

# Minutes

## Governor's Commission on Senior Services December 9, 2005 Department of Human Services

**Members:** John Helm (Chair), Eunice Dutton (Vice-Chair), Elaine Barrett, Denise Dion, Jack Ewing, Marilyn Hinds, Kay Kirkbride, Charles Kurtz, Robert Lawrence, Jack Roberts, Kathleen Schonau, Maria Smith, Joan Staley

**Guests:** Peggie Beck, Erinn Kelley-Siel, James Toews, Cathy Cooper, Lee Girard

**Excused:** Chuck Frazier, Chris Flammang, Linda Miller, Barbara Nelson, Dolores Raymond, Remona Simpson, Kelly Wessels

**Staff:** Morgen Brodie, Becky Murphy, Marc Overbeck, Wendy Russell

### *Called Meeting to Order*

Introductions: None needed

**Motion: Approve October minutes with modifications.** (Placing both Chair and Vice-Chair at beginning of the list of members; on page 3, noting that John Brenne writes articles for the *League of Oregon Cities* magazine; under HALTC report, noting that usually someone went to the Wellness Conference, but due to budget constraints it didn't happen this year; on page 4, under the General Issues report, including that bank tellers will be trained, beginning April 2006; note the cost for "senior-friendly Red Cross packets is \$40; on page 1, changing the line to read "per diem reimbursement rates;" and noting that the rate is \$9.75 each for breakfast and lunch. *Passed.* (Jack Roberts/Jack Ewing)

**Motion:** Approve the December agenda. *Passed.* (Jack Roberts/Elaine Barrett).

### **Announcements**

Marilyn Hinds reported that she had been ill a couple weeks ago and that she had taken “anti-viral” and it worked well, but for people to beware if they have Shingles and get lesions on their nose, as it can lead to complications with vision.

Maria reminded the Commission of the importance of multivitamins.

Jack Ewing cited the website [epocrates.org](http://epocrates.org), and passed around two books published by the Orion Society: *Citizens Dissent* and *In the Presence of Fear*.

Robert talked about his observations on politics, and noted *Mother Jones* and *The Nation* magazines.

Kathleen lost her father about 3 weeks ago. She said her father had picked all his funeral arrangements and had developed a form to give to the family about his arrangements. She thought this was the kind of thing that should be included in advice to seniors.

Marc listed the items in the members’ folders, including updated lists, the proposed living will from Jack Ewing and the liaison report from Marilyn Hinds.

## Correspondence

**Incoming:** Marc noted there was a letter from Jacqueline Zimmer thanking GCSS for the certificate and the pen. There were a couple of letters from Jane Fussell, the coordinator of Certificate of Need process, about applications under review. There were 2 letters from Representative Wu’s office about proposed budget cuts and HR4241. GCSS also received the quarterly update from AARP.

**Outgoing:** There were 2 letters written to Senator Smith, one thanking him for his work on behalf of older adults in holding firm on no cuts to Medicaid and another asking him to reconsider his position on Medicare negotiating with the pharmaceutical companies for better drug prices.

## Chair’s Discussion Items

**Board and Commission Training from DAS/DOJ, Governor’s Office**—John expressed his opinion that it was helpful for it all the training and meetings this week to have been held in succession as they were. The commission members who attended the afternoon training session felt it was both very valuable and unique; some expressed a concern that members who did not attend will not “get it.” Some commissioners felt more people should have interacted during the training, and that questions should have been held until the end of each segment. Marc reported that a DVD is being made and will be available for those who could not attend.

**Long-Range Planning**—The Commission has been presented with an opportunity; the Executive Committee is recommending that the Commission join the Future of Long-Term Care planning effort being put together by DHS and SPD leadership.

Oregon's Long-Term Care model was developed about 24 years ago and now Oregon must look at new circumstances and what needs to be done, now that the baby boomers are starting to retire. SPD wants to do outreach in the field with statewide forums and GCSS has wanted to do meetings out in the field as well. DHS has invited GCSS to play a significant role in this project. James will talk more specifically about this later this afternoon. John wants to vote on whether or not to take this role by the end of the day. The Commission would voice its own opinions regarding the Report and findings.

**GCSS Statutory Charge**—John entertained discussion of the “yellow matrix” that displays the statutory requirements for the Commission. He noted that several of the items are being addressed by the Legislative Committee in the form of proposals to the full Commission.

### **Legislative Advocacy Update**

Robert Lawrence reported on the discussion and recommendations of the group from Wednesday. He talked about the idea of a Quarterly Report to the Governor—modified for others—to describe what the Commission has been doing and what the key concerns are. Jack Ewing would write up a rough draft for discussion. First issues will include legislative issues such as the Senior Companions program, and respite care and RSVP funding.

**Motion:** Develop a quarterly report to governor, DHS and legislature beginning in January 2006, covering the previous quarter's work. *Passed.* (Kathleen Schonau/Eunice Dutton)

Robert said that the committee identified four legislative Interim Task Forces/Committees that members feel need to be watched: OHP, Senate Human Services, House DHS Reorganization, and House TF on Seniors.

**Motion:** Charles moved GCSS members be required to get placed on the update lists for their local legislators, and attend town halls and local meetings wherever possible. Where members are not well-acquainted with their local legislators, they will obtain assistance from John in making that connection. *Failed.* (Charles Kurtz/Robert Lawrence) (Voting against: Barrett, Dion, Dutton, Ewing, Hinds, Kirkbride, Roberts, Schonau, Smith, Staley; abstaining: Helm)

**Motion:** All GCSS members are strongly encouraged to get placed on the update lists for their local legislators, and attend town halls and local meetings wherever possible. Where members are not well-acquainted with their local legislators, they are encouraged to obtain assistance from John in making that connection. *Passed.* (Marilyn Hinds/Elaine Barrett)

Robert reported that his group recommends the March GCSS meeting be held in Astoria.

## General Issues Update

**Publications**—Eunice Dutton reported on the distribution of the Financial Abuse booklets and the End-of-Life guides. The books are now in the 8 ½ x 11 format. There are books available at the office. 15 events have been held in 2005 and over 6,000 books were disbursed. Printing 7,000 ID theft brochures will cost around \$650. Eunice is still trying to find the original brochure and original order, and she will request the amount from Senior Forums. Janay Haas is printing a booklet on Elder law in Oregon with pertinent info for seniors; the committee referred her to Senior Forums and AARP as possible funding sources.

**Disaster Preparedness**—The committee will bring back the 72-hour kit for discussion in January. Eunice reached staff at the American Red Cross office in Oregon and they are attempting to find out about the results of the grant that enabled the kits to be distributed in Clackamas County and where the report/evaluation of that effort might be. We should have a report by January. Ken Murphy, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, will visit with the Committee in January.

**Transportation**—Deb Wert and Jean Palmateer came and discussed special needs and client transportation. The committee will continue to get updates on what communities are working on.

## **Mental Health & Addictions Update**

Elaine Barrett reported that the Committee has completed a lot of the things they had been working on previously. They viewed a video dealing with senior suicide; it had a high impact and raised awareness of things to watch for from older adults.

CJ Reid has become contact person for OMHAS, and is staffing the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Sandra Moreland is developing a Mental Health profile for older adults in Oregon, working with Denise, Chuck and Marc. Sandra Moreland will continue to provide us with analysis on SB781.

Tim Malone is teaching an internet-based class on mental health; it costs \$150 for non-credit but is also available to take for credit.

The local officer the committee expected to hear from did not show up; Marc is confirming an officer from the Portland Police Bureau for the January meeting.

The Committee will review the notes from the 2004 Planning Days at its next meeting to see if tasks have been completed, and will begin to plan for the next Planning Days in June 2006.

John appointed Marilyn as a representative from GCSS to the Older Adult Suicide Prevention Planning Group.

## Health, Abuse & Long Term Care Update

**Rescue Autumn's People**—Kay Kirkbride reported that the committee had a presentation from disability advocate Sally Lucero and Michael Hart of Multnomah County Aging and Disability Services. Sally is a citizen who has a daughter who nearly drowned, and as a result had a loss of brain function. Sally's concern was if something happened to her, how her daughter would access 9-1-1 and get out of the house, in the event of an emergency.

Sally created a program called *Rescue Autumn's People* in Multnomah county, where a "flag" is entered into the 9-1-1 system to let emergency systems know that there is a person who may have difficulty getting out. This is voluntary, based on a person's consent. Sally would like to bring this program statewide.

**Motion:** Recommend a letter to be sent to the governor asking him to have appropriate state officials meet with Sally and Multnomah County staff to see what a statewide program would look like and how much it might cost. *Passed.* (Marilyn Hinds/Jack Roberts)

**Other Issues**—Jack Roberts reported that the Malheur County issue regarding the "Meals on Wheels" program and community meal sites has been taken care of.

New concerns have come up about retirement home kitchens and who inspects them. It is very possible that this will become something that the committee would like to take a deeper look at.

## MMA Update- Christina Jaramillo & Max Brown

Many clients who were supposed to be automatically enrolled in a Part D Plan have not been. The Medicare website has many glitches, and lawsuits have been filed along with an injunction. Christina reported that the outlook for a completely successful implementation is not high, and that the Congress is thinking about loosening its deadlines.

Christina recommends that when people enroll in a program they write down confirmations of plan name, number and ID numbers and take them with them to the pharmacy the first time they use the Plan—and to get a confirmation slip sent out if enrolling online.

A temporary rule has been filed to create authority to make a decision for those who are incapable of making a decision and have no one else to help them make decisions about Medicare Part D.

## Staff Report

June Planning Days will be held at Silver Falls Conference Center. The meetings will be held on Wednesday and Thursday. Dates are June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Robert, Eunice and John will help staff

to plan. Staff has reserved rooms for 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

Morgen sent out link to the survey for the House Interim Task Force on DHS Review, and suggested that members fill out the survey.

Dr. Tina Kitchen suggested that GCSS provide the Health Services Commission with recommendations about health services and the Oregon Health Plan.

Marc distributed a list of proposed Commission dates for 2006.

**Motion:** GCSS accept the schedule of meetings as tentative. *Passed.* (Marilyn Hinds/Denise Dion)

### **State Unit on Aging Update-Lee Girard**

Lee Girard, the Team Manager in the State Unit on Aging, offered an update on the activities of the State Unit. She distributed copies of the newly printed four-year State Plan for Older Adults, and thanked Elaine, Remona, and Barbara for helping in the planning process. Lee is a delegate with Chris Flammang and Barry Donenfeld to the White House Conference on Aging.

Lee reported that standards have now been finalized for three programs: nutrition, legal services, and family service workers.

Lee explained that the State Unit has responsibility for the lifespan respite program. There is national legislation to fund lifespan respite but it may not make it through Congress, given the budget cuts that are being proposed.

Lee also talked briefly about the progress in expanding Oregon Project Independence to include younger adults with disabilities.

### **SPD Update – James Toews & Cathy Cooper**

James talked about the Future of Long-Term Care Committee, who is involved, the issues and interests and scope of this effort. There is active discussion continuing in the 7 workgroups with their assignments. Deadlines are starting to be set up for when work will be completed with recommendations. James sees this as a 3 –5 year process to really plan out the next 15-20 years for the long-term care system in Oregon. James met last month with the GCSS Executive Committee about the Commission playing a lead/host role in the gathering of public input on the plan.

The goal is to kick off a set of hearings and public forums this Spring. DHS will offer status

reports, and hope that GCSS would collect public opinion in response to whatever gets presented. James acknowledges that things will need to get very focused by March, April or May. His hope is that there will be a variety of participants from both private and public sectors involved in commenting on the plans.

**Motion:** GCSS agree to participate in a significant role in the outreach and feedback around the long range planning effort. *Passed.* (Kay Kirkbride/Elaine Barrett)

**Motion:** GCSS authorize John Helm to enter into talks with SPD to negotiate roles and details in the process. *Passed.* (Robert Lawrence/Kay Kirkbride)

James will give more information about the DHS rebalance plan as he learns more. The plan will be presented to the Emergency Board next month.

### **Governor's Office Update- Erinn Kelley-Siel**

Erinn is the Governor's Policy Advisor on Health Care and Human Services. The Governor is aware of the problems with MMA implementation, and wants to be sure that information is provided about new drug benefit to all Oregonians. Although there is much work to do in Oregon, Erinn noted our state is well ahead of the curve, thanks in large part to the great work of the MMA staff, and outreach efforts beyond DHS. Oregon received no resources from the federal government to train Oregonians on Medicare Part D.

Erinn also indicated the Governor is concerned about the Medicaid funding and how this will affect Oregonians.

The Governor is really excited about the Future of Long-Term Care Committee and the Long-Range Plan effort.

Erinn reported the Governor is aware that some of the policies from the 2004 Elder Abuse Task Force haven't yet been implemented.

Erinn would like to come back to GCSS with someone from Mental Health and perhaps the State Hospital, and talk in detail about these issues and provide that feedback to the Governor.

### **Liaison Reports**

Home Care Commission – Kay. The Home Care Commission is focusing on training of homecare workers, creating a worker registry and issues around confidentiality. DOJ explained how criminal records checks are handled and processed. Criminal checks are now being consolidated, and different departments have been using different software; now they are trying to develop one program that can hold all criminal data.

Real Choices- Eunice. The recent meeting was well attended by a diverse group of stakeholders.

A PowerPoint presentation on housing technology was shown. Members of the group were shown a new four-story complex being built out of cement and foam in Woodburn that will include a lot of new housing technology. Eunice said she was really impressed. The group will meet once every 4 months.

Eunice will send in her MLTCRAQ liaison report.

Future of Long-Term Care--Joan. Joan Staley is serving on Group #7, dealing with the integration of acute and long-term-care. She talked about caseloads and how they have declined in recent years, although experts don't believe the demand or need for services is actually declining.

**Member Submitted Items**

Denise Dion spoke with her boss, and he has offered the facilities and video conferencing resources of Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. (GOBHI) to assist with outreach to rural partners in Eastern Oregon in the Long-Range Planning process.

*Adjourned*

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Correct/revise October Minutes	Wendy Russell	12/31/05
Schedule meeting between John H and SPD leadership on Long-Range Planning community forums	Marc/SPD support staff	12/31/05
Send Minutes to Jack E and assist with developing quarterly report	Marc	1/31/06
Support members in locating local legislators	Marc, John	Ongoing
Schedule Planning Days workgroup meeting	Wendy	1/12/06
Collect feedback on Health Services Commission questions	Marc	1/15/06
Send support letter for Rescue Autumn's People to Governor	Marc	12/19/05