

Minutes

Executive Committee Governor's Commission on Senior Services

October 14, 2005
Keizer, OR

Members: John Helm (Chair), Eunice Dutton (VC), Dolores Raymond, Bob Lawrence, Elaine Barrett, Dolores Hubert

Guests: James Toews

Staff: Morgen Brodie, Wendy Leedle, Becky Murphy, and Marc Overbeck

Excused Kay Kirkbride

Call Meeting to Order 10:05

Approved the September 2005 Minutes, making corrections to include **Senior Medicare Patrol** and Low **Income** Subsidy. Also, the minutes should say **Medicare** or SHIBA on page 3, **Eunice moved to accept as corrected, Dolores R. seconded. Passed.**

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Announcements

Dolores R. received a copy of the book "Transitions;" it is to be distributed throughout Multnomah, Clackamas & Washington counties and will cost \$12. It is about funeral arrangements, long-term care, etc. Dolores R. was given a few extras and will bring them to the meeting.

Bob has been invited to the Gray Panther quarterly meeting on October 22, and asked to represent GCSS. It will review legislative activity from the 2005 Session. Bob will bring the information back to full Commission meeting.

Dolores R noted a major Affordable Housing Conference, on November 4. Dolores will go and then report at the January meeting.

Eunice spoke about the Senior Fair being held in Portland later this month, and how the Financial Abuse Coalition decided it did not have the funds to participate. Eunice

will contact AARP to see if they can share their table. She will also write a letter to the organizers of the event and let them know that we don't have funding to be a sponsor.

Dolores R. brought up Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and her concerns that there is little financial assistance this year for low-income seniors, at the same time as energy costs are increasing dramatically.

Eunice brought up disaster preparedness--There was an article in the newspaper involving disaster preparedness in Jackson County. She would like to have Ken Murphy come back and talk to the Commission, since James Toews has asked the Commission to work on it again. Communities need to be asked what they are doing now to prepare for disasters not only at the agency/program level but at all levels.

Correspondence (Marc Overbeck)

Marc noted the following correspondence since the previous meeting:

Outgoing: AARP thank you letter, letters on high cost of fuel to governor and legislators, and a letter to Patrick Robinson a letter about the "Maximizing Brief Encounters" training.

Incoming: A letter from Pioneer Network that was a solicitation to help pay for a conference in Orlando. We will not be contributing.

Chair's Discussion Items

John is reading the statute and evaluating how it relates to the GCSS bylaws and how that relates to our program activities. John is interested in providing continuity and congruence.

Legislative Advocacy Committee Report (Bob Lawrence)

Bob wants to look at the Commission's connections to advocacy and the community. These include having liaisons to the various advocacy groups such as NAMI, the housing coalition, human services coalition, and others. He feels that the Commission should find out what the "silent" community needs and wants to talk to the Governors' senior policy advisor about those.

Bob also would like a matrix of legislators by districts distributed to Commission members so that they may be able to get to know not only their legislators but also their staff.

Action: Put together a matrix of legislators by district and distribute to all commissioners.

ACTION: Send a letter to legislators about the raise in energy costs and lack of assistance. Insist we need an increase, not decrease, in LIEAP program funding. Eunice moved and Bob seconded that a letter be written. Include information from local community action and how they are not able to keep up with needs. *Passed.*

Mental Health Committee Report (Elaine Barrett)

Two primary issues that the members of the Committee have decided to focus on are reducing senior suicide and police training for working with seniors with dementia and Alzheimer's.

General Issues Committee Report (Eunice Dutton)

AARP informed Eunice that they will print 10,000 additional copies of our two publications, but will be able to print only 2,000 copies a month. The first wave will be sent to GCSS and to the most isolated areas of the state. The End of Life booklet is reaching past the Oregon borders to California.

The committee is trying to find out about 72-hour kits and about getting a person to speak from American Red Cross about disaster preparedness.

Health, Abuse & LTC (Kay Kirkbride)

Kay was unable to attend. Staff handed out a written report she prepared.

Annual Celebration----

Action: Morgen and Eunice will put together talking points. Marc will send out reminder to choose entrées. Double confirm for 50 people.

Financial (Budget) Committee---Marc noted that the committee did not intend to be an ongoing committee but will work as an ad hoc group in developing future spending plans for the Commission. The Financial Officer can work with staff to keep track of quarterly spending.

Orientation for New Members—Traditionally this has been held in October. John feels that new members should attend both the governors' orientation for boards and commissions and then a GCSS "nuts and bolts" orientation, and is interested in combining the two. The commission will wait for a full complement of new members before scheduling the GCSS orientation. The idea of a mentoring program, which could take load off staff, should be revisited.

Bylaws Revision—The new revision has been emailed out, in order to be voted on at the October meeting.

Discussion with SPD (James Toews)

James came in and asked again for the Commission to work on disaster preparedness. This would include preparing people for caring for themselves by themselves and trying to make them understand that they need to have emergency food and supplies at all times.

He also noted the reductions in staffing, the predicted increase in caseload, the increased need, and the reduction in revenue, all impacting the ability of the department to serve consumers.

Action: James will provide a written statement confirming the amount allotted within SPD's administrative fund for GCSS expenditures.

Two more commissions have been added to the cluster with the same amount of staff. This will mean that the Commission and staff will have to be more selective around what it can take on. Bob asked if GCSS funds were eligible for Title XIX match.

Action: James will check to see if GCSS funds are eligible for Title XIX match.

New Business

Marc announced that the Everyday Heroes event organized by Marilyn Hinds and her subcommittee would take place on October 19, at the beginning of the O4AD Quarterly Meeting. The Attorney General will read a proclamation regarding this day. There was discussion regarding the name of the day.

The Netware of Care “launch” will be held October 26 at 9 am in the Employment Department Auditorium.

Staff Update

Morgen talked about the workload of the Unit, and said that, with 61 commission/board members and 4 staff members, the staff capability to take on new assignments is highly unlikely. She would like to see the Commissioners taking on a more active role.

There was discussion about Planning Days and the Commission’s agenda and what is required in statute.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Revise September Minutes	Wendy	11/7/05
Compile list of legislators by Commission member	Marc	12/7/05
Send letter to legislators about increased energy costs and lack of funding in LIEAP	Marc	12/7/05
Obtain written confirmation from James regarding GCSS allotment	Morgen	12/7/05
Check on GCSS funds and eligibility for Title XIX Match	Morgen	10/28/05