

Minutes

Legislative Advocacy Committee

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

September 23, 2004

Keizer, Oregon

Attendees: Bob Lawrence, Chair; Dolores Raymond, Vice Chair; Eunice Dutton; Don Butsch; Mary Harvey;

Guests: Marilyn Hinds

Staff: Jane-ellen Weidanz; and Sherry Whitehead

Excused: Jack Ewing; Harvey Roth; Helen Liere; and Barbara Brewer-Nelson

Called Meeting to Order

Approved August 2004 Minutes.

Advocacy Coalition

We will continue to liaison with the Advocacy Coalition but will not put in additional efforts at this time.

Advocacy Enhancement Project

Discussed the current status of the Advocacy Enhancement project. This project is not moving forward because of concerns with the lack of staff time and lack of statewide advocacy infrastructure.

MOTION: Stop any effort to continue with the Advocacy Enhancement project and return to the original GCSS Advocacy Plan. (Eunice) *Passed*

Legislative Education Materials

Discussed materials for the legislative session. Don Butsch suggested a change on the updated brochure. Also discussed providing legislators a brief overview and some area-specific data and then during the session send, "A Report to the Legislature from the Governor's Commission on Senior Services," on timely issues.

Mandated State Commissions

Reviewed the feedback from the other states. Of the surveys we received 50 percent supported the idea, 25 percent said they did not think we needed to proceed, and 25 percent said they wanted more information. We received additional information via phone calls. Those states were very supportive. The Committee discussed next steps. The Committee agreed to set meetings with Senators Wyden and Smith, and Congresswoman Hooley to discuss the issue. If the White House Conference on Aging occurs, we will want to present our proposal there. We decided that we should inform James Toews about the Commission's proposal.

MOTION: Send a letter to James Toews stating our intentions to meet with the Senators and Congresswoman Hooley regarding potential changes to the Older Americans Act. (Eunice Dutton) *Passed*

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Set up a meeting with Congresswoman Hooley and two members of GCSS to discuss platform and ideas regarding a possible amendment to the Older Americans Act	Jane-ellen	11/15/04
Set up a meeting with Senators Wyden and Smith to discuss platform and ideas regarding a possible amendment to the Older Americans Act	Jane-ellen	11/15/04

Legislative Priorities

The committee reviewed the legislative suggestions from the other GCSS committees and added; AAA Equity, the Budget, Veterans Services, and Revenue. Will be having someone from the AAAs and SPD come talk about Veterans Services. We will also be getting information on the Elder Safe program in Washington County. Sometime ago, the General Issues Committee referred this to the Legislative Advocacy Committee as an idea for possible legislation. We need more information before we proceed. The Committee will also be inviting someone from the Elder Law Section of the Oregon State Bar to discuss the Bar's concerns about the current Power of Attorney statute. Staff will compile the materials into three categories:

1. Legislative/Budget Priorities;
2. Issues for fact sheets; and
3. Issues on which the Commission will review legislation.

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Compile all priority issues for next month's meeting.	Sherry	10/05/04
Invite a AAA Director and SPD to talk to the Commission regarding the Veterans Services.	Jane-ellen	10/5/04
Invite someone to discuss the Elder Safe Legislation.	Jane-ellen	10/05/04
Provide Don Butsch with a copy of the Budget Reductions and Policy Options Package (POPs)	Jane-ellen	Completed
Invite someone to talk to the Committee regarding the current Power of Attorney statute.	Jane-ellen	10/5/04
Provide a copy of the current Power of Attorney statute.	Jane-ellen	12/09/04

Finalize Work Plan

Reviewed the work plan, which resulted in the following motion:

MOTION: Recommend to the full Commission approval of the final draft work plan. (Don Butsch) *Passed*

November Summit

Discussed the November Summit that the Commission is cosponsoring with O4AD and other organizations. The agenda is finalized and registrations have been sent via email and the Internet. Registration is going very slowly.

MOTION: The Commission will mail invitations to the Summit to advocacy groups and individuals on the Commission's database. (Eunice Dutton) *Passed*

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Send a letter to advocates about the November 2004 Summit.	Jane-ellen	10/21/04