

Minutes

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

April 23, 2004
Keizer, Oregon

Members: Dolores Hubert, Chair; Mariana Bornholdt; Estill Dietz; Elton Greeley; Mary Lawrence; Dolores Raymond; Remona Simpson; Jack Ewing; Bob White; Maria Smith; Harvey Roth; Helen Liere; Ham Jackson; John Brenne; Tim Malone; Linda Miller; Bob Lawrence; Barbara Brewer-Nelson; and Elaine Barrett

Guests: Gary Weeks, DHS Director; James Toews, Assistant DHS Director; Randi Brimley, OSU Intern; Rick Bennett, AARP; and Jaqualine Zimmer, O4AD

Staff: Jane-ellen Weidanz and Sherry Whitehead

Excused: Don Butsch, Mary Harvey, Eunice Dutton, and Adelina Sampang

Called Meeting to Order

Approved March 2004 Minutes.

Announcements

There is going to be a program regarding Medicare and prescription drugs on OPB, April 23, 2004 at 9:00pm.

A conference will be held regarding "Embracing Diversity In The 21st Century," Thursday, May 27, 2004 at the Willamette University Campus, 8:00am to 4:30pm.

Dolores Hubert has been chosen to represent the Governor's Commission on Senior Services on the Elder Abuse Task Force.

Jane-ellen reviewed April 2004 in-coming and out-going correspondence.

There is a Stakeholders Meeting on May 11, 2004 from 10:00am to Noon at The Department of Human Services, Room 166. (Conference Call)

MOTION: The Commission will be donating \$50.00 from the "Sunshine Fund" to the Pacific Community Hospital Foundation in Bobbi Butsch's name. (Bob White)
Passed

Health and Long Term Care Committee Update

Mary Lawrence gave us an update regarding the Case Management and Field Reviews discussion, the Oregon Health Plan update from Allison Knight, and the RCF Rules Committee update from Linda Miller.

General Issues Committee Update

Elton Greeley gave us an update regarding a video that the Committee watched called “Planning Ahead for Special Needs During a Disaster”, the 72-hour disaster kits, the Financial Abuse Coalition, financial abuse legislation, and the Transportation Subcommittee.

Mental Health and Addictions Committee Update

John Brenne gave an update regarding senior mental health services legislation revision, tools for local SACs to use on mental health issues, the Mental Health Planning and Management Advisory Council, and the SPD update from Lynda Crandal.

Legislative Advocacy Committee Update

Helen gave an update regarding the impact of the War on social services and other discretionary funded programs, the Joint Interim Committee on Tax Reform, tax reform recommendations, the New Front Door, the Advocacy Enhancement Project Workgroup, and the intergenerational project. The following motions were a result of that meeting.

MOTION: To send a letter to the Congressional Delegation to oppose any Conference Committee Proposals that would include any cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and other Social Services. (Helen Liere) *Passed*

MOTION: Send a letter to the Joint Interim Committee on Tax Reform expressing our appreciation in their efforts, to proceed with caution, and to include GCSS recommendations for tax reform. (Helen Liere) *Passed* (Elaine Barrett) *Opposed*

Discussion with Gary Weeks, Director, Department of Human Services

Gary continues to believe in the importance of integrating all services (public health, mental health, and substance abuse) for clients, identifying community needs, and the importance of accountability within the department’s outcomes that demonstrate good use of public money. There is no plan to reorganize within DHS. Support for the Volunteer Program will continue. This program is one of the oldest programs within DHS that has created a tremendous savings to the state. Gary also wants to look into a long-term care agenda that deals with wellness, disease management, and financial planning (long term care insurance). One of Gary’s concerns is the increase in caseloads for adult protective services. There needs to be a package from the Governor and the Legislature that supports more staff in adult protective services. Gary believes that there is an important role that advocates play in the department, they keep the pressure on the prioritization of services, the legislative process, and they bring critical information about population needs to the department.

SPD Update (James Toews)

SPD is working with the Federal Government for the restoration of Service Priority Levels 12 and 13. They were very explicit with Legislators that federal approval is contingent upon no future subsequent budget cuts removing levels 12 and 13. There is a Stakeholders meeting on May 11, 2004 to seek advice on how to prioritize the budget policy packages. There are concerns with SPD having added costs going into the next biennium just to continue what was implemented this biennium; concerns with the possible percentage drop in the federal match rate; and concerns with the cost of phasing Priority Service Levels 12 & 13 back into the system. The intent of the New Front Door program is not to divert resources or staff from our currently stressed areas within the department. The National Governors Association is putting on a major forum for long-term care. Governors nationwide are gathering together to address long term care issues. They are focusing on three key areas: Creating a community-based system, Retirement planning in the face of the eventual collapse of Medicaid and Medicare, and Health Promotions.

Planning Days

Jane-ellen reviewed the agenda for GCSS Planning Days, June 2004. We also discussed the estimated time GCSS staff spent on various tasks. Jane-ellen asked everyone to fill out a time survey (e.g. attending meetings, preparing for meetings, assignments, etc...) to get a realistic view of time needed to complete GCSS tasks and goals.

Office of Federal Resources Reporting and Financial Eligibility (Deanna Hartwig, SPD)

Deanna gave us an update regarding the Senior Farmers Market Program and presumptive Medicaid disability determinations. Oregon is required to make Medicaid eligibility disability determinations within 90 days on any applicant who meets financial and nonfinancial OSIPM eligibility requirements and alleges a disability that would meet the SSA disability requirements for SSI or SSDI and, in which SSA has not made a disability determination. These are made for Oregon Supplemental Income Program (including EPD and Home and Community Based Care Services).

Liaison Reports

Estill Deitz gave an update on the Home Care Commission. The Commission's Qualifications Committee recommended adoption of a two level qualifications system that would establish basic qualifications for Homecare Workers who serve a family member or friend and additional qualifications for HCWs who market services to the general public.

Linda Miller gave an update on the RCF Rules Committee. The RCF Rules Committee needs to determine what the minimal staffing should be for RCFs. The items of consideration when the group makes a determination: staffing ratios should reflect all three shifts, staffing ratios should be flexible and reflect acuity changes, and staffing ratios should be determined by hours per day or hours per resident day.

MOTION: The Commission continues to support Linda Miller's efforts regarding staffing levels being dependant upon acuity levels. (Linda Miller) *Passed*

Liaison Training: Orientation and Refresher

Mariana reviewed the mission of GCSS. Additionally, she discussed the function of liaisons, the importance of support for liaison activity, the nature of liaisons, and liaison reporting guidelines.

