

2023 Forum on Aging in Rural Oregon

Advocacy Workshop: Pathways to Informed and Effective Policy and Advocacy for Oregon's Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Dr. James Davis

Thank you to our partners:



Pre-Forum Policy/Advocacy Workshop, 2023 Forum on Aging in Rural Oregon

*Pathways to
Informed and Effective Policy and Advocacy for
Seniors and People with Disabilities*

About the Instructor:

Dr. Jim Davis

Dr. Jim Davis is a gerontologist, psychologist, educator and advocate. He retired in 2016 after serving for 11 years as an associate professor in the Human Sciences Department at Marylhurst University, where he coordinated the Psychology and Social Sciences Programs and taught psychology, gerontology and social policy. He won the 2013 Award for Faculty Excellence in Academic Service and Teaching. Dr. Davis was the Chair of the Oregon Disabilities Commission under Governor Brown and served on the Governor's Commission under 3 governors. He currently chairs the state Older Adult-People with Disabilities Behavioral Health Advisory Council, after serving as the Co-Chair of the Oregon Legislative Work Group on Senior and Disability Mental Health and Addictions. He is also the Chair of the Oregon State Insurance Advisory Committee, which he has served on for 30 years. Dr. Davis is the long-time executive director of the Oregon State Council of Retired Citizens and United Seniors of Oregon (state affiliates of NCOA), both of whom he has served since the 1970s. He is a long-time member of the Board of Directors for the Oregon Consumer League, whom he served as President for 5 years. He also was President of James A. Davis and Associates, coordinator of the SDSD Senior Mental Health Projects, Mental Health Gerontologist for the Oregon Mental Health Division and a professor/administrator at the University of Maryland. He received his bachelors in Political Science, masters in Gerontology and Administration, and doctorate in Educational Psychology/Gerontology, all from the University of Oregon.

Workshop Focus

This workshop will focus on the pathways to informed and effective policy, programs and advocacy for seniors and people with disabilities. We will look at:

- The past 50 years of senior and disability advocacy in Oregon and the influences that created Oregon's national model for long term care service system for seniors and people with disabilities, as well as statewide senior/disability advocacy efforts.
- Critical state and federal senior and disability policies and services, and how they interrelate and collaborate, such as Medicaid, the Older Americans Act and the American's with Disabilities Act.
- Oregon's Aging and People with Disabilities/Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority and their impact on seniors and people with disabilities around long term services and supports, health care and behavioral health.
- Priority senior/disability legislative issues in the 2023 Oregon Legislature and
- Tips and techniques to effectively advocate within the state legislative process on social policy and programs.

Learning Goal

Our learning goal is for participants to leave the workshop with greater familiarity with concepts, processes, and implications of public policy and programs that affect elders and people with disabilities in Oregon.

History of Senior/Disability Advocacy and Policy – 1969-1979

- **1969: McCall Supports First Statewide Senior Advocacy Effort/Oregon State Council for Senior Citizens (OSCSC)**
- **1971 White House Conference on Aging**
- **1974: Meeting Governor McCall**
- **1969-74: State Program on Aging**
- **1974: Special Committee on Aging Tour**
- **1975 Oregon Legislature/Oregon Project Independence**
- **1975: Office of Elderly Affairs Created**
- **1977-79: Senior Legislative Coalition Effort/Coalition of Senior Advocates/ United Seniors of Oregon**
- **1977 - Senior Advocate Wyden Makes His Mark**
- **1978: Oregon Long Term Care Ombudsman Program Begins**

History of Senior/Disability Advocacy and Policy – 1980s

- **1980: Governor Atiyeh speaks to the United Seniors**
- **1980: Gray Panther Founder Maggie Kuhn Visits Oregon/Gray Panther Influence**
- **1980: Senior Advocate/Gray Panther Ron Wyden Elected to Congress**
- **1979-81: The Development of Oregon's Historic Community-based Long term Care System/ SB 955/Evolution of SSD of the new Senior Services Division (SSD)**
- **1981: Nursing Home Reform**
- **1981: White House Conference on Aging**
- **1982-1992: Adult foster homes**
- **1983-1985: Independence of the Long Term Care Ombudsman**
- **1984: SSD Reorganization, Decentralization, Waiver Fight**
- **1984: Negotiated Investment Strategy**
- **1987: Oregon Health Action Campaign Organized**
- **1987: Creation of Concept for Assisted Living**
- **1988: Waiver Fight Triggered by Providers/Advocate Protest**
- **1988: Advocates Meeting with Governor Kitzhaber**
- **1989: Oregon Legislature/SSD to SDSD/Senior Mental Health/Universal Health Care**
- **1989: SSD Becomes the Senior and Disabled Services Division (SDSD)/Merging Disability Services**
- ***1989: Rating of the Oregon Congressional Delegation 1980-1989***

History of Senior/Disability Advocacy and Policy – 1990s

- **1990 Governor's Conference on Aging**
- **1990-1991: The Impact of Measure 5**
- **1990: Historic Passage of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
- **1990: Senior Mental Health Projects Begin**
- **1990-1991 – Initial Senior-Disability Coalition Building/Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities**
- **1992: GCSS Senior Mental Health Report**
- **1992: Governor's Conference on Aging**
- **1992: Senior PAC - OSCRC**
- **1995: White House Conference on Aging**
- **1996: State AARP Office Opened**
- **1998: Formation of Oregon Medicaid Advisory Committee**

History of Senior/Disability Advocacy and Policy – 2001-2010

- **2001: Consumer/Patient Rights Legislation Passed**
- **2001-2002 Oregon Legislatures/Services Threatened/Rallies**
- **2000-2001: Oregon Home Care Commission**
- **2000-2001: Victories with Managed Health Care Patient Protections**
- **2001: Senior Mental Health and Addiction Projects End 12 year Run**
- **2001-2002: Expansion of Denture Access with Passage of Measure 24**
- **2003: Long Term Care Again Threatened in Worst State Budget Crisis in 60 Years**
- **2005: Oregon Project Independence Modernization**
- **2005 White House Conference on Aging**
- **2006: Future of Long Term Care Work Group**
- **2009: Oregon Project Independence Goes bankrupt**

History of Senior/Disability Advocacy and Policy – 2011-2020

- **2013: Special Session of the 2013 Oregon Legislature/Reform of the Senior Medical Deduction/OPI**
- **2014: Fighting the Integration of Managing Health Care into SPD/CMS Oregon Long Term Care Study Group**
- **2014: Health Reform/State Health Transformation/Affordable Care Act roll-out**
- **2013-2015: SB 21 Steering Committee Process**
- **2015: State Older Adult and Disabilities Behavioral Health Initiative**
- **Reacting to Trump – 2017-21**
- **2019-2020: Impact of COVID 19 on Seniors**

State and Local Senior and Disability Services System

- Aging and People with Disabilities/Department of Human Services
- The Impact of Medicaid, Older Americans Act and State General Fund
- Local Social Services Systems and their Relationship to Local Area Agencies on Aging/APD Units

Medical and Health Care Service Systems

Oregon Health Authority

- *Pre-2000s: was a part of ODHS*
- *Health Care Medicaid/Oregon Health Plan*
- *Community Mental Health and Addiction Services*
- *Public Health*

Senior/Disability Mental Health and Addictions

- 1975, 1980, 1992: State Plans Developed Around Senior Mental health and Addictions
- 1990-2001: SDSD Senior Mental Health Projects
- 2011-2013: Oregon Legislative Work Group on Senior and Disability Mental Health and Addictions
- 2014-Current: OHA/DHS Initiative: Older Adult and People with Disabilities Behavioral Health Initiative
- 2016-Current: APD Preventive Behavioral Health Services

Advocacy in the Oregon Legislature

- House and Senate Leadership
- House and Senate Committee Structure and Process/Statutory Committees/Ways and Means
- Pathway to Passage of Senior/Disability Legislation in the Senate/House

Examples of Priority Policy Issues: 2023 State Senior/Disability Legislative Issues

- APD/ODHS Funding/Long Term Services and Supports
- Behavioral Health for Seniors and People with Disabilities/OHA/ODHS
- Expanding Medicaid Support for Workers with Disabilities
- Age Discrimination in Employment
- Bias of the Oregon Medicaid Advisory Committee
- Enhance Worker Standards for Long Term Care Workers (SEIU)
- Eliminate the Use of Credit Rating for Auto Insurance
- Long Term Care Ombudsman/Public Guardian Program
- Centers for Independent Living

Effective Legislative Advocacy Techniques

- Legislative Website/On-Line Advocacy
- Approaching Legislators by:
 - ✓ *Phone*
 - ✓ *Email/Letter*
 - ✓ *In-Person*

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Thank you!

