The meeting was called to order at 9:37 am at 3406 Cherry Ave., Room 123, Salem, Oregon, by Commissioner Judy Strand. Judy welcomed Jody Cline, a new Commissioner who is Director of Senior and Disability Services, O4AD, Eugene, Oregon, to the meeting. Introductions were made by all other attendees.

The agenda was not reviewed.
M E E T I N G  M I N U T E S

The meeting minutes from the February 18, 2016, Commission meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Ken Dudley said that he was in attendance at the February meeting, but was not listed under “members present.” A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes with the correction to add Ken Dudley to the list of members present. The motion was seconded and passed.

P U B L I C  C O M M E N T

No public comment was given.


Commissioner Chuck Richards said that he was very disappointed in the process and results of the Winter 2016 Legislative Session. This session was to be a time where changes and updates would be made to bills already passed. However, it was a very “legislative” session. Legislators knew in advance which bills would pass and those which would not. Promises had been made to revive good programs that didn’t have a considerable fiscal impact. Favored bills were passed without consideration of the cost. Some bills were passed without being read. The Gatekeeper program which the Commission advocated for was not funded, even though funding had been promised through conversations with legislators.

Discussion was held about strengthening the Commission’s advocacy efforts. It was brought out that the Commission is an advisory group to the Governor. Is the Commission’s voice being heard? Speaking directly to Senator Chuck Riley (via telephone), Chair Judy Strand reiterated the Commission’s frustrations with the legislature and explained that GCSS is trying to establish what route it has to continue to advocate and also would like to know why our voice wasn’t heard. How can we create a better conduit to legislative action? And with the change in the Governor’s office, the Commission has not yet had a face-to-face meeting with the new Governor. Senator Riley responded that he understands the Commission’s frustration level with the legislature as he was frustrated as well. Every session brings frustration, but also brings some good things, whether they happen to be our good things or somebody else’s good things. The legislature cannot accomplish everything. Senator Riley said that he will be working as hard as he can on Commission issues and wants to meet regularly with GCSS.
Commissioner Ruth McEwen mentioned that she has a copy of the Legislative Fiscal Office’s “2015-17 Budget Highlights” which provides summary information on the legislatively adopted budget including, among other things, budget information on program areas and agencies. Rebecca Arce volunteered to email the link to all Commissioners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ann McQueen announced that she has been asked by Ashley Carson-Cottingham to work on safety and quality issues full time so Rebecca Arce will be taking over support for GCSS. Also, Kelsey Gleeson, Office Specialist, has been hired to provide administrative support for the Commission. Judy Strand thanked Ann for her support and contribution to the Commission.

GCSS CONFERENCE PLANNING UPDATE

Rebecca Arce reported on the March 11 meeting of the workgroup planning GCSS’s 2016 conference. Research and notes as well as results (bar charts) from the surveys taken at the end of the 2015 Oregon White House Conference on Aging were distributed. Rebecca said that there is a six month timeline in which to organize a conference as the workgroup is suggesting that a conference be held in late October or November. Two other conferences are scheduled for the end of October if the Commission wants to pool its resources and collaborate with others in holding a conference. Rebecca said that she does not have a lot of time on her schedule to coordinate a conference; someone needs to step forward and take on the planning role that involves reaching out to potential speakers, arranging for food/catering, scheduling an event location, etc. Commissioner Nancy Pierce volunteered to help in that role.

Commissioner Suzette Boydston reviewed some of the activities at the Seattle Regional WHCOA and the Washington D.C. WHCOA. The Commission then broke into four groups to discuss key points from the four focus areas presented at both the Oregon and Washington D.C. conferences: 1) elder justice, 2) retirement security, 3) long term services and supports, and 4) healthy aging. Key issues from each of these areas could then be brought forward to GCSS’s 2016 conference along with work that the Commission has done that is educational and
intergenerational as well as highlighting efforts through legislation such as elder justice.

Elder Justice
- Focus: education and public awareness
- Speakers/panel – moderated by Senator Chuck Riley from GCSS
  - Ellen Klem—new DOJ staff
  - Non-profit Guardianship partners
  - New public Guardian
  - Someone from defunded Gatekeeper’s program
- List of resources: legal clinics, where to go for help
- Written materials: education regarding dementia

Retirement Security
- What should the system do?
- Generations don’t discuss money.
- Create financial fluency
- “State-based savings plans”
- Presenter to discuss what financial fluency looks like
- Raise the cap on Social Security taxation (?)
- Have to have culture change
- Lower rates of home ownership
- Use outline from White House and Oregon Aging Conference
- Reality of a successful retirement concept
- Financial planner
- “Buy more” vs. “save more”
- Oregon Retirement Savings Plan status update
- Creative options for a secure, intent future
- Aging as an asset
- Possible economic strategist: single presenter vs. panel
- Positive outcomes:
  - Participants to get more out of presentation than they thought
  - Successful examples of retirement security
  - Providing resources how to have the discussion
  - Resource guide of available low cost options

Long Term Services and Supports
Governor’s Commission on Senior Services
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2016

Definition: supports and services to keep seniors independent with choice
and dignity in a fiscally sustainable manner.

Panel of speakers from different geographical locations:
- ADRC – Regions 6 and 9
- Non-profit group – cultural issues (Hispanic, Russian, Asian)
- Private care manager
- State services (handouts)
- Options

Healthy Aging
Panel will consist of Commissioners who can speak to healthy aging areas
of interest to GCSS and raise its profile as an organization. The five areas
of interest (moderated by an excellent facilitator) include:
- Disease prevention/health promotion models/discussion
- Social determinants of health
- Need for Aging Specialists across all disciplines
- “Leave No Senior Behind”—new trends in technology to all populations
- How do we talk about a healthy society? How do we bring back the
  role of the elders’ wisdom and experience into our communities?

The Commission discussed the amount of time that they would need to present
these four topics at a conference. Two topics could be presented simultaneously
at one 90 minute session with a break in between followed by another 90 minute
session with the other two topics being presented.

The Commission agreed by general consensus that they would collaborate with
another entity for the 2016 conference. Commissioners Judy Strand and Elaine
Fiesen-Strang volunteered to check on collaborating with another organization.

LIAISON REPORTS

O4AD. Commissioner Jody Cline reported that O4AD is beginning to look at best
practices used by AAAs in managing their funding for projects for Oregon Project
Independence (OPI). There are established guidelines, but there is a lot of
flexibility within those guidelines. Due to long wait lists, O4AD is feeling the pressure to talk about best practices due to limited resources. Should reductions be made by reducing the number of people that are being served, allocate fewer hours, and/or have fewer services available? O4AD is just beginning to look at this issue, and there will be more to report in the future. There was further discussion among the Commission about the asset holdings of those seeking OPI funds that the Commission may want to study and present before the Governor.

**SESSION WITH ASHLEY CARSON-COTTINGHAM**

Ashley Carson-Cottingham introduced herself as the Director of Aging and People with Disabilities. Ashley shared that she is spending a considerable amount of time on budget issues and sustainability of APD’s program. The same amount of effort is being dedicated to safety in licensed care settings and in the In-home Program as the agency has a new focus on safety for vulnerable populations. APD is working with providers to make sure that they have everything that they need and have a safe environment to work in. The agency is working with partner organizations trying to drill down and make sure that we are doing all that we think we can to protect people. The culture is changing and all processes that have been in place are being reviewed to make sure that our rules are effective and we are using our policies and procedures to protect people in the right way.

Quite frankly, it has been really depressing to see some of the settings in which people are living and to hear about the things that are happening there. There have been license suspensions in foster homes and one residential care facility. We don’t want to have to do that, but it is done as a last resort. Some situations have been so egregious that the agency felt that we had to move forward right away and transition people to a safer setting.

Some of you were at the recent stakeholder meeting to talk about the budget note that the legislature put forward at the end of the last short session. We have had a lot of budget challenges ongoing for the last several decades, and we have been in a relatively stable time but now we are facing some challenges with an increased case load. The cost per case to serve people is going up and it is kind of a difficult story to tell because we can’t point to “this” one thing that is creating the budget problems. Some of it is demographics. We are seeing younger boomers hit our system earlier than we anticipated. We have had some policy
changes, and we adopted the K Plan. We also adopted the in-home allowance so that people would have additional money to cover their cost of living for those who want to stay in their homes. We have had increases in what we pay our direct care workforce to reflect bargaining changes. The Affordable Care Act has opened the door a little wider so if a consumer is already MAGI eligible, then they can receive long term services and supports if they meet the service priority level. Health status and retirement security are also part of the issue. Boomers have come on a little earlier than we had anticipated and research is now showing that the boomers are not healthier than the previous generations. They have more incidents of chronic diseases: diabetes, obesity, high cholesterol, etc.,—health problems that make it so that consumers need help with their activities of daily living. Coupled with the fact that many in the boomer generation don’t have a huge amount of retirement savings that can pay for private long term care or care from a health agency means that those expenses are coming out-of-pocket.

All of these things combined tell the story about why we are seeing our case loads increase a little more than we had anticipated. We saw a big jump in our case load last spring, and our forecast didn’t line up to what we were seeing. We readjusted our forecast, looking at a lot of these factors. Now it seems like everything is tracking pretty much according to the forecast, but it is still going up more rapidly than we thought it would a couple of years ago.

During the session we met with legislators to talk about some of these issues, and they asked the department to bring forward ideas of ways to solve this problem. So we talked about all of the policy changes that were made that the legislature was a part of; we were in discussion with the legislature each time that we made a policy change or adopted something new.

The budget note came about as a result of discussions in night time meetings during the long session which the legislature asked APD to continue to work on, continue to do research, and come back during the interim days in May and possibly in September and December to talk about progress that we have made.

A couple of weeks ago, a stakeholder meeting was held in which the budget note of what we want to do moving forward was presented. Ashley hopes to continue with this format of getting stakeholder input on ideas or concepts put forth by APD. Personally Ashley does not want to make any cuts and has been an advocate
most of her career, but she is in a different role now, and we are potentially facing a difficult budget situation. Ashley wants to meet our budget in the most thoughtful way making sure that we prevent harm to others as much as possible. Ashley wants everyone to know that we are not wanting to cut people off of services and I hope that is not where we have to go, but the budget is the budget. We cannot be spending outside of our means. Our agency has to plan according to what we are being told and the economic forecast. We have to build according to what the Governor is telling us is the likely situation.

Commissioner Judy Strand asked Ashley how the Commission can help as an advisory body and what support GCSS can provide her. Ashley thought it would be good if the Commission could read and react to some proposals that APD will be putting forward over the rest of the year. Ashley feels that it is important to talk about how critical programs are for Oregonians and to advocate on behalf of vulnerable populations.

**COMMISSION OUTREACH**

A few months back the Commission had discussed holding an official meeting in another part of the state. Pendleton, Roseburg, and Coos Bay were the top three choices. After discussion with APD about the budgetary needs for offsite meetings it was determined that a few commissioners would, instead hold meet and greet type events in other parts of the state to share the work of the commission and bring the concerns of seniors across the state back to Salem. These small events are dubbed commission outreach. Pendleton was chosen as the first location. The meet and greet in Pendleton will serve as a pilot before sending other commissioners to other areas of the state.

Comments made during the discussion that followed included:
- How much budget does GCSS have for these meetings?
- How often does GCSS want to hold these meetings?
- The Commission could present issues that it is advocating for and working on.
- The Commission needs to listen to the concerns of the seniors in the areas where the pilots are being held.
- What is the Commission offering to these various communities?
The meetings need to be widely advertised to maximize participation in local communities.

Is the Commission going to bring concerns heard out in the field back to Salem?

Is the Commission going to deliver these communities a specific message?

What is DHS doing about senior issues?

What is the Commission’s role between the agency and the Governor’s office?

If the first meeting were to be held in July, then the group that went could report back to the Commission at the August meeting.

Commissioners Morgan Anderson, Laurie Slye, Suzette Boydston, and possibly Judy Strand were selected to represent the Commission in a pilot. A separate preplanning session will be held where the group will discuss marketing, date, location (Pendleton), talking points, etc.

**AREA PLAN PROCESS UPDATE**

Deb McCuin presented the Commission with a copy of the “Area Plan Review” which is used by the State Unit on Aging to review and give approval to Area Agencies on Aging throughout Oregon that administer and support community-based care services. In the past, the Commission has participated in reviewing the plans that have been returned to the state. Area plans are due October 3, and Deb was asking for the Commissioner’s help in the review process and for any feedback to the process itself.

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND DISCUSSION**

Rebecca Arce reported that there are 27 Commission members and that the Executive Committee is reaching out to minority communities for possible membership. Rebecca also mentioned that Chuck Richards has termed out, and this will be his last meeting as a member of the Commission. Rebecca said that all Commissioners who are terming out from their first term of service in the next six to nine month will be receiving an email asking if they wish to be reappointed.

Commissioner Judy Strand reminded the Commissioners that officer elections will be held in August for anyone interested to holding a position.
FINAL COMMENTS AND THOUGHTS

Commissioner Judy Strand mentioned that the 2016 conference will be a half-day event and that she has volunteered to check with the conference organizers for two conferences already scheduled this fall to see if the Commission could partner with them at their conference.

It was confirmed that Rebecca Arce will organize an outreach event.

It was stated that a Workforce Workgroup update will be given at the next Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

- 2015-17 Budget Highlights, Legislative Fiscal Office, September 2015
- Oregon Conference on Aging Planning Notes from 03/11/2016
- Oregon’s White House Conference on Aging 2015 Recommendations
- Information Memorandum Transmittal, Number: APD-IM-12-054, Issue Date: 08/20/2012
- Bar Charts from 2013-2016 Area Plan Process Compared to 2008-2011 Area Plans
- 2015-16 Issue Brief, The Aging Workforce, Governor’s Commission on Senior Services
- March 11, 2016 letter to Joint Committee on Ways and Means from the Governor’s Commission on Senior Services