

# Minutes

## Governor's Commission on Senior Services

January 23, 2004  
Keizer, Oregon

**Members:** Dolores Hubert, Chair; Mariana Bornholdt; John Brenne; Don Butsch; Estill Dietz; Eunice Dutton; Elton Greeley; Mary Harvey; Mary Lawrence; Helen Liere; Tim Malone; Linda Miller; Dolores Raymond; Remona Simpson; Ham Jackson; Jack Ewing; Bob White; and Maria Smith.

**Guests:** Bob Lawrence, James Toews, Jerry Cohen

**Staff:** Jane-ellen Weidanz and Sherry L. Whitehead

**Excused:** Eleanor Spangler, Harvey Roth

### *Called Meeting to Order*

Approved December 2003 minutes with corrected format.

Jane-ellen reviewed correspondence.

### **Announcements**

“Boomers & Seniors” event will be held at the State Fair Grounds February 20 & 21, 2004. (Jane-ellen has free tickets available)

Discussed ways to publicize future agendas to capture the attention of potential advocates. Commission wants new members introduced during Announcements.

Action items:	Assigned to:	Deadline:
Update GCSS Roster	Sherry	01/28/04

### **Introduction of New Staff**

Sherry Whitehead is the new advocacy staff support for Governor's Commission on Senior Services, OA-DSAC and Advocacy Coalition. She will be working with Jane-ellen.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Discussed liaison assignments.

At the last Executive Committee meeting, Deanna Hartwig, SPD, discussed the different waivers SPD has to provide services to people in the community. Any pending waiver amendments are on hold.

Action items:	Assigned to:	Deadline:
Update liaison list with contact information.	Staff	03/12/04

## General Issues Committee

Eunice Dutton gave an update of the General Issues Committee including an update on identity theft, disaster preparedness, and the Transportation Subcommittee. The meeting resulted in the following motions:

**MOTION: Produce a brochure and poster on identity theft to disseminate to locations where seniors will see it.** (Eunice Dutton) *Passed*

**MOTION: Send a letter to Jacqueline Zimmer Jones, O4AD, asking her to incorporate an identity theft speaker at their November conference.** (Eunice Dutton) *Passed*

**MOTION: Send a letter to the AAA Directors and SPD Program managers asking them what they have done recently regarding disaster preparedness, including; are they involved in local disaster planning, have they been involved in any drills and have they talked with clients about disaster preparedness.** (Eunice Dutton) *Passed*

## Mental Health & Addictions Committee

Bob White gave an update on local affiliations, the Suicide Prevention Workgroup, OMHAS, and Mental Health Advocacy. The meeting resulted in the following motions.

**MOTION: Table Goal #5, “Investigate possible linkages with law-enforcement,” to Planning Days.** (Bob White) *Passed*

**MOTION: Send a letter to Barry Kast, Health Services, James Toews, SPD, Bob Nikkel, OMHAS and Barry Donenfeld, O4AD regarding the fact that seniors are consistently under-represented in the publicly funded mental health system and the problem should be addressed in the DHS legislative and policy packages.** (Bob White) *Passed*

**MOTION: That we adopt the Committee’s recommendations for a strategy/process for pursuing a legislative solution to the Commission’s concerns regarding Oregon’s mental health system.** *See Mental Health & Addictions Committee minutes for details.* (Bob White) *Passed*

## Legislative Advocacy Committee Update

Helen Liere gave an update on federal issues, Revenue Options Subcommittee, mandated state commissions, legislative recommendations to DHS, O4AD conference proposal, and the advocacy plan. The meeting resulted in the following motions.

**MOTION: Send a letter of support for S 538, the Lifespan Respite Bill, to the House members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.** (Helen Liere) *Passed*

**MOTION: Send a letter to state commission chairs to gather their opinions on developing legislation to create mandated state commissions within the Older Americans Act. (Helen Liere) *Passed***

**MOTION: That we send a letter to James Toews, SPD, recommending that SPD submit legislative proposals on the issues the committee recommended. *See Legislative Committee minutes for details.* (Helen Liere) *Passed***

**MOTION: Amend the above motion to include the following issue, the ban of weapons in Long Term Care Facilities. (Helen Liere) *Passed***

### **Health and LTC Committee Update**

Mary Lawrence gave an update on the Wellness Subcommittee, Residential Care Facility Rules Committee, OMAP, liaison assignments, and long term care facility issues. The meeting resulted in the motion regarding the weapons ban in Long Term Care Facilities.

### **SPD/O4AD “New Front Door” Update**

During the O4AD January 2004 meeting, the “New Front Door” concept was introduced. The proposal is to build “a new front door” to Oregon’s aging and disability services so many more people can access information; education, support and assistance for their long term care needs, regardless of income and level of disability. The committee expressed concerns with the idea; they believe that there should have been more information gathered from a broader group and they don’t want money spent on this new system if money will be taken away from current services.

<b>Action items:</b>	<b>Assigned to:</b>	<b>Deadline:</b>
Members should answer the following questions regarding the “New Front Door”: What are your initial impressions? What are the positive concepts? What are the negative concepts? What is missing? Email Jane-ellen by deadline.	Staff	02/12/04

### **Update from OA-DSAC’s Visioning meeting**

Don & Helen meet with the OA-DSAC regarding advocacy efforts. The concerns of the diminished advocacy efforts by and for people with disabilities and seniors. Discussed ways to increase and improve advocacy. The Groups identified the barriers, needs, issues, and strategies to work towards advocacy growth.

### **Update from O4AD Quarterly**

O4AD invited the Governor’s Commission on Senior Services to help co-sponsor an advocacy summit in conjunction with O4AD conference in November. GCSS initiated this event in 2000. We are working with OA-DSAC on enhancing advocacy so we shall meet with them again before making a decision.

## SPD Update

James Toews, SPD, discussed the impacts of Measure 30, the rebalance in the budget, disappropriations in SPD area, and calculated cost shifts. People are scared to enter into services now, private or state, because of the instabilities. Discussions are going to be started with Washington's aging administration in regards to Washington residents entering Oregon long-term care facilities.

## Impact of Ballot Measure 30 Update

Jerry Cohen, AARP State Director gave an informational update.

## Staff Update

Planning days will be held June 23 – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the Agate Beach Inn, Newport. Please plan to be available for all three days. Labels for the thank you cards have been updated. Members at the end of their term with GCSS that are going to seek reappointment need to inform Jane-ellen as soon as possible.

## Home Care Commission Update

Estill is unofficially acting as chair until a new chair is appointed. Sharon Miller's letter of appointment, as executive secretary, has not been received.

Oregon received some of the "Robert Wood Johnson Group Grants" funding.

Cindy Hannum will be Chair of the new Education Committee.

## Medicaid Long Term Care Quality And Reimbursement Advisory Council

Eunice reported on the Council. The staff person for SPD that was sent to the last meeting was supposed to be well versed on the issues. However, she could not answer many questions. Nursing Facility tax rules and Waivers were discussed.

## Member Concerns

Members requested an updated list of lawsuits from Jean Thorne's office.

Action items:	Assigned to:	Deadline:
Mariana want the number of retiring staff within DHS by cluster.	Jane-ellen	02/27/04
Request an update on the DHS Lawsuits.	Jane-ellen	02/27/04