

Minutes

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

July 27, 2007

Department of Human Services

Members: John Helm (Chair), Eunice Dutton (Vice-Chair), Elaine Barrett, Peggie Beck, Jeff Brandon, John Brenne, Patty Brost, Denise Dion, Chris Flammang, Chuck Frazier, Kay Kirkbride, Robert Lawrence, Lucy Morgan, Barbara Nelson, Kathleen Schonau, Remona Simpson, and Joan Staley

Guests: Dolores Hubert

Excused: Patty Brost, Marilyn Hinds, Charles Kurtz, Millie Salt, and Kelly Wessels

Staff: Lee Girard, Marc Overbeck, and Becky Murphy

Called Meeting to Order 10:00

Approval of minutes: **The June minutes were approved as corrected.** (Remona Simpson/John Brenne) *Passed.*

Review Agenda: Add discussion item of an August meeting under Fall Meetings.

Announcements/Correspondence/Staff Update

A public service announcement that Dolores Raymond taped for Tualatin Valley Cable regarding Manufactured Home Parks closures and affordable housing was shown to members.

Dolores also mentioned a problem in her area regarding setting one rate for utilities--- which doesn't consider the difference in usage between a family of one adult and one with children.

Remona and Dolores Hubert thanked GCSS members for their support on behalf of the Long Term Care Ombudsman and Board.

Chris reported that he and Robert discussed with Ruth McEwen (PDAC's Chair) about legislation at the federal level - HR 1809, Medicare, Independent Living Act – eliminates in-home mobility rules if “home confined”, Medicare won't pay for mobility devices (such as wheelchair/scooter) for outside the home.

MOTION: Send a letter to the Oregon congressional delegation in support of the “Independent Living Act.” (Chris Flammang/Remona Simpson) **Passed.**

Dolores mentioned that Medicare should allow reimbursement for acupuncture.

Lee reported on the National Lifespan Respite Act. No money was attached however to the version now in Congress.

MOTION: Send a letter to the Oregon congressional delegation in support of Lifespan Respite funding. (Chris Flammang/Robert Lawrence) **Passed.**

Kay reported that she was interviewed for an article for *Parade* Magazine about Powerful Tools' classes but she also discussed GCSS.

Lee reported that Judy Bowen will be attending training in Georgia on evidence-based practices for family caregivers which will expand Oregon's tools.

Lucy mentioned that Kay will be giving a presentation at the Oregon Gerontological Association (OGA) conference in Wilsonville and will have information displayed. Lucy will be attending.

Marc reported Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is having two workshops on “Citizenship for Eligibility” on August 7th in Portland.

Marc reported protocols for speakers and presenters have been set up for committee chairs and staff---invitation, confirmation, requested information, etc.

Marc reported there is now an interactive word document on the GCSS website to make it easier for members to submit liaison reports to Chuck Frazier.

Marc offered what he already reported to the Executive Committee about the Oregon Health Security meeting he attended---SB 329. He distributed a set of handouts.

Elaine reported the Living Healthy Conference is August 8th in Eugene. She plans to take GCSS information.

Eunice reported on more materials to be printed by AARP; a letter of agreement needs to be drafted.

Marc reported on correspondence received and sent since the last meeting.

Marc distributed Kay's liaison report.

Marc distributed the drafted letter to President Courtney and Speaker Merkley on the appointment of an interim committee.

MOTION: Letter to be sent as revised. (Robert Lawrence/Lucy Morgan) ***Passed.***

The “10 Year Planning Process to End Chronic Homelessness in Your Community” was passed around to members.

ACTION NEEDED: Staff – Check on homeless count and any new plan.

Lee offered some staff updates:

- She thanked members for the opportunity to work with the Commission over the past six months, noting that Debbie Bowers will be the new manager of the advocacy staff as of mid-August.
- She’ll still be involved with GCSS because of the FLTC activities. She reported briefly on the budget notes about transportation and housing issues.
- Lee noted that there has been a change to the way SPD tracks and accounts for the resources GCSS uses—all costs (including staff and supplies) related to GCSS are now charged directly to GCSS, rather than to SPD administration (1.5 FTE staffing is assigned to GCSS).

Public Comment

Dolores Hubert relayed a “thank you” from Meredith Cote for the Commission’s support.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – John H. referred members to the draft minutes of the Executive Committee in offering a report on the major topics discussed.

Caregivers – Remona reported the committee meeting was short but quite informative. Marjorie briefly reported on the Employer-Employee Relationship in the CEP Program workgroup. Dolores Hubert was able to attend the last portion of the meeting, and reported on the Nurse Monitoring Program of the Board of Nursing.

Elder Abuse – Peggy reported that Judy Giggy and Morgen Brodie gave an overview of APS Workers’ Training and the new online training. There is an APS Conference in September, which is free of charge, and several committee members would like to attend. The conference is taking place two days prior to GCSS meetings.

Mental Health – Denise reported that Megan Hornby shared about the integrated mental health and SPD programs. Denise is waiting on more information about the health care reform conference, which we believe is now taking place in mid-October. There is still no news about the summer forums regarding older adult suicide prevention plans. Denise plans to apply for one of the subcommittees of SB 329 – but would need assistance from her committee and Commission members.

Ad hoc Committee on Health Care Reform - Chris reported that the Marylhurst event has been changed from September to October but has no details. He's happy about Denise applying for the SB 329 group---he believes that GCSS needs a representative in the process.

Mental Health Legislation – Denise began a discussion on the Commission's relationship with AARP and her hopes that the groups could find a way to build a strong and respectful relationship. She said that an important principle in partnerships is that all parties should be clear about agreeing to disagree.

Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse - Robert reported the need for a liaison to the council as Elaine has resigned. The council meets one day a month at the Human Services Building in Salem. **If anyone is interested in volunteering, contact John Helm.**

Federal Legislation - Chuck raised an issue regarding federal legislation and compliance issues, the official sanctioning of importation of drugs. There needs to be a balance of safety, efficacy, price, and value. Drugs should be pure, effective, and affordable.

Discussion occurred around sending a draft letter to Oregon delegation regarding legislation on "pure, effective, and affordable" drugs. [No motion made]

Old Business

Annual Celebration – The celebration will be again at Creekside Golf Course, but will be a luncheon on Thursday, October 25, 2007. The morning committee meetings will be held there also. The theme "Advocacy Today and Tomorrow: Seniors + Advocates = Positive Change for the Future." Eunice also reported about timelines, invitations, entertainment.

Fall Meetings – Barbara led a discussion of the proposed agenda and schedule.

DECISIONS: The first forum will be on Thursday, September 27th, in Lake Oswego which Robert will arrange; a regular Commission meeting in Salem on Friday, September 28th. Other meetings will be planned for other venues, based on the success of the Lake Oswego meeting. (Peggie Beck/John Brenne) *Passed*.

ACTION NEEDED: Members – Submit any suggestions on the forum agenda to Barbara.

The subcommittee will work out the details with staff, including catered lunch, invitations, press release, and whether to tour of senior centers or meet with other groups.

Discussion took place about the need for an August meeting of the Commission to firm up a legislative agenda for the February session. John H asked Marc to draft an agenda for the meeting. Staff will make arrangements for the room and lunch.

DECISIONS: Summary of legislative concepts will be sent out prior to August 30th. All GCSS members who can, will attend a meeting Thursday, August 30, 2007, 10:00 to 3:00.

Long-Term Care Regulation – Chuck reported he would like to have Mary Gear return to meet with the Commission now that she has worked with the Department for several months. Topics would include facilities, licenses/fees subsidies, and others.

Another suggestion was to have the Long Term Care Ombudsman, Meredith Cote, attend the September meeting. It was agreed that Meredith would be invited to be the noon speaker at lunch on September 28.

Peggie and Patty met by phone with PDAC, suggesting a collaborative effort around capacity issues in the long-term care system--possibly something in September.

DATES:

- 8/30/07 – 10:00 - ?, Full Commission Meeting at Church Street in Salem
- 9/14/07 – 10:00 – Noon, GCSS Executive Committee Conference Call
- 9/27/07 – SAFECO Building, Lake Oswego Forum (9:30-11:30), Wrap-up Lunch, and Committees
- 9/28/07 – 8:30 – 9:50 Legislative and Advocacy Committee; and 10:00 – 3:00, Commission Meeting at Church Street in Salem
- 10/12/07 – 10:00- Noon, GCSS Executive Committee Conference Call
- 10/25/07 – Committees and Annual Celebration Luncheon at Creekside Golf Course in Salem
- 10/26/07 – 8:30 – 9:50 Legislative and Advocacy Committee; and 10:00 – 3:00,

Commission Meeting at Church Street in Salem

GCSS Mid-Biennium Evaluation/Working Lunch

Brainstorming for each committee and the full Commission took place to evaluate goals set for the biennium. Attached is a summary.

MOTION: Send letter about the concern of staff changes and consistency of leadership. (Kathleen Schonau/John Brenne) **Motion withdrawn pending time passing to see if a letter is warranted.**

Adjourn: 3:00

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Send letter to Oregon delegation to support "Independent Living Act" (HR 1809).	Staff	8/07
Send letter to Oregon delegation to support Lifespan Respite funding.	Staff	8/07
Inform staff if interested in attending one of the CMS workshops on "Citizenship for Eligibility" on August 8 th .	Members	8/08/07
Use the interactive liaison report.	Members	Ongoing
Those interested should apply for subcommittee of Oregonians for Health Security (SB 329).	Denise / Other Members?	8/07
Letter of agreement between GCSS and AARP regarding printing of materials.	Eunice / Marc	8/07
Finalize and send letter to Peter Courtney and Jeff Merkley.	Staff	8/07 – Done
Contact Oregon Housing and Community Services regarding homeless count and new plan.	Staff	8/07
Register on-line for APS Conference in September if interested.	Elder Abuse Members	8/07
Members wishing to become liaison to the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse contact John Helm.	Members	8/07

Send any suggestions to forums format to Barbara.	Members	8/07
Draft legislative concepts (from flip charts).	Robert / Marc	8/30/07
Invite Meredith Cote to September's meeting.	Staff	8/07
Letter (send later if needed) regarding consistency in staffing and leadership.	?	?