

# Minutes

## Legislative Advocacy Committee

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

January 22, 2004

Keizer, Oregon

**Attendees:** Helen Liere, Chair; Mariana Bornholdt, Vice Chair; Don Butsch; Eunice Dutton; Jack Ewing; Mary Harvey; Ham Jackson; Tim Malone; Linda Miller; Dolores Raymond; and Dolores Hubert

**Staff:** Jane-ellen Weidanz & Sherry L. Whitehead  
**Guests:** Robert Lawrence  
**Excused:** Harvey Roth

### *Called Meeting to Order*

Approved December Minutes

### **Announcements**

Clackamas County held their Advocacy Training. See handbook.

The list of concerns and recommendation regarding the Medicare Bill that Helen shared with Senator Wyden and his staff person was well received.

### **Federal Issues**

Ham and Helen provided a federal issues update. Discussed S 538, the Lifespan Respite Bill, which creates a national program like Oregon's Lifespan Respite program. This bill compliments the Older American Act, Family Caregiver Support Program because it will provide additional financial support and expand the population served to all ages.

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

### **Action Items:**

### **Assigned to:**

### **Deadline:**

Draft a letter of support for S 538, to the House members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Helen Liere

02/26/04

### **Revenue Options Subcommittee**

The Joint Interim Committee on Tax Reform had its first meeting. Their goal is to develop an overhaul of Oregon's tax system by May. This may develop into a special session in June. We need to review and revise, if necessary, the Commission's recommendations on revenue enhancements. Mary Lawrence and Helen served on the subcommittee last time. Discussed possible volunteers to join that committee.

Action Items:	Assigned to:	Deadline:
Review and revise the Commissions recommendations, if needed.	Subcommittee	03/25/04
<b>Mandated State Commissions</b>		
Update on the research on mandated state commissions. Discussed next steps.		
<b>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. (Dolores Hubert) <i>Passed</i></b>		
Action Items:	Assigned to:	Deadline:
Write letter to state commission chairs.	Jane-ellen	02/26/04
<b>Legislative Recommendations to DHS</b>		
Discussed ideas for legislation that the Commission thinks SPD should introduce. Ideas included: Mandatory abuse reporting; 24/7 for all staff; Increasing awareness of and decreasing the incidents of elder abuse; Adequate staffing for SPD and the AAAs so they can provide quality services.		
<b>MOTION: That we send a letter to James Toews, SPD recommending that SPD submit legislative proposals on the following issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All state employees be mandatory reporters for elder abuse 24/7;</li> <li>• State fund community-based programs to increase awareness of and decrease the incidents of elder abuse;</li> <li>• Statewide caseload standards that are equal to national caseload standards;</li> <li>• Private insurance companies be mandated to provide equal coverage for mental health conditions like they do for physical conditions; and</li> <li>• Eliminate the Senior Prescription Drug Program and use any administrative savings for the MEDS program. (Marina Bornholdt) <i>Passed</i></li> </ul>		
Action Items:	Assigned to:	Deadline:
Write letter to James Toews recommending that SPD submit legislative proposals on the above mention issues.	Jane-ellen	01/27/04
<b>O4AD Conference Proposal</b>		
O4AD has asked the Commission to co-sponsor an advocacy summit in conjunction with the O4AD conference in November. GCSS had initiated this event in 2000. It seems that several groups would like to do this type of event again. We are working with OA-DSAC on enhancing advocacy so we should meet with them again before making a decision.		

## **Advocacy Plan**

Worked on Advocacy Plan and made some changes. Will finish next month.

Mary Harvey suggested we visit/tour Self-Enhancement Incorporated as a step towards intergenerational advocacy. Mary will provide more information and we will try to build this into the full Commission plan.

## **Next Meeting**

- Mariana will Chair next meeting
- Updates on Revenue, Mandated state Commissions, Visioning/O4AD Conference.
- Work on Advocacy Plan