Minutes	**Governor's Commission on Senior Services** **April 28, 2006** **Department of Human Services**
Members:	John Helm, Charles Kurtz, Robert Lawrence, Jack Ewing, Marilyn Hinds, Remona Simpson, Jack Roberts, Denise Dion, Peggie Beck, Maria Smith, Chris Flammang, Chuck Frazier, Kay Kirkbride, Dolores Raymond, and Kathleen Schonau
Guests:	Rick Bennett, John Brenne, Representative George Gilman, Ruth Shepherd
Excused:	Eunice Dutton, Linda Miller, Kelly Wessels
Absent:	
Staff:	Morgen Brodie, Marc Overbeck, Wendy Russell, Robert Gordon

Called Meeting to Order 12:13

GCSS Planning Days

A handout was given with what the Planning Days Workgroup had discussed at their last meeting along with the ideas all members had given at the previous Commission meeting.

Overarching Issue

It was agreed that the overarching issue is "the diverse aging population and what needs to be done to prepare for it."

Criteria for Decision Making

Suggested criteria for decision-making are: the tasks must fit with the Commission's charge; it must be something that can be accomplished; and it must make a difference.

There was a request to have Dr. Margaret Neal from Portland State University come and speak.

For next meeting: a discussion on the logistics of Planning Days, which will lead to a discussion of the agenda.

Chair's Discussion Items

The Community Forum packets need to include Commissioner bios and an updated GCSS flyer.

Special Session/Legislative Updates — Representative Gilman

Representative Gilman updated members on the recently completed Special Session of the Legislature.

The Special Session covered the DHS budget, Jessica's Law, and payday loans. Human services are still being watched closely. If all requests from the Legislature aren't met, the ramifications will be that the money won't go be passed through. $42 million excess from lottery was given to schools; this excluded the ESD's. Legislators agreed to bonding for Portland Public Schools. Representative Gilman thought it was a great session and got issues taken care of quickly.

Representative Gilman answered various questions from the Commissioners.

Discussion with AARP — Rick Bennett

Rick agreed that the legislative leadership did an excellent job during the Special Session. He was pleased with the appropriation for Human Services. AARP is glad that the payday loan bill passed since they were actively involved in sponsoring the bill.

Rick talked about the prescription drug coverage initiative and how AARP is concerned about Initiatives 6 and 14. Initiative 6 is a TABOR-type spending cap. Initiative 14 is a federal substitution with tax deductions versus a tax credit, which would in effect be a tax cut. The Legislative Revenue Office projects that in the first biennium this would reduce the state revenue by $835 million, and Rick said this would have a definite negative impacts on services. A few of AARP's concerns for the 2007 legislative session are: the DHS budget and advocating for additional staffing for LTC ombudsman. AARP also plans to be more active on consumer protection.

Rick answered various questions from Commissioners.

In the United States Legislature, AARP is concerned about US1955 and its impact on services covered by insurance companies. AARP opposes the bill.

Conversation with DHS Director — Dr. Bruce Goldberg

Dr. Goldberg thanked Commissioners for their service. He spoke briefly about his background, then asked the Commissioners for questions, saying he would rather speak *with* them then *at* them.

He spoke about the challenge of seeing service delivery from the perspective of the client; trying to shift from the complex system perspective to individual centered services. That is why the Department is asking for more involvement from people who are clients and use its services. Dr. Goldberg feels that the Department should be driven from the bottom *up*, not the top down. Consumers are explicit on their needs and the Department needs to be clear on what it does or doesn't do.

Commissioners voiced their thoughts on various issues. Dr. Goldberg responded.

Dr. Goldberg said the focus should be on what brings value and what doesn't. If something does not bring value then why are we doing it? Commissioners commented that they often heard the term "Federal requirement" given as an explanation. They expressed that this seemed wasteful and demoralizing. Dr. Goldberg ended his visit with another note of appreciation for the wisdom and service of the Commission members and expressed hope that they can work closely with him to improve services and service delivery.

Liaison Reports

Remona reported on the Long-term Care Ombudsman certification training schedule for 2006.

Member Submitted Items/Birthdays

Dolores Raymond read an article titled "Maybe Not Everyone in the World Hates Us."

Birthday cards were handed out to Dolores, Joan and Charles Kurtz.

Adjourn 2:40

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Check with the Governor's staff about reappointment procedure	Marc	May 2006
Bio about Commissioners	Staff, Members	May 2006
Updated GCSS Flyer	Staff	May 2006