Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)

November 18, 2026

Aging, Disability, and Veterans Services Division



Multnomah County
Department of County Human Services

Please silence your cell phones

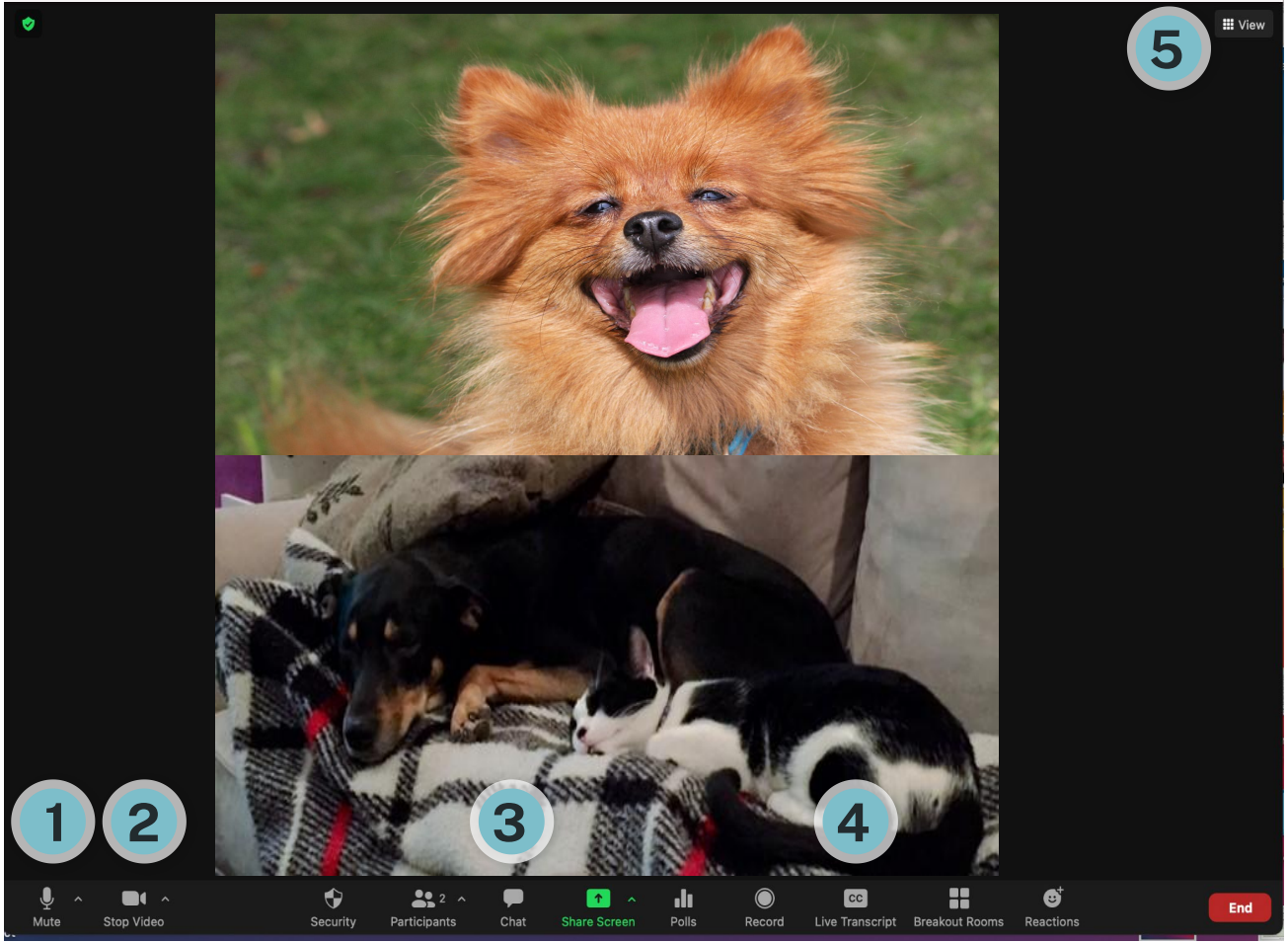


Meeting Goals

1. Welcome and agenda
2. Zoom, mic, accessibility statement
3. Land acknowledgement
4. Introductions
5. Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist
6. Break
7. Care Home Rule changes
8. DSAC Bylaws update process
9. Legislative advocacy update
10. Future Meetings

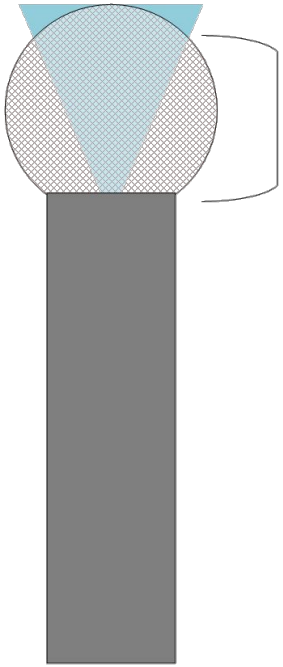
Main features of Zoom to be aware of:

1. Mute or Unmute
2. Stop or start your Video
3. Open and use Chat box
4. Use automatic captioning
5. Change your view



Using the microphone

Shaded area = best sound pick up from microphone



Poor sound pick up from sides



Mute indicator. There is a brief delay to activate the mic.



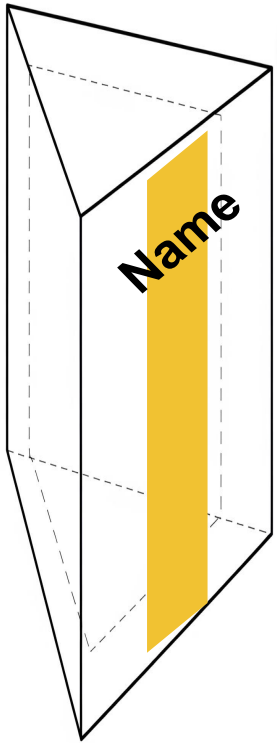
Short press
Toggle mute on/off

Long press “FF” = off



Hold the mic correctly (as shown below), and DO NOT cup the grille.
(Unless you're rapping, but this guide is for clean audio)

How to use your Name tent



I have a question or comment

Accessibility statement

We model accessible presentation techniques such as:

- Using a minimum of 20 point font on slides.
- Limiting reliance on words and images.
- Orally describe visual presentation elements.
- Taking time on slides.
- Ask ahead of time if anyone needs accommodations.

Accessibility statement (cont.)

- Use a virtual platform with auto-generated closed captioning.
- Include alternate text or image descriptions.
- Accommodations were requested and met.
- In use — voice amplification.

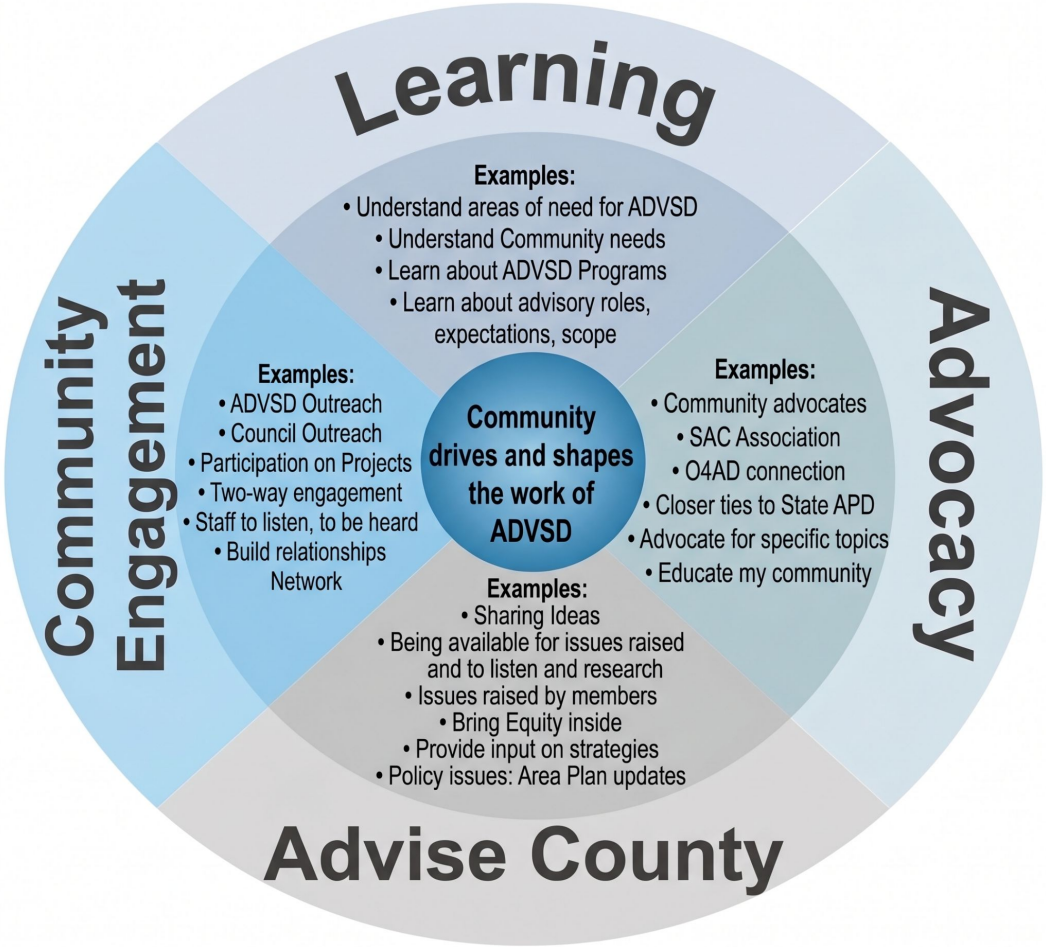
Land Acknowledgement

We are located in Portland, Oregon, Multnomah county.

Today, we honor the Indigenous people whose traditional and ancestral homelands we stand on — the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Tumwater, Watlala bands of the Chinook, the Tualatin Kalapuya and many other Indigenous nations of the Columbia River.

It is important we acknowledge the ancestors of this place and to recognize that we are here because of the sacrifices forced upon them.

In remembering these communities, we honor their legacy, their lives, and their descendants.


Learning
Examples:
• Understand areas of need for ADVSD
• Understand Community needs
• Learn about ADVSD Programs
• Learn about advisory roles, expectations, scope
Community Engagement
Examples:
• ADVSD Outreach
• Council Outreach
• Participation on Projects
• Two-way engagement
• Staff to listen, to be heard
• Build relationships Network
Community drives and shapes the work of ADVSD
Advocacy
Examples:
• Community advocates
• SAC Association
• O4AD connection
• Closer ties to State APD
• Advocate for specific topics
• Educate my community
Examples:
• Sharing Ideas
• Being available for issues raised and to listen and research
• Issues raised by members
• Bring Equity inside
• Provide input on strategies
• Policy issues: Area Plan updates
Advise County

Brief Introductions

Please share:

- Your name
- Pronouns
- *Prompt — Share your favorite fall beverage and why it's your favorite.*

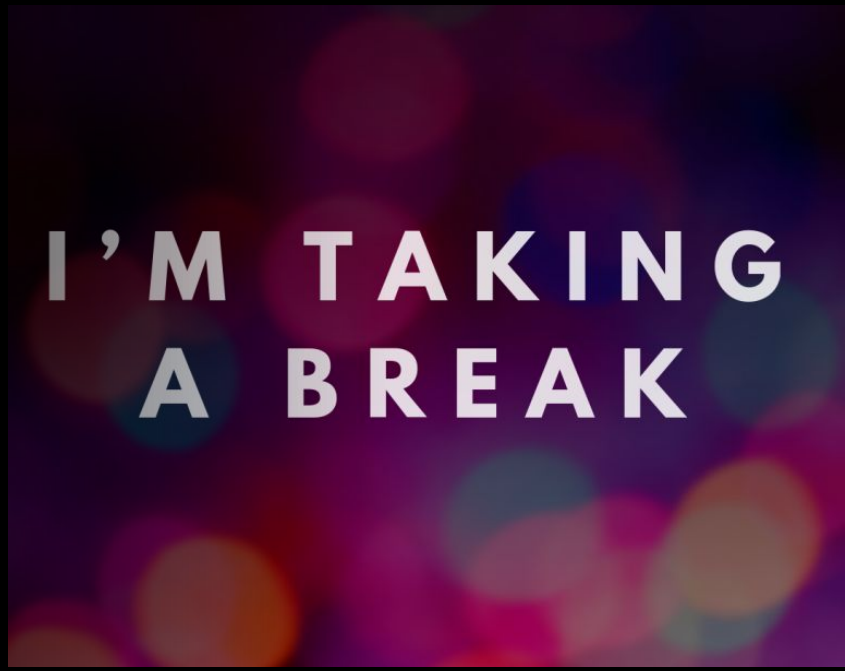
Learning more about county programs:
Behavioral health for older adults and people with physical disabilities

Presented by:

Laurel Wonder, Behavioral Health Division Older Adult Specialist

Break

15-minute break



Adult Care Home Program

Planning Ahead for 2027



Multnomah County
Department of County Human Services



Steven Esser

Program Manager, Adult Care Home Program
Aging, Disability and Veterans Services Division

What We'll Cover Today

- What is an Adult Care Home?
- Care Home History
- Multnomah County Exemption
- Benefits of the Adult Care Home Setting
- Care Homes by the Numbers and Vacancies
- What Does the ACHP Do?
- Multnomah County Administrative Rules and an Example
- Call for advocacy
- Where to find us

What is an Adult Care Home?

- Licensed, single family houses
- 1 to 5 residents
- Operator or resident manager (primary caregiver) lives in the home
- Other caregivers help to provide assistance and services
- Independent small businesses that accept Private pay or Medicaid



Care Home History

First in the Nation (1981): Oregon reshaped American healthcare policy by securing the first federal Medicaid waiver to fund community-based long-term care. Previously funds were restricted to nursing facilities.

ACHP is Born (1983): Multnomah County launched the Adult Care Home Program (ACHP) and enacted local rules (which became the MCARs). Simultaneously Oregon's Senior Services Division adopted the first formal Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) governing adult foster homes and establishing statewide minimum standards.

Multnomah County Exemption

MultCo Exemption (1985):

- During the first 2 years of ACHP operation, Portland's large numbers and density demonstrated a need for stricter local regulations than those adopted statewide.
- 1985 Oregon law added ORS 443.780, formally exempting Multnomah County from state licensing.

Maintaining the Exemption:

- MCARs are required to meet or exceed standards found in ORS 443.705 - 825.
- Legislative ORS updates require updates to the MCAR if changes exceed current MCAR standards. Recent legislative updates include: in-person site-inspection requirements, resident rights expansion, updates to background-check mandates, etc.

Benefits of the Adult Care Home Setting

- Atmosphere is homelike, rather than institutional
- Owner operated
- Ensure residents' needs and preferences are met in a culturally-appropriate and safe setting
- Residents' dignity and rights are respected
- Residents' independence and decision-making are protected and supported

Care Homes by the Numbers

Classification	2022	2025	2026
APD	357	400	413
BH	10	8	6
Room & Board	8	2	2
Limited License	1	1	1
Total	**376**	**411**	**422**

Adult Care Home Vacancies

Multnomah County
Department of County Human Services

Vacancies for Aging and People with Disabilities (APD)

# of Vacancies
367

Reset Filter

The dashboard **excludes** Behavioral Health (BH) vacancies.
Need help finding a home? Call the Adult Care Home Program to connect with the placement specialist, **503-988-3000**.



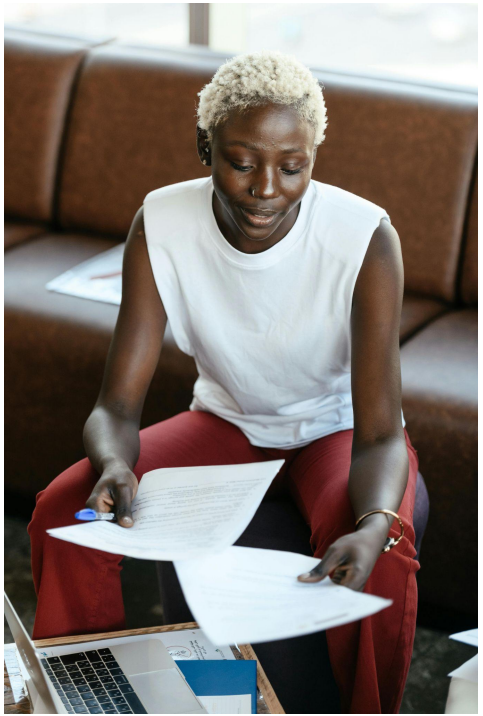
What Does the ACHP Do?

- License, monitor and ensure regulatory compliance
- Annual inspections, licensing support visits, complaint investigations and other visits to the home
- First year coaching program
- Trainings, provider meetings and conference
- Placement support for individuals and case managers

Multnomah County Administrative Rules (MCAR)

Rules governing the licensing and oversight of care homes within the County. Upcoming changes based on:

- Senate Bill 739
- Operator feedback from listening sessions and public comment
- Streamlining language for clarity



MCAR Example

MCAR 023-100-730:

At least one fire extinguisher classed as 2A-10BC or greater shall be securely mounted to the interior structure of the home in a visible and readily accessible location on each level of the home [...]



How Can You Help Advocate?

You have a unique, valuable perspective as representatives of residents and vulnerable members of our community.

We need your feedback at every step of the process:

- Listening sessions
- Public comment period
- Potential appeals or hearings

Adult Care Home Regulations Webpage

View MCAR and give feedback:

link.multco.us/ACHP.regulations



DSAC Bylaws - context for bylaws

- Bylaws “address terms of appointment, vacancies officers, conduct of business, communities, responsibilities of membership, and all other organizational issues.”
- The OAA established the advisory councils, however the Disability Council was also established as a separate council by Oregon State law in 1989. The passage of SB 875 outlines the purpose of Disability Advisory councils, Suggested Activities, potential roles, qualifications for membership, and Governing Rules. Public Meetings Law also applies as it pertains to meetings.
- Any bylaws we enact must meet or exceed these requirements. We are already in compliance, and only need to make it official to move forward.

DSAC Bylaws - steps for updating bylaws

- Review “Orientation Manual: Disability Services Advisory Councils in Oregon”, ODHS last updated 2017
- Align with the general ASAC Bylaws outline for terms of appointment (3 years), Chair and Vice Chair elections, etc.
- Draft Bylaws reviewed by DSAC members for input.
- Once reviewed and updated, draft Bylaws sent to ADVSD leadership for review and approval.
- After ADVSD leadership approval, draft Bylaws reviewed by legal.
- Once approved by legal, Bylaws are signed by the ADVSD Director and go into effect.

DSAC Elections

- Once Bylaws are signed and in effect, the DSAC can hold an election for a chair and vice chair!

Legislative update and response

- Multnomah County's Federal Legislative Agenda Development Plan & Timeline.
    - Departments, chair, commissioners, regional partners, and government relations team (GR) collectively created the draft, reviewed and refined it. The draft is now at the stage of final Chair and Commissioner review. Attorney and legislative strategy consultant review is next, with final materials ready by Nov. 24.
    - December 10 - Present the proposed 2027–2029 Federal Legislative Agenda for the 120th Congress, the federal outlook, and 2026 advocacy summary. Request Board approval.

Legislative update and response

The following outlines the County's Federal Legislative Agenda for the 119th Congress (2025-2027), including budget and policy priorities. During this Congressional term, we aim to:

- Reduce Homelessness and Improve Housing Resources
- Defend Access to Health and Behavioral Health Services
- Protect Supports for Vulnerable Populations
- Ensure an Effective and Equitable Public Safety System
- Strengthening Tribal Consultation Capacity
- Strengthen Racial Justice and Civil Rights
- Improve Resiliency
- Strengthen and Leverage Partnerships to Support the Region's Economic Vitality

December 16, 2026 DSAC draft agenda

Focus on Legislative priorities and issues.

To assist in preparation for this topic Sarah will:

- Share the County's final approved legislative agenda with the ASAC.
- Provide national update from USAging in late Nov.
    - Provide updates on efforts to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA), insights into fiscal year 2027 appropriations for OAA programs, and an overview of USAging's policy and advocacy strategy

Public comment (10 minutes)

Future meetings

- DSAC: Wednesday, December 16, 2026
- ASAC: Tuesday, December 15, 2026

Thank you for attending!

