

Minutes

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

October 26, 2007

Department of Human Services

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

Guests: Mary Gear, Lee Girard, and Lisa Harnisch
Excused: Denise Dion and Dolores Raymond
Staff: Marc Overbeck, and Becky Murphy

Called Meeting to Order

Introductions - Since no guests were present at the start of the meeting, introductions were dispensed with.

Approval of September Minutes - The September meeting minutes were approved as distributed. (Eunice Dutton/Kay Kirkbride) **Passed.** (Jeff Brandon not present.)

Review Agenda – The Commission agreed to include the election of a new Financial Officer under the Executive Committee report.

Announcements - Robert Lawrence announced that Senators Gordon Smith and Blanche Lincoln has gained Senate Committee approval of an additional \$10 million in Older Americans Act (OAA) funding for the next Fiscal Year. Lee Girard will come and brief the Commission later in the afternoon, and Robert expressed hope she could speak to the specific dollar amounts local areas will receive in Oregon.

MOTION: Send letter of thanks to Senators Lincoln and Smith for their involvement and leadership. (Robert Lawrence/John Brenne) Passed.

Marc noted that there is a sheet for guests to sign in, along with the protocols for participation for guests. This should help ensure guests are welcomed, and their participation does not detract from the ability of members to participate.

Marc noted the materials on the “distribution table” and asked that members take the time to review what they would like copied for them before they leave. Marc shared that a letter from the State Independent Living Council to James Toews was copied to the Commission’s attention. The letter expressed concern about the recent reimbursement rate cut for Durable Medical Equipment (DME).

There was discussion on this issue; members expressed the desire to find out how this issue is being resolved.

MOTION: Send letter to DMAP leadership, indicating interest of GCSS on this issue, and requesting to be informed how this issue is being resolved. (Kay Kirkbride/Elaine Barrett) Passed. (Jeff Brandon not present.)

Marc announced that an agreement had been reached with AARP to publish and distribute 2,000 copies per year of the Commission's End of Life Guide and Financial Abuse Handbook.

Public Comment

None.

Member Review of Lake Oswego Meetings

Members spoke about how positive they felt about the September meetings. They agreed that the information presented from the panelists was useful, and it gave the Commission the opportunity to be "in the community" and meet with the public, which they felt they ought to be doing on a regular basis. Members reiterated their desire to hold meetings out of Salem three times per fiscal year. There was discussion about combining business meetings with the community forums that the Commission may host in the Spring. There was discussion of possible locations for meetings outside of Salem.

MOTION: GCSS will hold its May 2008 meeting in Ontario. (Peggie Beck/Marjorie Reuling) Passed. (Jeff Brandon not present.)

MOTION: GCSS will hold its October 2008 meeting in Medford. (Eunice Dutton/Lucy Morgan) Passed. (Jeff Brandon not present.)

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – John Helm reported on the October Executive Committee meeting. It was noted at the meeting that the Bylaws require the election of a new Financial Officer at the regular meeting of the Commission following the meeting when the vacancy was announced. Elaine Barrett announced her candidacy. No other candidates were announced.

MOTION: Elect Elaine Barrett Financial Officer by acclamation. (Chris Flammang/Kathleen Schonau) Passed. (Chuck Frazier and Jeff Brandon not present.)

Caregivers Committee - Remona Simpson reported on the presentation from Steve Lyman from the State Independent Living Council concerning the STEPS program, Millie

Salt's attendance at the Native Elder Conference in Pendleton. Kathleen Schonau raised a concern regarding an employee at an Assisted Living Facility against whom an abuse charge was substantiated who is still on the registry.

Elder Abuse Committee – Peggie Beck reported that her committee discussed the information presented at the Lake Oswego meeting; that the committee agreed to table presenting a legislative proposal on guardianship for now, and that Jeff Brandon was at an Oregon Gerontological Association symposium on guardianship this morning. Marilyn Hinds presented a brief report on the Oregon Everyday Heroes Recognition Ceremony on October 18.

Mental Health Committee – Chuck Frazier reported that the committee discussed what had been presented in Lake Oswego; and that Senator Gordly's mental health caucus was meeting during the legislative interim. Liaison reports will be included in the future.

Committee Reports were tabled to allow Mary Gear to present before the Commission.

Update on Facility Care Issues – Mary Gear, SPD Administrator of Licensing and Quality of Care

Mary Gear thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak with them. She presented a three-page handout on the crisis in Medicaid community-based care. Mary spoke about three primary actions that SPD believes need to be taken, in order to address the crisis: 1) Increase rates for community-based care (CBC) settings to stabilize access; 2) Develop an acuity-based reimbursement model for CBC settings; and 3) consider lifting the moratorium on new CBC facility licenses.

Mary answered questions and responded to comments from members, including background on Adult-Care.org; whether members could distribute the handout in their local communities; and concerns about workers who committed acts of abuse that are still listed in the registry as available for employment (hope to resolve systems' problems within a year). Mary's staff will be conducting research on the potential effects of lifting the moratorium, as part of their work on CBC issues. She said she would be happy to share the research with the Commission when it's finished.

Break for Lunch

Members took a brief break to get their lunch, and returned to the meeting.

Working Lunch: A Primer on DHS Core Values – Lisa Harnisch, DHS Director's Office

Lisa Harnisch spoke with members about the DHS Core Values implementation. She distributed a handout with the values on it: Integrity, Stewardship, Responsibility, Respect, and Professionalism. The Department has been working with managers to

communicate the values with staff and managers' expectations for how the values can be infused throughout units, divisions and the Department.

Members responded positively to this effort and asked how they could assist DHS in this effort and engaged in discussion with Lisa about things DHS could do. Suggestions offered: Making certain the Core Values were displayed in all offices; pursuing different ways to hold employees accountable for the values, such as a "how are we measuring up" survey, or comment cards in offices; Posting the DHS Core Values in common areas of organizations that work directly with DHS; working with management to help them hold employees accountable; placing a statement of values in benefits checks that clients receive.

Some members expressed interest in adopting the DHS values to reflect the values of the Commission.

Lisa offered to meet again with the Commission and continue the dialog or to hear further suggestions. If GCSS would like to use the Core Values as a way to frame its relationship with DHS. Lisa said she would be happy to facilitate such a discussion.

Revisit of GCSS Evaluation

Marc reminded members that members had asked that the "GCSS Evaluation", begun in July, be continued. He asked if members would like to hold committee meetings on Thursday or do the evaluation, and discussed logistical conflicts with the Home Care Commission around use of the Church street building on December 6. Staff will research parking options for December 6.

Members expressed their desire to hold committee meetings on December 6, and a half-day evaluation on December 7 and a half-day business meeting on December 7 as well. Marc requested a group of members work with him to frame the evaluation and the timeline for the morning. Elaine, Robert, Joan and Eunice volunteered. [After the meeting Lucy also volunteered.]

Updates on State Unit on Aging, Transportation, Budget Note

Lee Girard, manager of the State Unit on Aging, offered an update on SUA activities and Transportation activities during the legislative Interim.

Lee reported that the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a \$10 million increase in OAA funding, which will go to national family care support programs, nutrition programs, and support services. Historically, Oregon gets about 1% of the federal total. We don't know yet specifically how much money will go to each county, although there are criteria that specify how much each area receives.

There was some discussion of Nutritional Programs and concerns about standards for meals in Eastern Oregon.

Lee reported how she and Michael Ward of the ODOT Public Transit Division are heading up the effort to respond to the Legislature's budget note on transportation. They will be working with a steering committee that has a diverse number of groups represented. John Helm will be a member, representing GCSS. The committee will begin meeting in December and its report is due by Fall of 2008. The report will address funding resources, feasibility and sustainability of a transportation infrastructure needed to support the aging and disability population for the future.

Return to Committee Reports

Legislative and Advocacy Committee – Robert reported on the Advocacy Summit held October 1. Themes which emerged included the need to be visible, to speak with one message, for there to be strong marketing of the “product” and for each group to work with others groups collaboratively. Robert reported that November 15 is the deadline for filing bills. Issues of note that emerged include a Task Force on People with Disabilities and a Task Force for Mental Health services for the underserved.

Staff Updates

Marc reported he had done research on the cost of alternate name plates for GCSS members and staff. After discussion of the costs and benefits, members agreed to continue to use the name plates they have at present. Marc and Eunice said that the DVD on the Lake Oswego trip put together by Robert would be shown in December.

Liaison Reports

Eunice shared that she had been in Oklahoma when MLTQCRC met. Kay noted she had submitted two reports that were not included in the red folder. Marc will find these and send to members. It was noted that the liaison report from on the GCSS website was working for some members and not others.

Member Submitted Items—Good of the Order

Eunice announced she would check on the status of the Sunshine Fund account. Becky said she would check on the status of the Comfort Suites for the December meeting, since the hotel had been sold and new management was expected. John Helm distributed birthday cards.

Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Send thank-you letter to Sens. Smith and Lincoln.	Staff	11/07
Send letter on DME to DMAP leadership.	Staff	11/07
Send Elaine Barrett information on GCSS budget.	Marc	11/07

Follow-up with Mary Gear on potential consequences of lifting moratorium on new CBC facility licenses.	Staff	Ongoing
Play Lake Oswego meeting DVD at December meeting.	Staff	12/07
Organize and meet on GCSS Evaluation for December.	Marc and workgroup	11/07