

Minutes

Legislative Advocacy Committee

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

December 7, 2005

Department of Human Services

Attendees:

Robert Lawrence (Chair), Dolores Raymond (Vice-Chair), Jack Ewing, John Helm

Excused:

Denise Dion, Chris Flammang, Charles Kurtz, Barbara Nelson, Kelly Wessells

Guests:

Dolores Hubert, Maria Smith

Staff:

Marc Overbeck, Wendy Russell

Called Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Lawrence.

Minutes were approved as sent.

Robert indicated that the group would move freely through the agenda.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Federal Issues Update

Robert spoke about the reconciliation process for the federal budget. The Senate version proposes a \$50 billion cut, and the House version a \$30 billion cut in human service funding. A great deal of funding for the Older Americans Act has been taken out, Robert said many would like this funding and titles in the Act associated with it to be reinstated. Robert handed out a paper with his thoughts about the Medicaid crisis. Senator Clinton has introduced a bill to add to respite care. Marc will do some research on it prior to Friday's meeting.

Motion: That the GCSS research and possibly advocate for the continuation and increase of respite care funding through the bill that Senator Clinton is introducing and either fax or email our congressional delegates. **(Jack Ewing/Dolores Raymond)**

Marc said he would get whatever summary he could from the White House Conference on Aging symposium at Marylhurst University.

There is a real concern for the diminishing of Title XIX funding and its effect on

programs and how they are being cut.

Discussion: Planning Legislative Advocacy Strategy during Interim

Robert talked about developing a quarterly report for the Governor, Legislature and others, letting them know what the Commission has been up to and what it feels needs to be focused on. Robert asked Jack if he would put it together.

Motion: Recommend to the Commission sending a quarterly report to the Governor beginning December 2005. **(John Helm/Jack Ewing)** Passed.

During the legislative interim, most committees can be monitored on television. The Task Force on DHS agency organization headed by Rep. Richardson, the Interim Task Force on Seniors, and the Senate Committee on DHS Programs headed by Sen. Carter need to be watched closely.

Robert has volunteered for the Task Force on Seniors. Someone from the Long-Term Care Committee needs to monitor the Interim Task Force on the Oregon Health Plan, perhaps Kay.

Motion: Recommend that all members of GCSS sign up to be on their legislator's listserves, as well as attend their coffees and town halls if possible. If anyone has a problem meeting their respective legislators, John and Senator Johnson will fly down and help facilitate an introduction. **(Jack Ewing/Dolores Raymond)** Passed.

There was discussion of the liaison, assignment, and affiliation list. Either John or Dolores Hubert has appointed the people who are on the liaison lists. A letter will go out to confirm that any member appointed to a group is properly introduced to the group to which they are to be liaison.

Motion: Recommend the Commission adopt this list and a plan for using these contacts wisely to further advocacy. **(John Helm/Jack Ewing)** Passed.

John mention he had appointed Chris Flammang to the Committee, at Chris' request.

Other Business

Members said they thought that the first “road trip” meeting should be held in Astoria in March. Meetings should be set up with the local housing, transportation and other community-based groups and GCSS. The committee would like to have more exposure for GCSS.

Robert announced that Jacqueline Zimmer will start attending the committee meetings to help plan with the Commission. He suggested that Rick Bennett from AARP and Jim Davis from United Seniors would be good to have attend as well.

John brought up the subject of the long-range planning effort around long-term care. James Toews will be coming to the Commission meeting Friday to see if GCSS members are willing to host local meetings and work with DHS around presentation of the plan to the public and provide feedback to DHS/SPD. John said that a couple local meetings could coincide with meetings of the full Commission away from Salem; in other areas a small number of Commission members may host the meetings. Video conference links are also a possibility. Robert indicated his support of the idea.

John discussed different ideas for restructuring Commission meetings with members of the committee.

Action Items:	Assigned To:	Due Date:
Research Clinton Plan for Respite Care	Marc	Dec. 9
Compose Quarterly Report to Governor	Jack E/Marc	Jan. 21
Ask Lee Girard for Lifespan Respite Info	Marc	Dec. 8
Compose/Send Letters from Chair to new groups introducing Liaisons	John H/Marc	Dec. 31

