longer that is \$70 (for example O4AD); this is all separate from the Tech and Digital stipend and cost of food & transportation; members can opt-out if they would like
 - Food & Transport is only covered for in-person attendees
 - If \$600/yr stipends from the county (cumulative), it will be reported as income and you will receive a 1099, could affect benefits calculations because it will be counted as income
 - There are two choices for receiving the stipends - direct transfer cash to ACH or Fred Meyer gift card
- As budget allows, there are also funds that can be used for training or conferences as the members request to attend in order to support their work on the advisory council. Members can ask and then senior managers will consult the budget and make the final call if cost can be covered.
- Jesse: How can you apply for positions working at the county to be involved with advocacy groups?
- Robyn: We can connect you to paid and volunteer opportunities and positions at the county and give you additional info on how/where to apply.

11:45 (10 min)	Break	Rest and Refresh	All
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11:55	DSAC Review Retreat Notes and Visual Notes, and brainstorm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does this reflect the conversation as you remember it? ● What is missing? ● What else has come up since the meeting? ● Can we move forward with the themes as outlined? ● Brainstorm on what to work on (share current work plan) 	Shared understanding	Joe, Charmaine and Robyn

Next Steps and Action Items

- Charmaine: Is there anything new members want to add to the discussion and brainstorm from the retreat? Or things that members who were present did not get to mention at the retreat?
- Paper resource: Visual capture of brainstorming from the retreat
- Charmaine: Next meeting we will start to work on prioritizing and developing the work plan going forward.
- Joe: The public comment section of this meeting is crucial, we want people’s concerns to be heard directly. We are focused on what makes people feel heard in a way that will help us keep momentum on our efforts. What will make you feel heard in this way?
- Kalah: In order to be heard, I must also listen to others, understand their motives and defenses - this can convey what’s important to them. This will help us have compassion for their position and can better situate us to present our case or argument in a way that will be heard. Depending on where the other person is situated and what they are invested in, that can all help us know what aspects of the message to focus on in our advocacy efforts.
- Joe: Finesse, building confidence, and respectful report are powerful strategies.
- Angie: We want to see actual results, clear actions that demonstrate our values.
- Nellie: Facing resistance as evidence of persistence! The efforts are probably working if people go “Oh no, it’s her again”.
- Robert: It is important that we fine-tune our asks to get the desired outcome.
- Jesse: Research and “doing your homework first” - use respect to get people’s attention; figure out each individual member’s strengths to build the collective group strategy, diversity is strength when working towards our common goals.
- Joe: Organization and their systems have little to no incentive to change how they do things - unless they are persistently being challenged by their

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constituents/consumers/shareholders.

- Nellie: Data will also be our friend when approaching organizations.
- Kalah: Can we clarify what the numbers/data are?
- Joe: We have access to a lot of great data and statistics via research teams at the county to support our arguments and advocacy efforts, we would just need to figure out what numbers we need for each specific project.
- Robyn: Proposes that we revisit all of this next meeting and the group agrees.

12:30 (20 mins)	ADVSD Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advisory Council Flyer review and input ● Member recruitment ● County Budget Timeline ● Medicaid/LTSS Items (TBD, time permitting) 	Information Sharing, Updates and Input	ADVSD Staff
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Next Steps and Action Items

- Paper resource: County Budget Timeline with calendar
- Jacob: Budget calendar has key dates/metrics and benchmarking for where programs have been successful. Can present more in depth at future meetings if the members are interested.
- Irma: Wants to engage this group in the program selection and budget process going forward.
- Joe: What is the size of our budget for FTE, just for member clarification?
- Irma: About 114 million dollars, 520 FTE positions.

12:50 (10 mins)	Check out! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volunteer Celebration (Jan) 	Agree on next steps and process	TBD
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Next Steps and Action Items

- Paper resource: Advisory Council flier proofs
- Robyn: Is available for any feedback or input about the flyers. Let her know any changes that you'd like made or if there is anything you think works well on the flier.
- Floor is open if anyone would like to share their thoughts/feelings about the meeting
 - Joe: We need coffee at the meetings!
 - Robert: Likes that everyone is a united front in advocacy endeavors.
 - Gail: Wondering about the consistency of meeting dates?
 - Robyn: Usually the Fourth Thursday but moves occasionally due to holidays. We can do a new Doodle to figure out if we need to change the recurring meeting schedule.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barb: Are there any advocacy 101 training sessions coming up? ● Nellie: Leaving the meeting feeling hopeful! ● Kalah: Does this group have a procedure or established practice for disagreements within the group? ● Robyn: As we go forward we will create norms for how we handle any disagreements that may arise. 			
1:00 pm	Adjourn!		All

- Note to Robyn: Check to see if the East County ADA survey is closed or not.

Upcoming Meetings: January 2024 - TBD

Common acronyms used in DSAC Meetings - While we strive to avoid acronyms and jargon here are some you may hear in DSAC meetings

- ADVSD - *Aging, Disability and Veterans Services Division* - a division of Multnomah County Department of Human Services
- APD - *Aging and People with Disabilities* - a work unit of the Oregon Department of Human Services
- BIPOC - *Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color*
- DCHS - *Department of County Human Services*
- DSAC - *Disability Services Advisory Council*
- LTSS - *Long Term Services and Supports*
- O4AD - *Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities*
- ODHS - *Oregon Department of Human Services (also called DHS)*