

## Aging and People with Disabilities

A message from Director Ashley Carson Cottingham



**April 21, 2016**

**To: All APD Stakeholders**

**From: Ashley Carson Cottingham, Director APD**

### **Older Americans Act Signed!**

This week, [President Obama signed the Older Americans Act Reauthorization 2016 into law](#). It's important to note, this legislation to reauthorize the Act for three years was passed by Congress with unanimous, bipartisan support. The reaffirming of our nation's commitment to the health and well-being of older adults at the federal level is critical as we continue to do important work on the ground here in Oregon.

This legislation allows older adults to remain at home and in the community by providing them with necessary services to maintain their independence. The bill provides critical services that keep older adults healthy and independent – services like meals, job training, senior centers, caregiver support, transportation, health promotion, benefits enrollment, and more.

There are some new aspects of the bill that we'll be looking into and working with you on. As you look at the bill summary (attached) I hope you'll be as pleased as I am to know that we are on the right track and in some ways leading the way here in Oregon!

I am grateful for this renewed commitment to support older adults and people with disabilities and want to commend our partners and supporters at the federal level, Congress and the President. Most importantly, I want to thank each of you for your dedication to Oregonians as we join the entire nation to celebrate the bill's passage. Ashley Cottingham, Aging & People with Disabilities Director

### **Listening Session - Feedback Exercise Continues**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> over 30 APD Stakeholders met at the Capitol to look at the work in front of us related to the March, 2016 budget note (HB 5026). A total of 149 ideas, comments, concerns, and suggestions were collected through the budget discussions and exercise (attached – prints at 11 x 17). Together we discussed our core values, potential opportunities and greatest angst – assuming a best case scenario – with the APD budget. We assumed a program that was fully funded,

caseloads growing as forecasted, and the best scenario of slowly bending the cost curve. We then repeated the exercise considering an alternate case scenario. This scenario assumed the APD program is not fully funded, reductions would be below the current service level, and a need to rapidly bend the cost curve.

Collectively, through the discussion, there are great concerns about lack of funds, rising costs, and external impacts with the minimum wage implementation and Department of Labor changes. There's direction that we need to do a better job of planning, as well as coordinating our work around housing and transportation needs.

In addition to gathering feedback externally, our field structure (Figure 1) participated in the same exercise through the AAA and APD Offices. We received comments from 12 offices totaling 281 comments. We expect more results in this week as other offices wrap up the work. If you are tallying, that's well over 400 pieces of feedback.

There's more to share and other individual comments to honor. We'll recap these conversations at our next Stakeholder Meeting.



*Figure 1* APD Washington County Offices participating in exercise.

### **What's Next?**

What is clear is the intent of everyone to minimize impacts to consumers. To understand the impacts, APD will begin to break down the processes

necessary to research and provide recommendations for. Our project management updates we'll lay out some of the work we are starting and where the suggestions and concerns from the above exercise fit in.

### **Upcoming Dates**

Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – Next Stakeholder Meeting to preview the Legislative presentation (details to follow, planning in progress for an afternoon session).

May 23, 24 and 25 – Legislative Days