

Minutes

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

August 27, 2004

Keizer, Oregon

Members: Dolores Hubert, Chair; Tim Malone, Vice Chair; Helen Liere; Remona Simpson; Harvey Roth; Don Butsch; Ham Jackson; Mariana Bornholdt; Barbara Brewer-Nelson; Mary Lawrence; Dolores Raymond; Linda Miller; Bob Lawrence; Jack Ewing; Eunice Dutton; Mary Harvey; Elton Greeley; John Brenne; and Estill Deitz

Guests: Marilyn Hinds; Judy Robinson; Marilyn Patton; Joan Staley; and Wilson Wewa

Staff: Jane-ellen Weidanz, Sherry Whitehead and Kim Hector

Excused: Elaine Barrett

Called Meeting to Order

Approved May 2004 Minutes.

Announcements

On August 26, 2004 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that payments to rural hospices are projected to increase \$23 million in 2005, a 2.9 percent increase over 2004. For 2005 there a projected increase of \$60 million dollars to hospice providers, an increase of one percent.

According to the annual poverty, income, and health insurance data released by the Census Bureau on August 26, 2004 – for the third year in a row, the number of Americans living in poverty has grown; an additional 1.2 million people. Census data shows that poverty has increased, income stagnated, and the number of uninsured rose to a record level in 2003.

Everybody received a registration form for the “Recovery for Older Adults: Evidence-Based Practices in Geriatric Mental Health”. The conference workshops are on September 22, 2004.

Correspondence

Jane-ellen reviewed incoming and outgoing mail.

Executive Committee Update

Dolores Hubert gave an update on topics discussed at the Executive Committee's August 13, 2004 meeting.

During the August 26, 2004 Mental Health and Addictions Committee meeting the committee recessed and the Executive Committee came into session. This brief session resulted in the following motion:

MOTION: Mariana will testify regarding mental health parity and designation of older adults as a critical population. (Don Butsch) *Passed*

General Issues Update

Eunice gave an update regarding disaster preparedness, the End-Of-Life Resource Guide, the ID theft poster, the Financial Abuse Coalition, and the Committee's work plan. The meeting resulted in the following motions:

MOTION: Send a letter to county commissions and the Oregon League of Cities regarding the Commission's concerns on disaster preparedness for seniors and people with disabilities. John Brenne will also follow up with the League. (Eunice Dutton) *Passed*

MOTION: Send a letter to the Senior Advisory Council Chairs, with the GCSS resource list and follow up at the November O4AD Quarterly meeting. (Eunice Dutton) *Passed*

Mental Health & Addictions Committee Update

Tim Malone gave an update regarding SAMHSA Grant research, mental health parity strategies, the committee name change, and the work plan for the committee. The meeting resulted in the following motions:

MOTION: Have Tim and Don meet with the Insurance Commissioner to discuss the issue of mental health parity. (Tim Malone) *Passed*

Legislative Update

Bob Lawrence gave us an update regarding the Equity presentation, a dedicated revenue source for senior and disability programs, liaison assignments, federal legislation, and the Fall advocacy strategy for the Commission.

Health and Long Term Care Update

Mary Harvey gave an update regarding the SPD Quality Assurance Grant Workgroup, Allison Knight's overview on OHP Standard Premium, financial eligibility, the Ronald Reagan Break Through Act (S 2533) and the Committee's work plan. The meeting resulted in the following motions:

MOTION: Send a letter to Lynn Read, OMAP regarding elimination of premiums for people from zero to 10% of federal poverty level. (Tim Malone) *Passed*

MOTION: Send a letter to Senator Smith, Wyden and the Oregon House Delegation in support of S 2533 and HR 4595 asking that they move forward this session. (Mary Lawrence) *Passed*

Mental Health Services in Oregon Discussion (Bob Nikkel, DHS)

Bob Nikkel, DHS Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services lead the discussion regarding mental health services in Oregon. Sandra Moreland has been an integral part of his commitment to the older adult population. He feels that it is imperative that older adults get the proper attention and emphasis even though his office is busy with the over crowding of the state hospital, forensics, and the integration of the mental health and addiction services at the state level. Bob discussed other critical projects.

Bob also discussed their highest ranked proposed Policy Option Package (POPs) for the 2005-2007 biennium. They are looking at the restoration of state General Fund of 3.1 million dollars that was lost three years ago for alcohol and drug outpatient treatment. Another POP to pay close attention to is the caseload growth groups. Because these funds have been used this biennium for civilly committed patients. They have created 72 new community placements and services for gero-psychiatric patients in the community as a result of having this funding. But if we don't have a place for them to go, they stay in costly institutions. Reduction packages include potential closures of the gero-psychiatric units at the state hospital.

Liaison Reports

Estill Deitz gave an update on the Home Care Commission. Considerable legal consultation is going on in two areas at the present time. One involves the status of the commission (HCC) in regards to hiring staff. The second area of consideration is whether the Registry should be available on the Internet.

Eunice Dutton gave an update on the Medicaid Long Term Care Quality & Reimbursement Advisory Council (MLTCQRAC). They discussed the standardization of Adult Protective Services in all offices, liability insurance and quality of care in Adult Foster Homes, the challenge of completing biannual inspections on all facilities, homecare caseloads, workforce development, and the 2005-2007 budget reduction packages.

Linda Miller gave an update on the Residential Care Facilities Rule Workgroup. The workgroup is on hold until further notice.

Dolores Hubert gave an update on the Feeding Assistant Workgroup. As of August 6, 2004 there has been a lawsuit to stop the implementation of the Feeding Assistants project. If an injunction should be instituted, the feeding assistants programs will be stopped pending outcome of the lawsuit.

Eunice Dutton gave an update on Oregon Project Independence (OPI). We discussed the 2003-2004 OPI Legislative Analysis. It was determined that we needed to verify the numbers before we move forward with an action.

Helen Liere gave an update on the Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee. We discussed SPD's response to CMS concerns regarding quality issues, the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, and standards for care plans.

Mariana Bornholdt gave an update regarding the Older Adult Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee. The August 24, 2004 meeting was devoted to a review of goals developed for the plan. The Commission is currently named as the lead agency for a portion of Goal Two: Develop broad-based support for suicide prevention. We need to discuss this further

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Verify numbers on the 2003-2004 OPI Legislative Analysis.	Jane-ellen	9/23/04
Assign a new GCSS member to the Quality Assurance Committee.	Commission	8/31/04
Follow up with Vickie Story regarding the Quality Assurance Subcommittee.	Jane-ellen	9/1/04

Urgent Request from the Oregon Law Commission

The Oregon Law Commission (OLC) will be reviewing components of the Medicaid statute (ORS 412, Aid to Blind Persons and Disabled Person & ORS 413, Old-Age Assistance) this Fall in preparation for the 2005 Legislative Session. The idea is that these components of the Medicaid statute are very out-of-date and are a good place to start on an entire rewrite of the Medicaid statute. The Commission's workgroup will be formed very soon.

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Notify the OLC that Bob Lawrence is assigned to the Oregon Law Commission workgroup.	Jane-ellen	9/1/04

Staff Update

Jane-ellen gave an update regarding:

- The changes in enrollment since creation of the OHP Standard plan, which included a decrease from January 2003 to October 2003 of almost 43,000 clients.
- Expanding Medicaid: State Options, "Could your state do more to expand Medicaid for seniors and adults with disabilities?"

Adjourned