

# Minutes

## Governor's Commission on Senior Services

January 25, 2008

Department of Human Services

**Members:** John Helm (Chair), Eunice Dutton (Vice-Chair), Elaine Barrett, Peggie Beck, Jeff Brandon, Patty Brost, Rep. Jean Cowan, Denise Dion, Chuck Frazier, Kay Kirkbride, Robert Lawrence, Lucy Morgan, Sen. Bill Morrisette, Barbara Nelson, Remona Simpson, and Joan Staley

**Guests:** Dr. Dan Baer, Liz Baxter, Janine Dunphy, Ann Frazier, Dolores Hubert, Ross Mathews, Timothy McQueary, Marilyn Patton, and James Toews

**Excused:** John Brenne, Chris Flammang, Dolores Raymond, Marjorie Reuling, Millie Salt, Kathleen Schonau, and Kelly Wessels

**Staff:** Becky Murphy and Marc Overbeck

### Called Meeting to Order

**Introductions** – Introductions were made by members and guests.

**Approval of December Minutes - MOTION: Approve the December meeting minutes as written.** (Peggie Beck/Lucy Morgan) **Passed.**

**Review Agenda** – Elaine requested time on the agenda to report on the GCSS budget. This was added to committee reports. Elaine also requested that budget report be added as a routine agenda item.

### **Announcements**

- Kay distributed handouts from AARP---“We Need to Talk: Family Conversations With Older Drivers” booklet, and “We Need to Talk” public seminar information.
- Kay reminded everyone this was her last meeting as a commissioner. She thanked everyone. Kay plans to continue working with caregiver and hospice issues.
- Marc reviewed the materials included in the meeting folder, and reported on several items:
  - Naomi Sacks requests a volunteer for a work group on temporary rules about the HCC bargaining agreement. Patty volunteered.
  - Responses from the Oregon Health Action Campaign Survey have been compiled into a composite summary and delivered to OHAC.
  - The Medicare Committee of the Health Fund Board (advocates and experts) meets February 28 and would like a panel of three GCSS members. Robert, Chuck, and Chris or Peggie volunteered. A conference call will be organized to discuss the panel information.

- There is an Oregon Nursing Home Summit on February 12th, sponsored by OHSU.
- GCSS membership with OGA allows GCSS to designate up to four members to attend functions at a reduced cost---Lucy, Robert, Eunice, and Jeff volunteered.
- There will be a “Caring for Your Parents Outreach” stakeholder meeting on February 4th, 11:00-2:00, sponsored by AARP and OPB, in Portland. Pertinent information is on the table.
- Incoming and outgoing correspondence since the last meeting. Marc asked members to indicate if they want copies of any of the materials.
- Copies of the completed committee evaluations are on the table.
- Action Items from January’s meeting are complete as follows:
  - Bylaws proposed amendment to be discussed later today.
  - Prospective members invited and came to the January meeting.
  - The liaison list has been revised and will be discussed later today.
  - There will be a website demonstration regarding liaison reports later today.
  - Reviewed lunch policy discussion at the Executive Committee.
  - The Comfort Suites’ agreement is in effect through May 2008.
  - The materials requested from AARP will arrive by the next meeting.
- Robert reported that Bill Gordon, a former GCSS member, is celebrating his 100th birthday on February 16th.

**ACTION ITEM: Send a letter of congratulations to Bill Gordon.** (Robert Lawrence/Remona Simpson) **Passed.**

- Robert announced a reception is planned for the afternoon of February 4th for retiring legislators.

## Public Comment

Dolores Hubert spoke to members about the deficiencies she sees in long term care facilities, and that there is a great need for more care staff and quality of care. Recent newspaper articles highlight the need for advocacy on an ongoing basis, she noted. She distributed a New York Times’ article about corporations decreasing costs by cutting staff, etc.

**SUGGESTION: When visiting and reviewing facilities, ask about staffing and hours and preparedness, acuity levels, and quality of staffing and training.**

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – John reminded members that the proposed Bylaw revision is in their meeting folder. John and Eunice commented about initial committee selections and balance---this bylaw amendment gives committee chairs latitude.

**MOTION Accept proposed bylaw revision.** (Remona Simpson/Joan Staley) **Passed.**

**ACTION ITEM: Staff will update the Bylaws.**

**Caregiver Committee** - Remona reported that Kay and Debbie Waring presented a shortened Powerful Tools training---about stress reducers and helping people develop action plans.

**Elder Abuse Committee** - Peggie reported the committee is working on a basic outline and going forward on guardianship/conservatorship concept for 2009 legislation--- assigned reading and e-mail conversations prior to the next meeting. They also plan to contact Easter Seals about a money management presentation.

**Mental Health Committee** - Denise reported on the panel discussion on Suicide Prevention for Older Adults. With the assistance of the three guests and our ongoing partner from AMH Rebecca Curtis, suicide prevention will be a priority in the committee's process.

**Budget** - Elaine reported she met with Claudia Babcock. Elaine's goal is to have a written report by the March meeting.

Elaine asked whether expenses to attend the February 4th event (retiring legislators) would be covered by GCSS. The decision was that expenses would be covered by GCSS.

Discussion on Business Cards, including Representative Cowan's thoughts.

**CONSENSUS: The Executive Committee will make a final decision on what kind of business cards will be printed for members.**

### **Seniors and People with Disabilities Update (James Toews)**

- Legislation has been introduced at the national level to amend the Older Americans Act. The emphasis will be on ADRCs (Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers) who that provide referrals, resources, and counseling. A funding increase will allow for mandatory funds becoming discretionary funds. Intense negotiations are currently going on. This is the first time the aging demographics have been discussed at the national level in a meaningful way.
- Long Range Plans – SPD plans to invite stakeholders to a meeting in March and will present a draft outline of the long range plan. By the end of March stakeholders' input will be included. To invite public input, listening posts are planned for probably March and April. Community forums will probably happen in May and June, with the report due in July. SPD hopes to have a 15-20 page report---some of the data updated with specific recommendations, as detailed as possible. SPD is not sure how many locations will be possible; however, the plan is to have other stakeholders involved in

organizing these, not just GCSS members. The next six months will be extremely busy.

- February Session – James talked about the primary focuses for SPD during the Supplemental Session: There is proposed legislation to provide some “interim fixes” on the Medicaid capacity issue; also legislation on abuse issues—with changes to fees and civil penalty issues for rule violations; and there will be ongoing work to prepare for 2009.
- Quality Fund – James spoke about setting up a fund for fees and penalties to be used to assist in improvements, etc. Discussion on website possibilities with confidentiality and other restrictions.
- Rep Cowan shared her perspective—that stakeholders were working to combine priority lists into a single agreed upon list. DHS was expressing its interest in SPD issues, the ongoing necessity for the legislature to trust in DHS, that we need industry cooperation (rates, workforce, etc.), and the importance of public awareness about public policy. She suggested when holding community forums to not only state the problems but to give some possible solutions.

## Committee Reports – Continued

**Legislative & Advocacy Committee** - Robert reported on the following discussion items.

- LC 17 –He will ask Denise for feedback.
- LC 28/SB 1061 – Rep. Cowan briefly reported on the background and issues of this bill.

**MOTION: Give support to SB 1061.** (Joan Staley/Peggie Beck) ***Passed.***

- SB 1075 - Underserved Mental Health Task Force.

**MOTION: Give support to SB 1075.** (Denise Dion/Eunice Dutton) ***Passed.***

- Request GCSS sign onto a letter of support to the Farm bill (changes to the Food Stamp Act).

**MOTION: Sign letter of support to the Farm bill.** (Peggie Beck/Lucy Morgan) ***Passed.***

- SB 1073 – Affordable housing and ending homelessness.

**MOTION: Give support to SB 1073.** (Eunice Dutton/Joan Staley) ***Passed.***

## Working Lunch---Continued Discussion on Health Care Reform

Chuck and Liz Baxter of The Archimedes Movement gave a powerpoint presentation and facilitated a discussion regarding Health Care Reform. A copy of the power point presentation was placed in the meeting packet.

Liz expressed hope that GCSS would become an “ally” of Archimedes, which could include members hosting meetings in their community to discuss health care reform, and

the Commission being a “sounding board” that Archimedes could take issues to and get input on how seniors feel about an issue.

### **50+ Dialogue Discussion on Medicare (Dr. Dan Baer & Janine Dunphy)**

A brief summary was given and the subject of “Finding physicians who accept new Medicare patients” was reviewed. A handout is in the meeting packet.

**MOTION: Actively support and participate (co-sponsor) with 50+ Dialogue group in its effort around expanding Medicare provider access.** (Peggie Beck/Kay Kirkbride) *Passed.*

### **Liaison Assignments and Report Demonstration (Chuck Frazier)**

The new GCSS Member Affiliations list, revised and updated, was distributed. The listing was reviewed.

**ACTION ITEM: Complete revisions to be made to the Affiliations list.**

Liaison Report/GCSS Website Demonstration - Marc and Chuck went through how to access the GCSS website, how to log on to the Member Area, how to fill out a report, and how to send it to Chuck and Marc.

**ACTION ITEM: Send members a reminder of the login, password, and instructions.**

**SUGGESTION: Invite Claudia Black, the new liaison to the Governor’s Office, to future meetings.**

### **Member Submitted Items**

- **EEOC Ruling on Health Care Benefits** – Chris requested sharing the information at Executive Committee. A copy of the federal ruling is in meeting packet.
- **Prospective Members and Their Recommendation** – Eunice reported on the Nominating/Recommending Subcommittee process and protocol. Marc gave a brief summary of the qualifications of each prospective member.

**MOTION: Recommend Ross Matthews to become a commissioner.** (Joan Staley/Peggie Beck) *Passed.*

**MOTION: Recommend Timothy McQueary to become a commissioner.** (Remona Simpson/Peggie Beck) *Passed.*

**MOTION: Recommend Marilyn Patton to become a commissioner.** (Elaine Barrett/Peggie Beck) *Passed.*

**ACTION ITEM: Send recommendations of prospective members to the Governor’s**

**Office.**

**ACTION ITEM: Follow-up letter with the prospective members with a “thank you” for attending and to confirm their interest in serving.**

- Robert mentioned that Tim and Marilyn are both interested in becoming Legislative & Advocacy Committee members.
- Discussion was held on the means and timeline of Rep. Cowan's appointment to the GCSS.

**Adjourned**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Assigned</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Add Budget Update (Elaine) to future agendas.	Staff	Ongoing
Notify Naomi Sacks that Patty volunteered for the rules work group.	Staff	2/08
Notify Health Fund Board of panel of Robert, Chuck, and Chris or Peggie. Set up conference call to discuss.	Staff	2/08
Notify OGA and the designation of four members: Lucy, Robert, Eunice, and Jeff.	Staff	2/08
Send letter of congratulations to Bill Gordon for his 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday.	Staff	2/08
Revise Bylaws per amendment.	Staff	3/08
Business cards decision.	Executive Committee	2/08
LC 17 feedback to Robert.	Denise	2/08
Send Letter of Support for SB 1061.	Staff	2/08
Send Letter of Support for SB 1075.	Staff	2/08
Notify appropriate parties on support of Farm Bill revisions.	Staff	2/08
Send Letter of Support for SB 1073.	Staff	2/08
Actively support and participate with 50+ Dialogue group on Medicare Access expansion.	Staff	2/08 & 3/08
Update the GCSS Members Affiliation list.	Staff	3/08
Send members a reminder of the login, password, and instructions to complete liaison reports for submission.	Staff	3/08
Invite Claudia Black to meetings.	Staff	Ongoing

Member recommendations of Ross, Tim, and Marilyn – send to Governor’s Office.	Staff	3/08
Send “thank you” letter to prospective members.	Staff	3/08