

Minutes

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

December 7, 2007

Department of Human Services

Members: Eunice Dutton (Vice-Chair), Elaine Barrett, Peggie Beck, Jeff Brandon, John Brenne, Denise Dion, Chuck Frazier, Kay Kirkbride, Robert Lawrence, Lucy Morgan, Marjorie Reuling, Millie Salt, Kathleen Schonau, Remona Simpson, and Joan Staley

Guests: Debbie Bowers, Jerry Cohen, Victoria Doyle, Ann Frazier, Gov. John Kitzhaber, Bill Olson, and James Toews

Excused: Patty Brost, Chris Flammang, John Helm (Chair), Barbara Nelson, Dolores Raymond, and Kelly Wessels

Staff: Becky Murphy

Called Meeting to Order

Introductions - Eunice reported that she would be chairing the meeting because John was dealing with the pressing business of local response to the flooding in his county. There were no guests or visitors (until later) so no introductions were made.

Approval of October Minutes - MOTION: Approve the October meeting minutes as corrected. (Robert Lawrence/Marjorie Reuling) Passed.

[Corrections: Page 3 – add Mary's staff is working on the systems' problems; however, this may take up to a year to correct. Page 4 – Lucy was added to the Evaluation Subcommittee after the meeting.]

Review Agenda – Elaine requested to add a Budget Update to the agenda. This was agreed to, and Commission members said they were willing to adjust the agenda throughout the day where needed.

Announcements:

- Lucy reported on the new federal website (Medicare.gov) that rates Medicare prescription plans.
- Kay reminded members it was Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- Kay previously reported that Legacy Health Systems was eliminating caregiver services; however, since there so many complaints about this, the services have been restored.
- Becky announced there are informational materials on the front table – members were asked to indicate if they would like a copy of any of them.
- Becky also put copies of materials requested from the committees on Thursday – there are enough copies for everyone, even if members were not on a particular committee.
- Becky reported Alice McDonald of SPD asked to share with GCSS a letter and in-

home survey going out in January

- Becky reported Jerry Cohen of AARP informed Marc on December 4th about a multi-million dollar/multi-year grant Life by Design, NW (governance provided by PCC) that has been sought the last two years. He felt it was one area and effort that SPD and GCSS' work with FLTC should be engaged.
- Becky reminded members that in their meeting packet is a 2008 calendar with meeting days highlighted and a listing of the meetings.

Correspondence:

Incoming and outgoing correspondence will be at the front table, so indicate if interested in a copy.

- Becky reported on several informational documents received: 211 information and AARP fliers. Oregon Health News had one article that mentions GCSS in the last two paragraphs. Jack Roberts, a former GCSS member, sent holiday greetings.
- Becky also reported on outgoing correspondence: letter to the Division of Medical Assistance Programs regarding durable medical equipment, letter to the congressional delegation, and the follow-up letter to forum participants.

Budget Update (Elaine Barrett)

Elaine reported on the budget meeting with Claudia Babcock and Becky. She will compile information from reports from both Claudia and Becky and share that information with an emphasis of the current biennium, which started in July 2007.

Members thanked Elaine for her efforts as the new Financial Officer.

Public Comment

None.

GCSS Evaluation: Committee Work Plans (Elaine Barrett)

Elaine reported from the Evaluation Subcommittee. Elaine reported the committee evaluation process asked committees to identify their goals, and whether those goals were met or if not, what steps that still need to be taken to meet those goals with a timeline.

Each chair or designee shared the summary of their committee's results. The summaries will be given to Becky to update for the next meeting.

Future Long Term Care (FLTC)

Elaine facilitated a group discussion about FLTC activities since July 2007 which included:

- Attendance of meetings.
- Staying involved in the process.
- Follow up letter sent to community forum participants. [Eunice read a copy of the letter.]
- Lake Oswego meeting and DVD.

Committee Reports

Eunice asked chairs to be brief on committee meeting updates, reporting only on what not covered under Evaluations.

Executive Committee – Eunice reported on only the highlights of the last two Executive Committee meetings, since the draft minutes were in the meeting packets.

Caregivers Committee – Remona reported on Judy Bowen's presentation on evidence-based caregiver programs. It is hoped Kay will give an overview of Powerful Tools at the January meeting.

MOTION: Send letter of appreciation for the reorganization to the Board of Nursing. (Robert Lawrence/Peggie Beck) *Passed*.

Elder Abuse Committee – Peggie reported the update on financial abuse training and requests from other states to reprint the publication for their states, Michigan being the most recent. Peggie also reported on Travis Wall's presentation on public guardianship and Utah's program.

Mental Health Committee – Denise also reported that Rebecca Curtis of AMH used some the Committee's suggestions for a data survey for County Mental Health Plans. Denise reported that the committee planned to invite Matt Bartolotti and Judy Strand to the January meeting.

Legislative and Advocacy Committee – Robert briefly reported on 2008 and 2009 legislative issues. Robert also shared with all members the preliminary report from the Governor's Office on the Oregon Board of Nursing and Monitoring Program. There have been 34 recommendations made regarding the statutes, privacy rights, public safety, and processes (internal and external). The final report will be submitted by February when the Governor's office will submit legislation.

Eunice reported an issue came up in one of the committees about the chair appointing a member to their committee. According to the Bylaws, the Commission chair appoints committee members. Eunice discussed the issue with the chair by phone prior to today's

meeting, and John agreed that committee chairs should be able to appoint their members.

MOTION: Prepare a Bylaws amendment to allow committee chairs to appoint additional members of their committees. (Remona Simpson/Peggie Beck) *Passed.*

ACTION: Chuck reported he would draft the revision to send out so it could be voted on at the January meeting.

Eunice distributed a document from the Real Choice Committee on housing with assistive technology.

Review of Applications for Appointment to GCSS

Eunice reported on the process of the Nominating/Recommending Subcommittee. The subcommittee reviewed the applications, interviewed three candidates by phone, and requests a letter to be sent for them to visit at the January meeting.

ACTION: Staff to send a letter to three prospective members inviting them to the January meeting.

Break for Lunch

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

Working Lunch: Next Steps in Health Care Reform (Gov. John Kitzhaber, M.D.)

Former Governor John Kitzhaber, M.D. spoke with the Commission concerning the Archimedes movement and next steps in the area of health care reform. His informal presentation touched on costs, health versus health care, politics, economics, Medicare, baby boomers, state versus national, the reimbursement system, and technology.

Seniors and People with Disabilities Update (James Toews and Debbie Bowers)

James reported on a recent meeting he attended at the national level on non-Medicaid services. Three issues identified and supported by the Administration on Aging and CMS are:

- Information and Assistance – include counseling on options and detailed information.
- Healthy Aging – chronic disease management and falls prevention.
- Nursing Home Diversion.

Discussion also included funding – moving money from mandatory to discretionary.

FLTC Activities:

- Funding may need investment in a different model, and cause intense negotiations with AAAs.
- In February or March stakeholder groups will meet to give input.
- The cost formula based strategy and funding needs to be ready in the matter of months since budget proposals will need to be made by early spring.
- Community Forums to be scheduled also.

2008 Session – Urgent Needs:

- Medicaid crisis – the need to deal with the lost bed capacity.
- Nursing home counts are up the first time in 20 years. The states to look at rate setting and restructuring of rates.

GCSS Bylaws and Protocols (Chuck Frazier)

Chuck reported the Liaison Listing was going to be revised, and would be set up by member, including the date of the assignment and whether ongoing or temporary. A reassessment of all positions ought to be conducted, making sure the position is a good investment of GCSS members' involvement. Chuck requests an hour on the January meeting agenda.

It was also requested that the listing identify if the assignment is mandatory or not. For example, the Home Care Commission's statute states that a member of GCSS needs to be on the HCC.

The GCSS website demonstration on liaison reports will be performed at the next meeting.

Liaison Reports

Two reports were included in the meeting packet.

Guest Input – Jerry Cohen from AARP

Eunice permitted Jerry Cohen to give a brief report on AARP's activities:

- AARP agrees with the linking of Health and Long Term Care and economic security.
- AARP and OPB together will present "Aging Parents" in early 2008 (not sure on the date yet).
- There are two new publications: one on Caregiver Resources and another on Livable Communities. Contact the AARP office for copies.
- There will be a February AARP webcast, which will be announced at a later date.

- SB 329, the Healthy Oregon Act – The bill, now law, sets up service delivery and outcomes, with short-term and long-term fixes. AARP, SEIU, and OHCA want sustainable funding found for this.
- Jerry requested to return at a later date and give a more extensive presentation.

Member Submitted Items

- Millie suggested a possible dessert gathering to build relationships with legislators and DHS leadership. During that time, possibly GCSS could share their vision. **ACTION: Commissioners to think about the possibility of a dessert gathering, if not for the 2008 session, for 2009. Also possibly discuss with 04AD and OHCA.**
- Lucy asked for clarity regarding the public attending GCSS meetings and guests receiving lunch. Usually speakers, commissioners, and staff are furnished lunch. If there is plenty of food, sometimes an invitation to the public to join members is extended. Discussion included having a clear policy, and a suggestion about letting staff know of guests ahead of time. **[This will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.]**
- Elaine questioned the evening meal reimbursement policy for members not staying overnight but would like to participate in networking meals on Thursday night. It was decided to look at possibly having informal dinner meetings.
- Bob plans to keep in touch with Debbie Bowers and staff regarding legislative issues.
- Bob mentioned that Clackamas County received a grant through the Social Security Administration which will help 50 homeless individuals.
- Peggie reported how great the breakfast and service was at the Renaissance Inn (formerly Wittenberg Inn) in Keizer. **ACTION: Staff will inform members when an agreement is in place with Comfort Suites or another motel.**
- Elaine asked about the Sunshine Fund envelope in her folder. Eunice reported donations will be requested in January.
- Millie requested more Parking Permits for the Yellow Lot.
- Chuck reported receipt of an official-looking mailing, which was really an ad for an insurance program.

MOTION: Pursue contacting Attorney General Hardy Myers as a potential future member of GCSS. (Lucy Morgan/Peggie Beck) *Passed.*

Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Update evaluation forms for all committees.	Becky	1/08
Send letter of appreciation for the proposed reorganization to the Board of Nursing.	Staff	1/08
Prepare Bylaws amendment to allow Committee Chairs can appoint their own members. Send out prior	Chuck Staff	1/08

to voting in January.		
Send letters to the three prospective members to attend the January meeting.	Staff	1/08
Revise liaison listing by member as discussed.	Staff Chuck	1/08
Prepare website demonstration for liaison reports for the January meeting.	Staff Chuck	1/08
Include Chuck on the January agenda for Bylaws, Liaison Listing, and website demonstration.	Staff	1/08
Prepare policy clarification regarding guests' lunches being paid for by GCSS? Discuss at Executive Committee meeting.	Staff	1/08
Discuss more and/or form subcommittee to organize a dessert gathering for DHS leadership and legislators.	GCSS	?
Discuss about possibly having Thursday night for an informal dinner meeting each month.	GCSS Staff	1/08
Check with Comfort Suites and/or other motels regarding a "lower rate" agreement.	Staff	1/08
Pursue contacting the attorney general regarding mailing.	Chuck	1/08
Send parking permits for the Yellow Lot to all commissioners that need them.	Staff	1/08
Include "Sunshine Fund" donation envelopes in the January meeting folders.	Staff	1/08
Contact AARP for more copies of Caregiver Resource and Livable Community.	Staff	1/08
Invite Jerry Cohen of AARP back as guest speaker	Executive Committee	TBD