

Minutes

Caregivers Committee Governor's Commission on Senior Services December 7, 2006 Department of Human Services

Attendees: Remona Simpson (Chair), Kay Kirkbride (vice-Chair), Elaine Barrett, Eunice Dutton, and Barbara Nelson

Excused/Absent: Chuck Frazier and Kelly Wessels

Guests: Peggie Beck, Marilyn Hinds, Robert Lawrence, Lucy Morgan, and Marjorie Reuling

Staff: Becky Murphy, Marc Overbeck, and Wendy Russell

Called Meeting to Order 10:00

Review Agenda: Introductions were made. No additions or corrections were made.

Approval of Minutes: Kay requested one correction: last paragraph of the work plan review should have "Mather-Lifeways" instead of "Legacy" to have online class.

MOTION: Accept the minutes as corrected. Passed. (Elaine Barrett/Eunice Dutton)

Announcements:

Eunice reported on the low-income housing for seniors that has just been built in Mt. Angel called Edelweiss.

Powerful Tools for Caregiving

Kay explained the training for caregivers that she is involved in. This training is focused on the caregivers and caring for themselves so that they may provide better services to individuals. She distributed several handouts. The curriculum is taught by two instructors for six-week sessions. Each session is two hours weekly and is free for the participants.

There has been a 90-minute class developed that companies such as Intel, Nike, and Columbia Sportswear have sponsored for their employees (30 minutes added to their lunch hour for the session).

Mather-Lifeways, the company that purchased the program from Legacy Health Services, has train-the-trainer sessions to promote this throughout the country. In the updated version of the workbook, Kay wrote some of the curriculum. It has been taught in many different languages all over the state.

It was suggested that the training might be discussed at the OSU gerontology conference to reach out to more people.

Bob reported on the Lifespan Respite funding being restored for the rest of this biennium.

Lee Girard and Judy Bowen will be asked to the January meeting to explain how Lifespan Respite works and why there are differences in how the money is used throughout the state.

Tax Credit/Deduction

Barbara reported on the differences between states and what they do to help offset the cost of family caregiving. There are a variety of programs run through the National Family Support program. Most states have referral programs. There are many states that are currently working on family caregiver legislation. At this point there are no states that have a tax credit or deduction to help family caregivers.

Bob suggests that HB 2332 be resurrected which was intended to give families a tax credit on \$1,500 for earnings up to \$65,000. It is hoped that Representative Macpherson might sponsor a bill like this one.

MOTION: Refer the proposed concept/bill to help support caregivers financially to the Legislative Committee. Passed. (Eunice Dutton/Kay Kirkbride)

Adult Day Service Centers

Lynn Schemmer-Valleau, Director of Senior Services of Volunteers of America Oregon reported on Adult Day Service Centers. Lynn discussed the many differences between the different types of centers, explaining what adult day centers provide, how California and Washington differ in how the state handles the various centers, and provided several handouts. They are working on basic certification of Adult Day Centers.

Lynn also wanted to let members know that day centers are eligible for the USDA reimbursement program as part of Children and Adult Centers and asked members to pass that information along to centers in their communities.

Other Work Plan Items

It was decided that the Committee would:

- Look at how to fund more adult day centers.
- Find ways to insure adequate support for family caregivers.
- Invite Lee Girard and Judy Bowen to the next committee meeting.

Adjourn: 11:45