

S&DS receives over \$97,000 in grant funding for senior meals programs

In just over three months since Senior & Disability Services (S&DS), a division of Lane Council of Governments (LCOG), established a COVID-19 response to their Senior Meals Program operations, S&DS has received \$97,100 in grant funds from Meals on Wheels America (MOWA).

S&DS Senior Meals Program has distributed more meals to more participants and will begin serving ru-

ral areas that are not currently receiving consistent Senior Meals Program services.

"At a time of such uncertainty, our senior community members are facing increasing isolation as a result of the global pandemic, which results in less access to food security and an increased need for additional funding," said Emily Farrell, S&DS Division Director. "These grant funds have given us the unique

opportunity to grow our support for those individuals that have been disproportionately impacted by this crisis.

"We are grateful to MOWA for such an incredible investment to our community."

S&DS Senior Meals Program will be using the current allotted grant funding to begin purchasing self-stable meals, reusable masks, and mask filters for every current partici-

pant in the Senior Meals Program. These items will have a phased distribution to participants throughout the S&DS service areas in Lane County in August, September, and October 2020.

The Senior Meals Program helps people age 60 and older maintain their independence by providing food, friendship, and safety check.

Senior Meals Programs operate 11 Café 60 dining

rooms throughout Lane County and Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver lunches and safety checks for home-bound older neighbors in 8 Lane County communities.

Both programs serve adults age 60 and older and their spouses, regardless of their income.

Last year, the Meals on Wheels program, in partnership with Food for Lane County, served over 188,800 meals to 1,460

participants. The Café 60's served over 66,200 meals to 940 participants.

The Senior Meals Program is currently serving approximately 10,000 meals monthly across Lane County.

Questions regarding this press release may be directed to Kendra Pennington, Community Program Analyst at Senior & Disability Services, 541-682-1312 or kpennington@lco.org.

Chief from AI

don't let men of integrity go," added Shannon.

Radcliffe was in agreement that the chief had done his job well, but was not content with the motion's lack of discipline.

"I would be more in favor of something that shows a little disciplinary action because I think, as a chief, he's always been a strict disciplinarian, which has served us well in the district," she said. "And I don't know how ... it's going to work if we as a board return him without any discipline, even though I understand him to be remorseful."

Duffy commented that the chief's days of

leave were "pretty good discipline," though the district's attorney Christy Monson clarified that the chief was on non-disciplinary paid administrative leave.

"I just want to make sure that everybody knows the chief has not been disciplined and the reason he's on leave is purely administrative," she said.

Higdon, too, felt the board's action should reflect a reaction to the chief's conduct.

"As the motion reads right now, he's being reinstated without any other action and I have concerns in that I do believe there needs to be a disciplinary piece to this," he said.

Higdon cited a section of the district's Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) which covers the use of social media and stipulates ways in which staff are prohibited from using it.

According to the district's SOG, district per-

sonnel who maintain or contribute to social media sites are prohibited from engaging in certain activities. This is specifically addressed in Section 3, where procedures do not allow "Using social media to threaten physical violence against a district's personnel, business partners, service providers or members of the public we serve."

"He is our employee," said Higdon. "We need to hold him to the same standards that we expect him to hold his staff to."

Following the vote, Higdon allowed for closing statements.

Monroe responded to Higdon regarding how Wooten might handle his own staff.

"I just can't see where he is going to interfere with their personal life," Monroe said.

Shannon called for a return to normalcy.

Radcliffe then resigned from her director position of the SLCFR

board.

"It really has been an honor to serve this community for over five years," she said. "As the senior-most member of this board, I leave very proud of the many positive strides that have been made by the district during my time here. As a whole, the personnel who work inside the district are very hard-working men and women who have the public's best interest at heart."

Radcliffe thanked Higdon for his leadership and communication.

"However, in light of recent events, I really have lost confidence in the rigor of this board to do what it is they were elected to do by the [people] in Lane County," she continued. "They've been acting more as the fire chief's friends than his employer."

Radcliffe expressed her disappointment that the board's actions were not a matching response to the chief's conduct.

"His actions do not

adhere to the mission/vision values of the district and we've heard that many times over in the emails we've received from constituents," she said. "In the process of trying to do my job as a board member, two of the other board members openly stated false and misleading comments about me, which is unfortunate. As an elected official to this board, it is my responsibility to speak up when I have concerns. I take that seriously. I don't want to cave to intimidation; however, I also have a business to run and a family to raise. So, it is with a heavy heart that this will be my last night with you and I have reached the conclusion that I am going to resign."

The next board meeting is scheduled for July 16, where Radcliffe's resignation may be accepted and board members can address the vacancy.

Higdon thanked Radcliffe for her years of service.

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