

# Minutes

## Governor's Commission on Senior Services

October 27, 2006

Department of Human Services

**Members:** John Helm, Chair, Eunice Dutton (Vice-Chair), Elaine Barrett, Peggie Beck, John Brenne, Denise Dion, Chris Flammang, Chuck Frazier, Marilyn Hinds, Charles Kurtz, Robert Lawrence, Barbara Nelson, Dolores Raymond, Kathleen Schonau, Remona Simpson, Joan Staley

**Guests:** Jeffry Brandon, Patty Brost, Lucy Morgan  
**Excused:** Kelly Wessels  
**Staff:** Marc Overbeck, Wendy Russell

### Called Meeting to Order 10:09

**Introductions: Introductions were made by all, including prospective members.**

**Approval of minutes: Planning Days minutes approved as written. Eunice/Remona. Passed.**

**Review Agenda: No additions or corrections.**

### Announcements

Elaine brought calendars for the group that included recommendations on how to be "scam free."

Kay brought an advertisement about a seminar regarding "aging in place," sponsored by OSU. She also passed out a handout about universal housing design essentials courtesy of Senior and Disabled services.

Kathleen followed up about parking passes and she confirmed that members' passes will still be accepted for the 2 days of meetings.

Chris – Talked about Coos Bay's new way of approaching caregivers and their housing situation. He will get the information to Dolores.

Eunice brought in financial abuse water bottles for members to take out to their communities.

Marilyn told members that there were posters available regarding Everyday Heroes and that she would like the information to get out to as many places in the community as possible not just at state agencies. Brochures are being printed up now that will give information about the program and the partners.

Morgen asked Jeanette Burkett to speak about the new home care rules clarification and what constitutes owning your own home. DHS has just become aware that SEIU put something on their website regarding the policy. **The Commission would like a copy of the formal written response that is going out to SEIU.**

Kay and Dolores went to a forum regarding health care reform.

## **Correspondence**

Mail was received as a result of the Annual Celebration thanking the Commission for its work over the past 25 years. A letter from James and SPD was received thanking the Commission for its efforts and research regarding disaster preparedness. There was also a letter from Ruth McEwen and the other members of PDAC, which thanked GCSS for their partnership in crafting a joint statement about OPI Modernization.

## **Staff Updates**

Morgen announced that Marc has been made lead worker for the Advocacy Unit. Becky will be primary staff for both the Caregiver and Mental Health committees. She reported on the trip taken by GCSS staff to the new Church Street location with the Home Care Commission staff. She went over some of the specifics on how the new office might be set up. She would like ideas from all of the advocacy groups to make the space reflective of the constituencies we serve, with posters and artwork for the kind of work we do.

Marc talked about the recruitment process. He welcomed Jeff, Patty and Lucy to the meeting.

Wendy spoke about the changes in how travel reimbursements are handled. She will get the full information on the new reimbursement rules in writing to the members.

## **SPD Updates**

Cathy congratulated the Commission on 25 years and how well the celebration went.

She also reported on Long Range Planning next steps. Workgroup 8, which focused on impacts of the aging demographic on people with physical disabilities and the collection of data relevant to disabilities looked at the Long Range Plan document and the 7 earlier workgroups. Demographic data from national research was compiled, and now the Department is trying to sort through the different definitions of disability among the Census Bureau, Department of Education, Medicaid, and Social Security. The draft recommendations for each of the 7 workgroups will be reported to the Future of Long-Term Care workgroup on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to put out a second draft of the SPD Report, including recommendations and the input from both Work Group 8 as well as from GCSS.

SPD is continuing to seek grants. An Administration On Aging grant was received in the amount of \$250,000, which together with in-kind contributions from partners will fund four separate pilot projects regarding nutrition and exercise.

SPD is also moving forward with the application for the Money Follows the Person grant. The state will know if we have received it by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

DAS is still putting together the Governor's Recommended Budget and it should be released on December 1.

## Public Input

None

## Committee Reports

Executive- Eunice reported that the Committee reviewed the work plans and visited with James and Cathy about the Money Follows the Person Grant. SPD would like to have a letter of endorsement. **Members emphasized they would like written material regarding the grant to have a better understanding before they agree to endorse grant proposals.** The healthy aging grant and pilot projects were introduced.

Caregivers- Remona went over the action items from the committee.

Elder Abuse- Peggie went over the action items from the committee. They would like to invite Jan Margosian to attend as often as she can.

Mental Health- Rebecca Curtis will be asked to every meeting as Sandra Moreland's replacement. D'Leah Cruz talked of reorganization of the older adult unit and requested input on the new name. Denise went over the action items and said that the committee has been divided into 3 subcommittees.

Legislative Advocacy- Robert recommended that GCSS co-sponsor the mental health event at Marylhurst. He also suggested we explore tax credits/deductions for caregivers with legislators and find out what other states are doing. **Motion to explore and get more information in regards to tax credit/deductions and family caregivers. Bob/Marilyn. Passed.**

**Motion to lend support to the Oregon "Fix Medicare Rx" campaign. Bob/John. Passed.**

**Motion that GCSS co-sponsor the Mental Health & Addictions forum with no financial responsibility. Charles/John. Passed.**

Charles spoke about making GCSS more visible in the Capitol building and having

personal contact with legislators. **The legislative committee will develop a one-page letter with talking points regarding GCSS priorities for the upcoming session.**

**Marc asked if members would be interested in attending a legislative training if it can be organized for the afternoon of the Wednesday before the next Commission meeting. Most members said they would be.**

### **Lunch Presentation--Jim Davis**

Members viewed a film that Jim Davis helped create on the positive aspects of aging. He will furnish copies of the video to GCSS at a later time. Jim answered questions about the film, Gray Panthers, Congressman Wyden's stance on seniors, and other issues of seniors and people with disabilities.

### **Future of Long Term Care Committee**

Chair Helm put the Commission in recess while it re-convened as a Committee of the Whole to discuss the Future of Long-Term Care.

**Report on Senate Public Health** – Robert reported he was part of a panel presentation to the Senate Public Health Committee regarding the community forums and the draft plan. He reported that the reception from the committee was very good.

**Report on O4AD Presentation** – Marc noted that a panel of GCSS members--John, Charles, Eunice, and Robert—delivered a presentation about the future of long term care, the community forums and recommendations the Commission will make at a plenary session of O4AD, and that the presentation went quite well and was well received.

**GCSS Report to Governor and Next Step Strategies** – Marc facilitated discussion on the review of the draft report sent in the meeting packet. Items to be revised were acronyms spelled out, changing several photos, updating the date on the first page, and adding mental health and abuse prevention as GCSS priorities.

After revisions and printing of the report, distribution may be ready by mid-to-late-November.

Other suggestions offered included some type of report binding, that printing be two-sided, and providing reference to any appendices.

The distribution list for the report consists of: the Governor, FLTC work group, DHS Director, Legislators, AAAs, SACs, DSACs, PDAC, local and county governments, city planners, builders, senior centers, and those who attended the community forums. Members discussed a possible press release, where we could include the Executive Summary and the website where the report will be posted.

A suggestion was made to ask Cathy/James regarding printing costs, and have the costs priced out.

A discussion was held about a second round of forums with communities, including the three priorities of GCSS that were not expressly covered earlier: mental health, elder abuse, and caregiver issues.

### **Reconvene Commission, Other Discussion Items**

Chair Helm reconvened the full Commission.

**OSH Master Plan** - Chuck reported on the OSH master plan, and noted that community based services are included.

**Money Follows the Person Grant** – Discussion was held based on the written information Marc distributed concerning the grant.

**MOTION: GCSS endorse the Money Follows the Person grant. *Passed.*** (Marilyn Hinds/John Brenne)

### **Liaison Reports**

**04AD** – Eunice reported the 04AD Quarterly Business Meeting will be held next month.

**Financial Abuse** – Eunice reported the Financial Abuse Coalition will meet in November.

**Long Term Care Ombudsmen Advisory Committee** – Remona reported the group meets next month.

**Other Liaison Reports** – Other reports are in the meeting packet; including Kay's report as a member of and liaison to the Home Care Commission.

**Coalition on Manufactured Housing** – Dolores reported on activity in Washington County. She read a position paper on manufactured homes and parks. She requested GCSS adopt a similar position. Dolores will e-mail members and staff material to discuss at the next meeting and requested it to be added to the agenda. Paul Lee, who wrote Wilsonville's ordinance on parks, could be a possible future speaker.

### **Member Submitted Items**

Members noted they liked the comfortable chairs and the "not-so-crowded" agenda.

**Adjourn: 2:25 p.m.**