

Minutes

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

January 26, 2007

Department of Human Services

Members: John Helm (Chair), Elaine Barrett, Peggie Beck, John Brenne, Denise Dion, Chris Flammang, Chuck Frazier, Marilyn Hinds, Charles Kurtz, Robert Lawrence, Senator Bill Morrisette, Kathleen Schonau, Remona Simpson, and Joan Staley

Guests: Jeff Brandon, Patty Brost, Cathy Cooper, Dolores Hubert, Lucy Morgan, Marc Overbeck, Nicole Palmateer, Marjorie Reuling, Millie Salt, Ruth Shepherd, and James Toews

Excused: Eunice Dutton, Barbara Nelson, Dolores Raymond, and Kelly Wessels

Staff: Morgen Brodie, Becky Murphy, and Wendy Russell

Called Meeting to Order 10:15

Introductions: Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of minutes: Corrections – page 4, under Caregivers Committee report, “caregiving” not “Caregiver’s Toolkit”.

MOTION: Approve minutes as corrected. Passed. (Robert Lawrence/John Brenne)

Review Agenda: No changes on the agenda.

Announcements

Some area motels are not giving government rate. Members asked that staff get them a current list of who does and doesn't.

Staff Updates

Morgen reported:

- New location – housekeeping items of the building.
- Conference Room and new chairs.
- Equipment still on order.
- Parking – reported locations and staff's efforts to make parking easier.
- Motel Reservations – reminder to reserve rooms in advance.

Public Comment

Ruth Shepherd mentioned the importance of senior issues and GCSS role.

Bylaw Revisions/Liaison Assignments

A list was handed out to members of what other organizations staff had them listed as being part of as well as the list from Chuck Frazier. The lists will be reviewed again by all members and be merged into one document to be presented at the March meeting.

The suggested revisions to the bylaws were sent out 15 days prior to the Commission meeting as required. Developing a "Guest membership" application was discussed for those who will participate in more than a meeting or two. It was discovered that if members wish to be reappointed for a second term they must fill out a Governor's interest form again for the second request. The Financial Officer should be included with the Chair and the vice-chair. Financial officer third in charge after vice-chair.

MOTION: Bylaws be amended to reflect that the financial officer be elected and become an officer of the Commission. *Passed.* (Joan Staley/John Brenne)

Since there were many new suggestions given, Chuck will review them and clarify some questionable language and bring back the final version in March for Commission approval.

Committee Reports

Executive - The legislative priorities were discussed and finalized for the GCSS legislative agenda. The proposed bylaws revisions were presented. A discussion with Cathy Cooper regarding advocacy roles of staff took place.

Caregivers -Lee Girard talked of the Lifespan Respite changes and how they will affect the way the programs will work in the future. Kay reported on the rule change for Homecare Workers about criminal history rechecks.

MOTION: Support annual criminal record rechecks for homecare workers and for Kay to testify at the rules hearing. *Passed.* (Robert Lawrence/John Brenne)

Elder Abuse - They are finalizing their work plan. Kay passed on the invitation to all members who wish to join the Undue Influence Conference being held by the Washington County Sheriff's office as well as many other sponsors.

Everyday Heroes has decided that they want the campaign to be research based and would like to build their business plan and strategies around that. Marilyn requests that GCSS pay for a four-hour training in Portland on "Social Norms Theory" with Dr. Alan Berkowitz to achieve this goal. Of the four hours, 1.5 hours of the training will be on theory, 1.5 hours on case studies, and the rest of the time will be for questions and answers as well as the business plan. The cost is \$1,000.

MOTION: Allow Everyday Heroes \$1,000 for Dr. Berkowitz training on February 13th. *Passed.* (Peggie Beck/Kathleen Schonau) [Vote: 8 yes, 3 opposed, 2 abstained, and Robert declared a conflict of interest.]

Mental Health - Denise wrote a legislative proposal asking for trained geriatric mental health specialists in the various counties and the funding and it has been forwarded to legislative counsel.

MOTION: Accept legislative concept to begin implementing 2005's SB 781. *Passed.* (Kay Kirkbride/Remona Simpson)

Denise and Charles are still reviewing the county mental health plans.

Kari Lyons gave the lunch presentation yesterday regarding older adult suicide and the community forums that will be held this year. Kari does an hour training that helps get folks comfortable talking about suicide that the Commission might consider---the cost is \$100.

Legislative Advocacy

MOTION: Send letter to the Oregon delegation in support for restoring federal timber money to Oregon counties. *Passed.* (Charles Kurtz/Remona Simpson)

DHS/SPD Update

Ways & Means - The Department has started working on its Ways & Means presentation for the legislature. Each division will be presenting their PowerPoint starting the 15th of February. A handout was given. The Director has asked that advocates, providers, and clients be included in the presentations so that the legislators can ask questions on how services are being provided. Time will also be spent reporting on accountability and performance measures as well as their outcomes.

Cathy reiterated James' statement that the Department and the Seniors and People with Disabilities division (SPD) will be asking advocates to testify at the legislative Ways and Means presentations. They are asking for members of GCSS, the People with Physical Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC), the Council on Developmental Disabilities as well as various provider groups to participate.

Future of Long Term Care (FLTC) - The full committee met last week and a second draft was presented. It had more sensitivity regarding language as well as the recommendations of Workgroup #8 which were focused on disability services for younger adults. A new workgroup is being formed regarding the change in the workforce and older workers and the high demand for nursing and in-home service workers. James asked for volunteers to be involved in this new group.

Staff will get copies of the updated report to members.

Money Follows the Person Grant - Oregon did not receive the Money Follows the Person rebalance grant in the initial round. The federal government has asked for more information as well as some budget details and may approve the grant in the next round in March. The Department has to respond to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) no later than February 20th.

Other

- With the Federal Deficit Reduction Act starting to be put into effect, there will be a change in the way services are organized. Services that were once tied to waivers regarding institutional levels of care will be revised as well as possibly the whole Medicare/Medicaid program. DHS is waiting for the final regulations from the federal government.
- James also suggested that GCSS host follow up community forums regarding FLTC either this fall or next summer to increase community involvement.

- James also assured GCSS that the Department doesn't constrain in any way the work of GCSS regarding advocacy---legislative positions etc. However, there are rules on what staff is allowed to do by law.
- Cathy commended the Commission on how cost-effective and efficient GCSS is. She also reported that the Department has asked every division to take a 2% reduction in services and supplies.

Legislative Priorities

Bob went over the proposed draft positions.

MOTION: Accept legislative positions. *Passed.* (Marilyn Hinds/John Helm)

Senator Morrisette asked the Commission if there was any legislation that the Commission wished to have carried to the legislature. Right now the Senate has in working committees legislation regarding SB 364, caregiver tax credit, mental health certification, long term care tax credit, and senior companion/foster grandparent appropriations. Senator Morrisette would like to know if there is any more legislation needed.

Member Submitted Items

Marilyn brought an article from the Oregonian on the 21st January headline read "Salad please with a side of cash", it talked of corporations and healthy lifestyle incentives.

Adjourn 2:36

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Send current list of motels who take government rates.	Becky	3/07
Finalize Bylaws with all suggested changes.	Chuck	3/07
Process Everyday Heroes request.	Marilyn/Staff	3/07
Send letter of support to Oregon's delegation to support restoring timber money to Oregon counties.	Robert/Staff	3/07
Send second draft of FLTC report to commissioners.	Wendy	3/07
Deposit any donations to the Sunshine Fund.	Eunice	3/07