

Minutes

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

April 27, 2006

Department of Human Services

Members: John Helm, Charles Kurtz, Robert Lawrence, Jack Ewing, Marilyn Hinds, Remona Simpson, Jack Roberts, Denise Dion, Peggie Beck, Maria Smith, Chris Flammang, Chuck Frazier, Kay Kirkbride, Kathleen Schonau, Joan Staley, Kelly Wessels

Guests: John Brenne, Ruth Shepherd, David Taylor

Excused: Eunice Dutton, Linda Miller

Absent

Staff: Morgen Brodie, Marc Overbeck, Wendy Russell

Called Meeting to Order 12:20

Introductions: Were made around the room.

Approval of March minutes: Joan Staley was present. **Beck/Simpson approved as corrected.**

Review Agenda: Josh Hardage will not be coming today since there is a good chance that meetings will not be held at the Human Services Building in the future. Due to scheduling difficulties Lee Girard will be sending her staff for her update.

Announcements

Marc's daughter will be joining us this afternoon for "Take Your Child to Work Day."

Robert - Clackamas County will be holding an Advocacy Forum from 1:00 – 5:00 May 3rd at Willamette View Terrace. This is a joint project of the Clackamas County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, Community Action Board and Disability Advocates Coalition.

Joan - Gary DiCenzo is the new director of Clackamas County Health and Human Services.

Kelly - Announced that it was National Volunteer Recognition Week and thanked everyone involved in volunteering.

Jack R. - Reported that AARP is supporting Initiative 122 which would permit Oregonians with no drug coverage to be part of a prescription drug plan that would lower the costs of many drugs.

Morgen - Reported that it was Secretary Appreciation Week and thanked Wendy for her hard work.

Chuck - US Senate Bill 1955 introduced by Michael Enzi, is in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. Vote on the floor to be scheduled for early in May. The bill strips states' powers to regulate health insurance. Consequences: recent mental health bill would be defunct, mammograms as well as other screenings would not be covered. The Governor sent a letter to both senators asking them to oppose due to its crucial hit on consumer protection. Chuck suggested the Commission should take official stance.

Marc - Thanks for patience with staff since the meeting was not being held in the Human Services Building and materials are more difficult to access.

Marc - Morgen graduated from Leadership Academy and received the Integrity award.

Morgen - Jane-ellen and Max Brown will be taking over the legislative coordination for SPD. The Unit may be moving to 676 Church St. Commissioners are welcome to contact Morgen with any thoughts or questions about this potential move.

Correspondence

Marc announced that we had sent two letters in the past month—to former Governor Barbara Roberts congratulating her on her honor, and to Acting Housing and Community Services Director Rick Craeger about the annual Homeless Survey.

Public Input

Ruth Shepherd - Passed around the 3rd and 4th Biennial Reports to the Governor on Aging for the members to peruse and return. She talked about how the states now have all control of sale and authorization of insurance and handed out some information regarding a long-term health insurance issue. The group she talked about is looking for uniform code accepted by all states in regard to Long-term Care. The proposed legislation in Oregon allows LTC insured people who have exhausted their private LTC insurance to access Medicaid without spending down their assets. Ruth is asking for a volunteer from GCSS to be part of the insurance division advisory committee.

Facilitator Training

David F. Taylor

David passed out a handout giving members basic information on how best to facilitate small group discussions at the community forums. David, Marc, and Morgen answered the Commissioners' questions regarding how the forums might look and how to handle interruptions.

Potential goals are:

1. Share information on the aging of Oregon.
2. Stimulate responses/identify choices (problem-solving) or: what are our opportunities? on an individual/family level, community level, and state level.

Robert and Marilyn practiced fielding questions from an audience, where difficult behaviors were taking place.

State Unit on Aging Update

Lynda Dyer/Rhonda Buedefeldt

Oregon Project Independence (OPI) implementation work group: There is a large workgroup currently working on eligibility determination. Who should or shouldn't be charged for case management and what the parameters should be. The initial intake, screening, and referral would still be free but if it was determined that someone was ineligible for free case management, then costs would incur. There is also the idea of a \$5 fee at annual reassessment. If someone could not afford the reassessment fee the bill would not go to collections due to its small amount.

SB870: Shifted a small portion of money (\$250,000) from the General Fund to a trust fund. Interest accrued on the senior tax deferral revolving account, which is now about \$12 million in size, will also go into this trust fund. Part of this money will be for public education around LTC planning and resources. Also the Network of Care's county pages should be enhanced within the next 6 months.

OPI: Services are figured on a sliding scale. It allows case planning and management to also be fee based. OPI will be also open to people over 19 with disabilities. The average cost is \$192 monthly cost per participant but the cost varies with services depending on locality.

Rhonda spoke about activities that the State Unit on Aging has planned for May as Older Americans Month; she provided the radio script for public services announcements that will be aired throughout Oregon, and the proclamation from the Governor. She handed out the Choices for Independence Administration on Aging white paper and discussed it. Tom Towslee is sending out news releases to the newspapers for May. A newsletter has been sent to the Area Agencies on Aging and a pamphlet giving information on the Network of Care have also been distributed for Older Americans Month.

Overview of State Economic Trends

Tom Potiowski

Tom explained quarterly forecasts and how they drive the General Fund forecast. The May 2007 revenue forecast is what sets the state budget ceiling for the 07-09 biennium. Tom gave a PowerPoint presentation that showed the natural effects of a mature business cycle and answered questions from Commissioners on how Oregon's economy is doing and what is predicted for the future..

Adjourn 4:15

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Motion: Write a letter to representatives and senators that we are in opposition of US Senate Bill 1955.	Staff	5/1/06