

Minutes

Governor's Commission on Senior Services September 23, 2005 Department of Human Services

Members: Dolores Hubert (Chair), Eunice Dutton (VC), Elaine Barrett, Don Butsch, Estill Deitz, Jack Ewing, Chris Flammang, Chuck Frazier, Marilyn Hinds, Kay Kirkbride, Charles Kurtz, Robert Lawrence, Barbara Nelson, Jack Roberts, Kathleen Schonau, Remona Simpson, and Maria Smith

Guests: Peggie Beck, John Brenne, Cathy Cooper, Denise Dion, Christina Jaramillo, Joan Staley, and Kelly Wessels

Excused: None

Absent: None

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

Called Meeting to Order

Introductions were made.

Approved July 2005 Minutes as corrected. *Passed.* (Don Butsch/Estill Deitz) It was requested last names be included and to list liaison names.

Reviewed and approved Agenda with additions. The additions were Jack Ewing and Kathleen under Public Input and Real Choices Grant under Liaison Reports.

Announcements

The Governor has appointed a new Chair, John Helm. Congratulations!

There will be MMA Training (train-the-trainer) on the morning of October 27, 2005.

Sam Epperson has left the unit and Wendy Leedle is now on board.

The Legislative and Advocacy Team had a planning meeting. Marc read the team's mission and values. If interested, copies are available.

Marc reported on the materials he was routing for members to request copies.

Correspondence

Outgoing: (1) Letter to Bryan Johnston with input on qualities needed in the next DHS director. (2) Letter to Michael Pittman, PERS Board, in support of only using the last four digits of the SSN to reduce the possibility of identity theft. (3) Letter to the Governor asking him to allow HB 2389 to become law without his signature. (4) Letter to the Governor encouraging his signature on SB 781.

Incoming: (1) Letter from Representative Wu regarding VA Health Care. (2) Letter from Senator Smith regarding SMJ 8. (3) Letter from David Tyler, PERS, in response about the new process of only using the last four characters of the SSN on checks and statements. (4) Letter from the Governor regarding John Helm's appointment. (5) Letter to Bob Lawrence, thanking him for his work with Oregon Law Commission work group.

Public Input

Jack Ewing gave a brief book report on "The Hundredth Monkey", regarding atomic energy and its dangers (an analogy on voting, etc.).

Kathleen reported working on a research project; she would like to be a liaison to this group. Dolores Hubert told her she needed to submit the request through the Health, Abuse and Long-Term Care Committee first and then to the full commission.

Legislative Advocacy Update

Marc has pictures of the signing ceremony of SB 781. The federal funding of relief efforts was discussed.

MOTION: Send a letter to the federal delegation about not going into debt, repealing the tax cuts, and not cutting medical or social services to fund hurricane disaster relief. *Passed.*
(Don Butsch/Chris Flammang)

Other federal issues to be concerned about are: the Older Americans Act reauthorization, MMA's possible postponement, and possible Medicaid cuts.

General Issues Update

Eunice reported two guests, Peggie Beck and Judith Havas, were interested applicants for GCSS (has approval of the chair).

Jerry Cohen of AARP, told Eunice 10,000 more End of Life and Financial Abuse Guides will be ordered. It probably will take up to three months for printing and distribution. Eunice mentioned

that both guides went fast at the Elder Abuse Conference. Marc reported both guides (English, Spanish, and Russian versions) should be posted on the website by October 15th. At that time a news release will be made.

MOTION: Send a “thank you” letter to AARP for printing and distribution of guides with carbon copy to their national office. *Passed.* (Eunice Dutton/Kay Kirkbride)

The Financial Abuse Coalition is moving forward; a new AARP member is also on board.

Eunice reported the committee plans to invite Deb Wert (Transportation) to come back in December.

Dolores Raymond will continue to work with the Senior Coalition on Housing. A workgroup has been formed (Kelly, Remona, Elaine, Kathleen, and Eunice) to work on the housing research project.

John reminded the committee that the 211 information line is for limited areas but the Network of Care website is meant for people to be able to access the resources they need.

To help prevent identity theft, it was mentioned that HB 2746A, passed in August, removes the Oregon’s driver’s license number from DMV placards.

James Toews has asked GCSS to revisit disaster preparation.

Mental Health & Addictions Update

Elaine reported a copy of the County Mental Health Plans will be requested when approval is received. The State Plan has been approved. Information from both will give a good baseline for future pursuit of services and funding.

Kathy Irwin of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training was a speaker. There will be more training on mental health issues but they are still asking for input. Other members mentioned that the training will be longer (classroom and practical aspects). The Committee in the near future plans to invite a police officer for the perspective of law enforcement “on the street”.

Marilyn reported on the Older Americans Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee that is working on a prevention plan for Oregon communities.

MOTION: To have Marilyn be a liaison to the Older Americans Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee. *Passed.* (Elaine Barrett/Remona Simpson)

Denise reported on her agency applying for a grant for suicide prevention in rural areas. Articles and statistics are available.

Since SB 781 provided no funding, GCSS would like to pursue funding in support of its goals. GCSS can also endorse appropriate grants. Discussion about conflict of interest if members are pursuing the endorsement for their grant application.

Elaine mentioned a possible video to be shown at the next meeting.

There was discussion on pain management, HOSPICE, the Medical marijuana law, and livingworks.com (for seniors as well as suicide, links to research and training).

Health, Abuse & Long Term Care Update

Estill reported the committee will keep the subcommittee structure but reverse the order of the meeting agenda to have the full committee meeting first and then the subcommittees.

Wellness - Estill reported this subcommittee's focus is nutrition, and Sharon Johnson's previous presentation on Food and Fun, Maximizing Brief Encounters.

MOTION: Send letter to AAAs and Senior Corps Projects recommending "Maximizing Brief Encounters program". *Passed.* (Estill Deitz/Don Butsch)

Adult Foster Care - Kay reported on adult foster home training (provider substitutes), the revised manual, and meeting with Mickey.

APS/Abuse - Marilyn reported on "Everyday Heroes" and thanked all for their involvement in the planning, as it was a team effort. The subcommittee has been planning October 19th as "Vulnerable Oregonians" Day; and has been planning an event with emphasis on awareness.

MOTION: Permission to go ahead with Marilyn's Everyday Heroes Program and move forward on the event for Vulnerable Day. *Passed.* (Estill Deitz/Jack Roberts)

Morgen reported that the Governor is signing SB 106 in Portland separately.

There is a shortage of volunteers that do delivery services because of gas prices.

MOTION: Send letters in response to gas prices and lack of volunteers:

- **To congressional delegation for them to be aware of shortage of services and volunteers because of gas costs.**
- **To gas companies (foundations, public relations), national and state, regarding possible vouchers for volunteers to use.**
- **To Governor explaining the problem of high gas prices and lack of volunteers at congregate sites, meals on wheels, transportation, and respite care services which will impact the state.**
- **To the E-Board explaining how having fewer volunteers will impact the state.**
- **To Myer Memorial Trust for assistance for volunteers.**
- **To REVSP directors requesting for help.**

Drafted letters to be sent to members for review with Dolores Hubert as the point person.

Passed. (Dolores Hubert/Jack Roberts)

Executive Committee Update

Dolores briefly reported on her last Executive Committee as chair:

Marc drafted the legislative accomplishments of the 2005 session to be distributed among members, legislators, etc. Copies for all to review.

The ad hoc Financial Committee recommended GCSS to have a Financial Officer. The Executive Committee decided to make the recommendation to the full Commission. Putting this in the bylaws will be voted on in October.

An MMA Update was given regarding trainings throughout the state. Don suggested some type of train-the-trainer training for GCSS to assist in their own communities.

The Senior Showcase, a program on a public access TV station in Portland, focuses on issues important to seniors. Charles did a session about the legislative session on senior issues and the SPD Budget. Kay did a session on MMA. Kelly reported doing a similar session on a Medford station.

James' update included the DHS Director search. There were about 140 applicants; the panel planned to screen them down to four or five to interview. James also mentioned that Disaster Planning should be revisited.

A goodbye letter from Dolores Hubert was distributed.

Post-Session GCSS Legislative Wrap-Up

Marc's legislative document was a recap of GCSS and the 2005 legislative session. There were some changes made on the text and grading the Legislature. The date and page numbers need to be added. It is recommended to be sent to all legislators, advocates, etc. Dolores and the Commission thanked Marc for his hard work.

MOTION: Accept legislative document as amended and disburse as discussed. *Passed.*
(Don Butsch/Jack Roberts)

MMA Updates – Christina Jaramillo

There have been many changes and trainings since July. Christina distributed plan information and all prescription drug plans that have been approved in Oregon. There will be a website. The general public can call a SHIBA or Medicare office to answer questions. She suggests that all Medicare recipients check out their insurance plan now (whether their supplemental insurance handles Part D).

Please let her know of any specific questions for the Train-the-Trainer MMA Training to GCSS

members next month.

There are scams and fraud going on so be careful; Christina reports that you can't enroll over the phone. Be aware of the penalties of not signing up. Also check out plans regarding co-pays – money amount or percentage amount.

Annual Celebration Discussion

The Annual Celebration will be lunch on October 27th, at Marie Callender's. GCSS staff is handling the details and invitations will be sent. The GCSS 25th Anniversary next year will be a "bigger" and probably an evening event.

GCSS Budget Discussion

Charles Kurtz distributed recommendations from the Financial Committee. Recommendations involved spending allocations for meetings in Salem versus around the state. The plan is be prudent with all expenditures, monitoring over time, so adjustments can be made if needed. The committee would like the GCSS allotment amount of \$145,500 be confirmed in writing to the Commission.

Morgen reported she felt the committee had done a wonderful job. She reminded staff of the need to following guidelines (DHS and DAS) for travel and reimbursements.

MOTION: Amend the GCSS Bylaws to create the position of Budget Officer, to be appointed by the Chair. The Budget Officer will be a member of the Executive Committee, and will be the key contact within GCSS for monitoring and reporting on expenditures of GCSS against its projected budget. This individual will also play a lead role in developing future budgets for the Commission, and in coordinating GCSS input to SPD on the budget during the budget development process. *Passed.* (Charles Kurtz/Eunice Dutton) (Abstain – Don Butsch)

It was mentioned that whether you take a stipend or not, it does not affect eligibility regarding liability coverage. Liaisons and meeting scheduling can be somewhat flexible within the statute requirements.

MOTION: Adjust the meeting structure for GCSS from 20 meetings a year in Salem to the statutorily required 18 meetings – nine in Salem, and nine away from Salem. (During the year when the Legislature meets, the Commission would meet in Salem for six meetings and outside Salem for three; in the even-numbered years, there would be three meetings in Salem and six outside.) Adjust the structure for Executive Committee meetings, so the Executive Committee synchronizes its meetings with the full Commission meetings. *Passed.* (Charles Kurtz/Dolores Hubert)

SPD Update – Cathy Cooper

Cathy reported on the changes in the Legislative & Advocacy Team regarding ODC and ODHHS. ODC will be accepting new applications in the near future; the advisory group for ODHH meets monthly and has been appointed, and a manager and half-time trainer will be hired soon.

SPD/DHS Budget – The GA and EI programs were eliminated by the Legislature. A total of 240 field positions were lost; however, vacancies were held open since April because of the possibility of cuts. From last two biennia, a total of one-third of the work force has been eliminated. DHS will be having a hiring freeze for certain positions, effective September 30th. Cathy reported on the impact of the cuts and MMA implementation, which required temporary positions.

OPI

There was a discussion of Oregon Project Independence. It was also asked of Cathy whether GCSS expenditures were part of “match” or not.

ACTION ITEM: Staff will look up about whether GCSS expenditures are “match”-eligible or not as Title XIX-related expenditures.

Chair’s Discussion Items

Dolores expressed to members how much she has enjoyed serving on the Commission the past six years, and how much they have contributed as volunteer members, to the quality of life in Oregon.

Liaison Reports

Senior Coalition on Housing

Dolores Raymond reported on the Manufactured Home Park Coalition, and gave an overview of what housing advocates are already at work on the for the next legislative session.

Home Care Commission

Estill reported on the negotiations and the contract. There was a wage increase and health care benefits augmented. There will be funds for training and a registry by July 2006.

Pioneer Network

Linda reported that the Pioneer Network will meet next week. Linda also reported on a new group called “MOVE”.

Agency with Choice

Charles reported the group didn’t meet this month.

MLTCQRC

Eunice reported that the group is going to meet every other month.

Elder Abuse Conference

Eunice reported that this conference was very good and interesting.

Long-Term Care Advisory

Remona reported the group didn't meet.

Future of Long Term Care Committee

Dolores H reported on the meeting, which included a lot of demographics information on senior population.

Real Choice Committee

Marilyn reported that this group reviewed the use of technology to help people stay in their homes; Marilyn has asked to be removed from this committee due to her other assignments. Eunice will attend the next meeting.

Staff Update

Staff have put an updated roster in the members' folders.

Marc reported that CMS will inform states whether they have received Real Choices #2 grants next week.

Morgen will be on vacation and in training for the next 2 1/2 weeks, so contact Marc or Becky if you need something during that time.

Member Submitted Items

Birthday cards were given to Maria, Eunice, and Estill.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Send letter to federal delegation regarding hurricane relief.	Marc	10/05
Send "thank you" letter to AARP for printing and distribution of guides.	Marc	10/05
Send letter to AAAs and Senior Corps Projects regarding Maximizing Brief Encounters program.	Marc	10/05
Send letters regarding high gas prices and lack of volunteers: to legislative delegation, gas companies, Governor, E-Board, and Myer Memorial Trust.	Marc	10/05
Amend bylaws to create a GCSS Budget Officer.	Marc	10/05
MMA questions to Christina prior to 10/27/05 meeting.	GCSS Members	10/05