

Minutes

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

October 28, 2005

Department of Human Services

Members: John Helm (Chair), Elaine Barrett, Eunice Dutton, Jack Ewing, Chuck Frazier, Marilyn Hinds, Kay Kirkbride, Robert Lawrence, Linda Miller, Barbara Nelson, Dolores Raymond, Jack Roberts, Kathleen Schonau, Remona Simpson, Maria Smith, Joan Staley, and Kelly Wessels; Rep. George Gilman

Excused: Denise Dion, Chris Flammang, and Charles Kurtz

Guests: Peggie Beck, John Brenne, Cathy Cooper, Claudia Grimm, Dolores Hubert, Aileen Kaye, Ruth Shepherd, and James Toews

Staff: Morgen Brodie, Becky Murphy, and Marc Overbeck

Called Meeting to Order

Introductions were made.

Approved September 2005 Minutes with corrections. *Passed.* (Barbara Nelson/Jack Ewing); One more correction. *Passed.* (Barbara Nelson/Jack Ewing)

Corrections include (full commission minutes): add John Brenne as guest (page 1), change Representative "Woo" to "Wu" (page 2), change Charles Frazier to Charles Kurtz (page 7), and in last motion change "year" to "biennium" (page 7). Corrections include (committees): under APS change the sentence ...thanking the "individuals who report abuse and keep"... (page 2 of H & LTC), delete Remona as guest (page 1 of GI), and add Dolores Raymond as attendee (page 1 of Leg).

Agenda reviewed and "Bylaws" added.

Announcements

Eunice received a flyer from the Comfort Suites (Salem only) which reported they are giving away free mattresses and box springs to people in need. Members were encouraged to inform shelters, churches, etc.

Eunice reported on a Roseburg news article which showed an individual's SSN. She followed up with the publisher about GCSS work on ID theft, and was told it wouldn't happen again.

Jack Ewing reported on a London visit, hospices, and pain control in 1973. Jack also mentioned two books, "Bereavement" and "Care of the Dying."

Dolores Raymond reported on the booklet "Transitions," a Funeral Directory, limited to the tri-county area, which has cost comparisons of different services and providers.

Becky reported per diem costs went up on October 1st (breakfast and lunch, \$9.75; dinner, \$19.50).

Jack Ewing noted his birthday is in September, not November.

Morgen routed “Yes” magazine, which had interesting articles on elders.

Marc reported: the folders included an updated membership list and committee assignment list with new appointments; members would be notified when the 2006 meeting scheduled was finalized; staff had three articles that Marilyn brought by Marilyn Hinds, which were routed for distribution

Correspondence

Outgoing: (1) Letter to Patrick Robertson of Trillium Family Services, encouraging his organizations to consider using the “Maximizing Brief Encounters: Realizing Measurable Gains” model; (2) Letters concerning the increased costs of fuel and transportation to oil companies, the Governor, and Congressional Delegation; (3) Letter to Jerry Cohen thanking AARP for printing the two GCSS endorsed publications;

Incoming: (1) Pioneer Network of Care soliciting funds for a conference in Florida; (2) Letter from Sen. Wyden regarding Budget Cuts to Medicaid; (3) Letter from Sen. Smith regarding the federal budget; and (4) a letter from the Oregon Law Commission concerning OSIP.

Public Input

Ruth Shepherd, who has been a seniors advocate for many years, wished the Commission a happy new year.

Executive Committee Update

John reported on several items:

- A recent meeting with James and Cathy. They have requested assistance in planning for Disaster Preparedness; they noted SPD has a reduction in staff, in caseload, and in revenue. James will provide a written statement for GCSS regarding the amount allotted from the Administrative Fund for GCSS expenses. Also, staff researched whether GCSS expenses were matchable from the federal government, and they are not.
- John thanked Marilyn for her work regarding “Everyday Heroes.”
- John mentioned the Network of Care has been launched.

Health, Abuse and Long-Term Care Update

Kay Kirkbride reported that the full committee will meet during the first 60 minutes and make the last hour available for the subcommittees to meet. Updates on the subcommittee activity will be provided at the following meeting.

APS Subcommittee - Marilyn acknowledged the entire subcommittee for the “Everyday Heroes” program/event. She distributed a draft press release for each commissioner’s local media (possibly the Senior Page). Input is requested from the full Commission. Marilyn read the Statesman-Journal article about the event.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Staff to make appropriate changes (phone numbers correct, etc.) on drafted press release for local media.
- Staff to meet with the communications office of DHS and work towards better communication for future events, etc.
- Staff to E-mail John Brenne who will incorporate press release information in his articles for a regional newspaper.

Marilyn suggested that members to collect articles from local newspapers throughout the year and keep a file. Morgen mentioned members could receive media releases by E-mail.

Wellness Subcommittee – Kelly is the newly appointed chair. Kelly reported that “wellness” is a very broad subject and dovetails with the other subcommittees. She’ll request a historical perspective from Marc. The emphasis may be on nutrition and Maria volunteered to assist.

Adult Foster Care Subcommittee - Kay reported on the major effort of this group, which is assisting the development of the revised Ensuring Quality Care training manual by suggesting revisions. The long-term goal of this committee is to see a tightening up of standards for adult foster care providers and increased quality of care.

Mental Health and Addictions Update

Remona Simson reported PAMAC will meet in December. Remona also reported Adult Services Advisory Committee for Mental Health is working on county plans to be in by March. Elaine reported Sandra Moreland is also working on collecting the county mental health plans and developing a set of profiles around older adult mental health.

Elaine reported that a law enforcement training officer spoke at the last meeting. At the next meeting (in December), Elaine would like to have Dolores Raymond’s video, and a police officer

“on the street” to speak.

Marc mentioned Tim Malone’s vision of quality mental health for seniors and asked how this training relates to this.

Marilyn reported on the Suicide Committee and the Elder Suicide Prevention Plan. Oregon is the seventh highest state in the nation in elder suicide rates.

Elaine would like to review the draft of Mental Health report; Marc will send the revised report after meeting with Sandra in the near future.

Elaine welcomed new members to the subcommittee.

General Issues Update

Eunice reported that AARP will be printing 10,000 more End of Life and Financial Abuse Guides. The National AARP requested them to print only 2,000 a month. The Financial Abuse Coalition will help bank tellers again.

Deb Wert and possibly David Raphael will attend the meeting in December reporting on transportation issues. Eunice will be prompting members to submit questions in advance for Deb to answer.

Eunice briefly mentioned Dolores is continuing to work on housing issues, the Network of Care, the 211 phone line, and identity theft. She also reported that, effective January 2006, DMV parking placards for people with disabilities will not have driver’s license numbers on them, due to security concerns.

Eunice reported on the need to look again at disaster preparedness for seniors. The 72-hour kits from the Red Cross were discussed. The group believed the kits were too expensive for most seniors. Ken Murphy will be invited to a future meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Eunice asked the Commissioners to check with their respective counties and communities on what has been done to improve their local disaster plans.

Legislative Committee Update

Bob believes flexibility is needed for the most impact with Governor’s office. He felt that liaison roles are very important; Marc is working on a work plan. Marc is also developing a list of all websites, etc. GCSS needs to be building up relationships with legislators.

Bob reported that with the \$50 million funding gap in DHS programs, programs may be reduced further at the January E-board. Bob plans to meet with members regarding proposals to the full commission as we need to be ready for January E-board.

At the federal level, Wyden's Finance Committee in the Senate is looking at negotiating with pharmaceutical companies regarding MMA and purchasing drugs in Canada.

MOTION: Send a letter to the Finance Committee members encouraging them to move legislation to the full Senate in support of negotiating with pharmaceutical companies.

Passed, (Kathleen Schonau/Marilyn Hinds)

Because of the short lead time in regard to the Oregon's White House Conference on Aging November 18, 2005, the Commission decided not to donate any money.

Chair's Discussion Items

John asked Marc to explain the Bylaw revision E-mailed 15-days prior to the meeting to create the position of GCSS Financial Officer.

Motion: Bylaw revision approved as stated. *Passed.* (Eunice Dutton/Bob Lawrence)

Marilyn's proposed "press release" that she handed out earlier has been revised as she requested. Marc and Morgen will work with Tom Towslee around best use of this document. Marc will E-mail the members within a week. Morgen hopes to put together a clear process for future work on press-related items.

John reported on needed trainings for the Commission (new members and reminder to old members). Training would include: Boards and Commissions, Nuts and Bolts, SPD/DHS Orientation, and Legislative Advocacy. December 7th is the potential date, with the Boards and Commissions module occurring in the afternoon. Members will be notified when the training date is finalized.

John distributed a chart showing the GCSS statute, what the Commission is required to do, what we have done, what we haven't, and what we should/could. Please take it home and review it, and provide comments to your respective Committee chairs.

Staff Report

Marc reported the Executive Committee members are invited (by James) to the Future Long Term Care Committee Meeting on November 18th, 9-12:00. One proposal is for the Executive Committee to meet in the afternoon. Executive Committee members planned to meet after today's meeting to make a decision.

Even though the Executive Committee is invited to attend the Future Long Term Care Meeting,

Marilyn is still considered the liaison.

Marc reported he was asked to see if GCSS would sponsor (in name only) the White House Conference on Aging Symposium at Marylhurst on November 18..

MOTION: Approve GCSS sponsorship of the White House Conference on Aging Symposium. Passed. (Bob Lawrence/Remona Simpson)

Marc distributed a budget sheet which showed the total expenditures from June through September (comparison to projections).

Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance Program (Claudia Grimm)

Claudia reported SHIBA was established to have senior volunteers help other seniors on insurance. She briefly gave a history of the program and the volunteer network. She distributed brochures and volunteer recruitment forms.

SHIBA is funded entirely from federal funds from a CMS grant (\$350,000) for staffing, developing and printing materials, and distribution to local counties. Recruited volunteers are trained throughout the state. DHS has provided a small grant for combating Fraud and Abuse.

Kelly reported SHIBA is an important resource which gives access to information and has great volunteers.

Proposal during Legislative Session: SHIBA and GCSS work together for more funding and resources in support of SHIBA.

Proposal now for the Commissioners:

- To make the MMA program known.
- To promote SHIBA as an unbiased source of information.
- Encourage people to become volunteers (commitment of six months, 10 hours a month).

A suggestion was made that the Health and Long-Term Care Subcommittee work with SHIBA and MMA.

SPD Update (James Toews/Cathy Cooper)

Budget and E-Board – James reported that DHS was short of funds for the 2003-2005 biennium. Revenue tracking is now more complex with many sources that include various taxes. DHS is now one instead of seven separate agencies, which merged accounting into one, etc., complicating matters. The Legislature will be looking at different aspects of DHS operations during the interim, including accounting, child welfare and the Oregon Health Plan

Future of Long Term Care – James reported SPD was moving ahead on a long range plan for the Long Term Care system in Oregon. He was concerned that all proposals be given wide public debate and exposure. Through a statewide public process, such as forums, hearings, etc. James hoped that DHS and GCSS could coordinate in their efforts by working together on future meetings. He asked the group to consider and think about it. He also reminded about possible major media events about baby boomers turning 60.

Budget Cuts - James reported with budget cuts and caseload decline, this amounts to a 25% reduction over the last four years.

Marilyn expressed a concern; namely if the campaign for reporting abuse is effective, will there be staff to handle it, given these budget reductions? Also regarding the Suicide Prevention Plan, will there be staff to assist? Kelly questioned about caseworkers having reservations about the budget and changes in APS and expressing their views to others. Dolores commented about low-income and affordable housing, and how it affects long-term care.

Workload Surveys – James indicated there will be an APS survey (breakout of work time, reporting each activity) and in early spring there will be a caseworker survey, which will be more complex. A random moment and random day review of time seems to be more accurate.

Marc will distribute information on OPI and the Network of Care.

Liaison, Assignment, and Other Reports

Senor Medicare Patrol Project – Aileen Kaye briefly reported on giving trainings and appreciated obtaining the guides (End of Life and Financial Abuse) to distribute.

House and Supportive Services Network – Dolores reported this group deals with transportation issues.

Land Use and Housing - Dolores reported this group and the House and Supportive Services Network work together.

Dolores asked to become the liaison for both the House and Supportive Services Network and Land Use and Housing; she was appointed to both groups by John.

Discussion followed around Kathleen's request to become a liaison the month before . She was told she had to go through a Committee first. The decision was made that Kathleen would meet with John and the appointment would be under advisement.

MLTCRAQ – Eunice reported the group didn't meet during the past month. In the future it may also hold phone-in meetings.

MMA Advisory Committee – Barbara reported that the Committee is continuing to meet about training and enrollment.

Long Term Care Ombudsman Meeting – Remona reported that a successful meeting was held in October.

Liaison List – Bob commented on the seven-page spreadsheet (liaison list) discussed at the Executive Committee, and suggested tha twe may want to look at again.

ACTION ITEM: Marc will E-mail members asking what organizations they currently participate in individually, have assignments for as a GCSS member, or are liaisons to.

Alzheimer's Association – Marilyn reported the need for resources for people caring for patients at home.

Pioneer Network – Linda's printed report is in the red folders.

Home Care Commission - Kay reported she applied to replace Estill as a HCC member. The Governor is the appointing authority.

Member Submitted Items

John gave birthday cards to Jack, John, and Remona.

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Make corrections to minutes.	Becky	
Copy and mail routed materials.	Wendy	
Finalize press release and send to GCSS members.	Marc	11/05
Meet with Tom Towslee about media and a process.	Marc/Morgen	
E-mail to John Brenne and local media.	Marc	
Sign Marilyn up to receive media releases by E-mail.	Morgen	11/05

Request a police officer to speak for Mental Health.	Marc	12/05
Check with Dolores regarding video to be shown.	Marc	
E-mail Elaine a draft of the Mental Health Report.	Marc	12/05
Check with counties and communities on improvement in disaster plans.	Members	12/05
Send letter to federal Senate Finance Committee members to move to Senate regarding negotiating with pharmaceutical companies.	Marc	11/05
Revise bylaws.	Marc	12/05
Finalize training logistics for December 7 th .	Marc/John	11/05
Inform communities about MMA, SHIBA, and recruit volunteers.	Members	Ongoing
Work together with SHIBA for more funding and resources during the legislative session.	Members	Ongoing
E-mail members a request for all groups involved with. After responses, a list will be created.	Marc	
Copy and distribute information on OPI and Network of Care.	Marc	11/05