

Minutes

Governor's Commission on Senior Services March 24, 2006 Department of Human Services

Members: John Helm (Chair), Eunice Dutton (Vice-Chair), Elaine Barrett, Peggie Beck, Denise Dion, Jack Ewing, Chris Flammang, Chuck Frazier, Marilyn Hinds, Kay Kirkbride, Charles Kurtz, Robert Lawrence, Barbara Nelson, Dolores Raymond, Jack Roberts, Kathleen Schonau, Remona Simpson, Maria Smith, Joan Staley

Guests: Morgan Allen, John Brenne, Julia Brown, Cathy Cooper, Lee Girard, Claudia Grimm, Dolores Hubert, Julia Huddleston, Ruth Shepard

Excused: Linda Miller, Kelly Wessels

Staff: Morgen Brodie, Marc Overbeck, Wendy Russell

Called Meeting to Order 9:05

Introductions: Introductions took place of members and guests.

Approval of January Minutes: Under the Health, Abuse and LTC report on page 7, the word 'caseworker' needs to be deleted.

Jack Roberts/Joan Staley motion to accept minutes as revised. *Passed.*

Review of Agenda: There were no changes.

Announcements: Jack Ewing talked about a book that he has been reading by the name of *Plan B* by Lester Brown, who is an Environmental Analyst for the Earth Policy Institute.

Eunice let committee members know that an article on technology based communities could be found in their folders.

Jack Roberts brought up the issue of payday loans, and that Oregon is one of the few states that do not have an interest cap on them. He suggested that the issue be brought up at the next Financial Abuse Coalition meeting.

Motion: Send a letter of thank you to Governor Roberts for all she has done for human services, and congratulating her on the honor of having the Human Services Building named after her. Chris Flammang/Remona Simpson. *Passed.*

Dolores asked that commissioners talk to their cities about mobile home park closure issues and try to pass ordinances like in Wilsonville, and talk to legislators about passing bills that would be beneficial to those residents who are displaced. Dolores feels that it is very important for senior groups play an active role in this issue.

Morgan Allen of Oregonians for Nursing Home Safety came and discussed Initiative 105, also know as the Nursing Home Resident Safety Act. This initiative is said to be backed by more than 800 nursing home workers, as well as nursing home inspectors. It would require higher staffing levels in nursing homes. There were 14,000 violations reported in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, according to Mr. Allen. John asked if this was something that the HALTC committee could look into.

Correspondence: The correspondence log was circulated. A letter was sent to Secretary Leavitt regarding Medicare Part D in February, two letters were received from PDAC as copies that were also sent to Sharon Miller of the Home Care Commission, Chris Warner of the Governor's office also replied to the GCSS letter regarding the cost of gas and its impact on volunteerism.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Legislative Advocacy Update—Robert Lawrence

Rick Bennett, the director of advocacy for AARP came and discussed what the criteria are for AARP to get involved in the legislative arena. Rick told the committee what initiatives AARP is supporting and opposing. Some other activities AARP is involved in are: adding FTE for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's office, preventing ID Theft, manufactured housing issues, and payday loans.

Lee Girard also came in and gave an overview of the legislative tool on the Network of Care internet site. She asked committee members to suggest any improvements. Charles Kurtz will be writing the next quarterly report. Charles has asked the chairs of each committee to write a paragraph or two stating what they have done in the latest quarter and any concerns. The deadline that committee chairs have to have information turned in by April 14th.

General Issues Update—Eunice Dutton

Dawn Phillips talked about HB2389, also known as the Krummel bill. It provides a tax credit for those who are displaced due to mobile home park closing of up to \$10,000 beginning in 2007.

Motion: GCSS send a letter to Oregon Housing and Community Services asking to add the question to the homeless count questionnaire about mobile home park displacement. Eunice Dutton/Joan Staley. Passed.

Eunice reported on the disaster preparedness conferences that she attended where both keynote speakers were from Florida. The speakers presented much advice how to be better prepared for both natural and man-made disasters.

Mental Health & Addictions Update—Elaine Barrett

Elaine handed out a book written by her husband regarding alcohol abuse. Remona shared the OMHAS block grant information.

Motion: That the Commission spend the money for the registration fee for the McGinty conference on Alzheimer's on April 11th in Lake Oswego so Barbara Nelson can attend and report back. Elaine Barrett/Marilyn Hinds. Passed.

Bob Miller from OMHAS presented how the counties are implementing SB781 and will be reporting back to the committee after reviewing the county plans.

Health, Abuse & Long Term Care Update—Kay Kirkbride

Marilyn reported on Everyday Heroes and that they held their first meeting on February 9th when people from 13 groups attended. They are in the process of gathering additional partners. The count is now up to 18 groups participating, and the campaign has divided into five subcommittees. The next meeting is on April 6th.

Marc talked about the *Rescue Autumn's People* program and what had been done since the last commission meeting. Marc, Sally Lucero and staff from EMS about the Budget and Management Division met on feasibility and costs of the system. There may be another meeting in April, but at this point Sally is working on a proposal to bring before the 2007 Legislative Assembly.

There was a brief discussion on the gerontology conference being held at OSU. Chuck Frazier is part of the planning committee, so he will be attending and Marilyn Hinds will be the other commissioner attending.

Long-Range Planning for Seniors and People with Disabilities Overview of Population Trends, Service Demands, Forecasts

Julia Huddleston, Manager
Julia Brown, Data Analyst
SPD Budget and Forecasting

Julia Huddleston brought some of the data planned for presentation at the Long-Range Planning forums being hosted by GCSS. There was a computer presentation along with some population/needs maps for the commissioners to review. Commissioners gave suggestions and ideas on how to make the information easier to understand for people. Julia will bring back another draft for discussion in April.

Using information from the census database and population projections we will be able to present the forecast of population trends and service demands for the whole state and for every county.

MMA Updates

Claudia Grimm,
Jane-ellen Weidanz

Claudia handed out information showing people enrolled in Medicare Part D, which came out from CMS on March 23rd. She also passed out an activity summary of what SHIBA has been doing. SHIBA has turned in their grant request for next year's funds, and will hear by the end of March whether they will receive what they asked for. The grant is based on the total Medicare beneficiaries in Oregon.

Jane-ellen reported on how DHS has been handling the issues with dual eligible clients in Oregon. The staffing will continue on the hotline through March 2007. So far, over 5,000 dual eligible clients have been helped by DHS staff and volunteers. There is some concern with the CMS system overriding all the work done at the state level to fix issues in regards to co-payments and low income subsidies.

State Unit on Aging Update

Lee Girard

Lee handed out information regarding May being Older Americans month. Activities have been planned throughout the state.

SPD Update

Cathy Cooper

Cathy gave a brief update on the DHS budget. The April rebalance is scheduled for the 5th and 6th. The new number for the DHS shortfall is \$140 million. Cathy has heard there will be no action taken during the April E-board on this, since there is talk of the legislature holding a special session for this purpose. SPD has an \$11.5 million shortfall due largely to changes in caseload from what the forecasts had suggested.

Cathy also spoke about the new MMIS. The department combined the different parts of human services back in 1996 but the electronic data systems that the department has been using are outdated and are not compatible with each other. The department is in the process of putting together a system that will be operational by July of 2007 for all departments to be compatible. This is a \$70 million project that is web-enabled. It will help with information sharing throughout the department, as well as with electronic payments.

Members asked Cathy what the SPD was hoping to achieve from the community

forums. The idea is that these forums could begin a whole wave of smaller meetings with different members of the community--not just advocates but people in general, transportation providers, builders, community leaders, and other people with a vested interest.

Planning Days Discussion

The topic of this month's discussion was—**What are the goals of planning days?** The ideas of a platform, an action plan and work plans to accomplish the various goals were brainstormed by commission members, and members added to the list of what they would like to see Planning Days used for. Another part of planning days will be discussed at the April commission meeting.

Chair's Report

John welcomed comments and suggestions on what was heard from Julia about the forecasting as well as any dialogue members felt was important that was discussed in subcommittee meetings.

There was a general consensus that a name for these meetings needs to reflect life choices for the future, not "long-term" or "long-range" which people tend to think of nursing homes or death. Also everyone agreed that the target audience needs to include the "younger" seniors 40-50 year old age group. The scheduling of these community forums brought some concern, since the people who ought to be at these forums are probably working during the morning hours. There was consensus that the questions also need to be written so that the average person can understand what is being asked, approximately at an 8th grade reading level.

The May commission meeting will be held in Eugene since that is where the community forum will be held the day before.

Staff Updates

Marc reported that the last 2 meetings of the United We Ride advisory committee have been canceled.

The staff respectfully requested that if a commissioner is unable to make the meetings to please let Marc, Becky, Morgen or Wendy know so that lunch can be cancelled to save money.

After several complaints about the temperature of the room and the chairs the staff will look into moving commission and committee meetings from room 166 in the Human Services Building to Cherry Avenue.

DHS Accounting has now given the GCSS allocation numbers to Marc and Charles and showed how it matches up with actual expenditures and the expenditure plan. Charles

expressed how pleased he was with the reports.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.