

# Minutes

## Governor's Commission on Senior Services

3420 Cherry Avenue, Salem  
Department of Human Services  
June 23, 2006

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

**Guests:** Holli Crown, Barry Donenfeld, Emily Katz, Sally Lawson, Marilyn Piki, Ruth Shepherd

**Excused:** Denise Dion, Kay Kirkbride, Linda Miller, Kelly Wessels

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

### Called Meeting to Order 9:10 a.m.

Introductions: Introductions were made of both members and guests.

Approval of May minutes: Move that the May minutes be accepted as written. Robert Lawrence/John Brenne. *Passed.*

Review Agenda: The only change was that the Annual Celebration discussion will be deferred until next meeting.

### Announcements

Dolores Raymond spoke of the passing of Elizabeth Kutza, PhD of the Oregon Gerontological Association. Motion to send a contribution from the Sunshine Fund in memory of all of her service to older Americans. Dolores Raymond/Robert Lawrence. *Passed*

Jack Roberts reported that the Governor signed the appropriation regarding payday loans on April 26<sup>th</sup>. He also talked about the latest *AARP Living*, which had an article about ideal living communities and facilities and the 3 best cities in which to live from that perspective.

Charles Kurtz would like the Commission to have a discussion about going to the legislature and asking for an exemption or change in law so that the Commission may take a position on initiatives and referendums.

Robert Lawrence reported that a 92-year old woman died and left \$1.25 million to the library and also to the adult center in his area.

Marilyn Hinds gave an update on how Everyday Heroes is progressing. She received a note of interest from a television producer of a community access channel. She suggested that a letter be sent to the Governor thanking him for his promotion of Everyday Heroes. The Public Service Announcements the Governor was part of are available through Tom Towslee.

Kathleen Shonau showed some concern that MMA Part D will start including a means test. She is worried that the wealthier will opt out and opt instead for private insurance, causing a dual level system of care. This is in regards to PL108-173.

Maria Smith brought a book: *Prescription for Dietary Wellness* and suggested that all members take a look at it. She also spoke about Red Mill products.

Dolores participated in the community close-up in follow up to the forum. She would like the Commission to send Barbara Simon a thank you for the city giving up on of their slots on the community cable access channel.

Marc explained where the missing members of the Commission were. Linda Miller is leaving next month. Kelly is in meeting in Seattle, Denise is ill, and Kay found out her daughter won a prestigious award from college and is honoring her at her ceremony.

Eunice is working on member bios, and requests that people please get her the information she needs.

Robert Gordon sent out an email that Charles Kurtz expressed concern about, which stated that member applications have been lost. Marc responded that the applications did not contain SSNs or confidential material to his knowledge. As a follow-up, staff will develop a protocol for securing this information and what happens to applications which come to our office.

## **Correspondence**

The Commission received correspondence from the mayor of Lake Oswego and from Ken Van Pool, who is a staff member with the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

## **Staff Updates**

A Copy of the Oregon Benchmarks was handed out. Marc noted there are very few that directly touch on the quality of life for older Americans except for numbers 51 and 58. Moved that the staff try to contact the Progress Board and find out how the Commission might give input. Marilyn Hinds/Peggie Beck. *Passed.*

## Public Input

Ruth Shepherd offered to give a presentation on the Intergenerational Activities Program she was part of at a later date.

## Discussion of Community Forums

Marc handed out copies of the comments and questions from each of the community forums through Medford (Bend and Salem not yet included). Over 500 people have attended to date; the staff has a grid of each person who signed in at each of the meetings. Marc and Morgen discussed getting a process together to develop a report to the Governor that can also be included in DHS's next steps and additional work.

Robert, Eunice, Charles, Chuck, Barbara will be part of a group to put together an outline of how the report might look. This group will present something to the Commission at the July meeting.

## Conversation with Local Senior Provider Network

**Sally Lawson** from the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) known as Northwest Senior and Disabled Services (NWSDS) came and talked with the Commission. There are 17 AAA's in Oregon. NWSDS offers a family caregiver support program, senior peer counseling, SHIBA and meal sites. There is a real need for volunteers. Sally talked of the real need for transportation and housing for both seniors and people with disabilities. She distributed several handouts to members.

**Marilyn Piki** from the Salem Senior Center brought handouts about what a senior center is, and the different levels of center, and what is offered at each. They serve an average of 600 people a day. She spoke of the different programs offered and how feedback from the community dictates what is available at the center.

**Holli Crown** from Salem/Keizer Transit came and talked to the Commission about how the transportation needs for the area seniors are met. She talked about how the Paratransit (Cherry Lift) eligibility policy has changed and that interested parties need to fill out an application have doctor verification as well as an in-person interview to see who truly needs non-fixed route transportation. She passed out information on Salem's travel training program and answered Commissioner questions.

## **Conversation with Barry Donenfeld on the Future of Long Term Care**

Barry has been the director of NWSDS for 16 years and current chair of O4AD and also does consulting on strategic thinking with other states. He offered his help to the Commission to break down the information learned at the forums and help mold it into a manageable size report. He recommended the Commission use guiding principles and values to create a vision statement for the future of long-term care. He reminded Commissioners that the decisions brought forth from their report will not only impact seniors but also people with disabilities.

## **SPD Update- Cathy Cooper**

There is a new workgroup being formed in regards to the Future of Long-Term Care focusing on demographic information around people with disabilities and how the 7 questions presented in the report affect them. Commissioners brought up the fact that geriatric mental health is the least funded and that it also needs to be addressed.

More than 500 people attended FLTC forums hosted by GCSS throughout the state. Cathy spoke on the in-home care program audit report from the Secretary of State. She answered questions that members had about how the audit works and if there were case worker violations.

Cathy reassured members about the new federal identity requirement for any services that will affect about 70,000 people in Oregon. She told members that people would not be cut off of services on July 1 if unable to show acceptable identification and that the state will attempt to help all who need it in getting needed records.

## **GCSS Planning Days**

Marc informed members that sufficient lodging accommodations are not available at Silver Falls. Staff will be checking out Canby Grove which has hotel-style lodging to see if it will be acceptable.

Marla Rae has graciously accepted the request and will be the facilitator on Wednesday night and Thursday.

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

Lee spent a week in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the National Alliance on Information and Referral Assistance for aging programs. She gave a presentation on the Network of Care. They are trying to improve the functionality of the state/local calendar, search functions and put a DHS facility locator on Network of Care. She plans on demonstrating "the Advocator," which is a stand-alone tool that will be more useful for the legislative committee. There is also an E-learning tool opportunity available and call tracking system that has been implemented. Additional development of the facility locator will

take place. Additional information on recent survey findings is available. There is an interest to look at disaster preparedness and emergency planning and figuring out how to get it on Network of Care.

Lee talked about a Senior Medicare Patrol Grant opportunity for Oregon. The federal Agency on Aging has Integration Project grants, open to current Senior Medicare Patrol grantees. There will be 14 awards, up to 2 years and up to \$100,000 per year. The focus for the grant is health care integrity. The application is due on July 19.

DME fraud is most likely place we can make an impact. Lee asked Commissioners to email any questions and comments to Lee or Marc so that he can pass it on. She would like a letter of support for this potential grant opportunity. It will go to the Executive Committee.

### **MMA, Budget Updates-Jane-ellen Weidanz**

Jane-ellen explained how the DHS budget is developed. Questions were answered on when the best time for input on policy option packages (POPs) would be. Advocates need to talk to the Department about potential POPs in January or February of even numbered years and in the fall during odd number years. The Department is required to submit its budget request to the Governor by September 1, 2006. The Governor presents his budgeting to the Legislature by December 1, 2006.

### **Member Submitted Items**

Robert attended the legislative Emergency Board and reported that there was a DHS operations review underway.

### **Adjourn: 2:20**

<b>Action Item:</b>	<b>Assigned To:</b>	<b>Deadline:</b>
Send Contribution in memory of Beth Kutza	Staff	7/06
Contact Oregon Progress Board regarding dialogue	Marc	7/06