

Minutes	Legislative Committee Governor's Commission on Senior Services December 8, 2006 Department of Human Services
Attendees:	Robert Lawrence (Chair), Chris Flammang (Vice Chair), Peggie Beck, John Brenne, Eunice Dutton, Charles Kurtz, Barbara Nelson, Dolores Raymond, Kelly Wessels, and John Helm
Excused/Absent:	
Guests:	Patty Brost, Denise Dion, Marjorie Reuling, and Remona Simpson
Staff:	Morgen Brodie, Marc Overbeck, and Wendy Russell
Called Meeting to Order 8:10	
Review Agenda: No additions or corrections made to the agenda.	
Approval of Minutes: MOTION - Accept minutes as written. Passed. (Kelly Wessels/Eunice Dutton)	
Announcements: Robert reported that yesterday Congress tried to adjourn without finishing their job---many doctors not taking Medicare patients.	
Federal Issues	
<p>HR 3248 Lifespan Respite - Reported the bill is out of Energy and Commerce in late September. Information sent out from Jill Kagen. Many people asked to sign on to support. One of the groups wanted to support it would be GCSS. Go on record with letter in support of lifespan respite care. Oregon congressional delegation is co-sponsors of legislation.</p> <p>MOTION: Letter to congressional delegation in support of Life Span Respite with a copy sent to Jill Kagen of national respite coalition and the Governor. Passed. (Barbara Nelson/Chris Flammang)</p>	
Merkley Proposal	
Charles – To ban all gifts to legislators---it fell short, but did tighten up reporting. Banning gifts will level the playing field. Would like to support and track this bill.	

Charles volunteered to be the point person. There was general consensus that more information was needed.

Action Items from Committees

- Abuse Committee would like more information on SB 116.
- Mental Health Committee - funding issues for SB 781.
- Caregiver Committee would like to investigate a tax deduction or tax credit for caregivers. There is no financial help for family caregivers, but several states have legislation pending. Would like to pursue HB 2332 from the 2001 session. There is a federal bill that has been passed onto Senate Finance to do with tax credits. It was the consensus that the Committee look at it. Bob thinks Macpherson might be willing to sponsor. Dolores and Robert will work on it. Ideas were bounced off members. Elder renters credit state form 90R. 3.2 billion dollars in caregiving savings to the state per year. Make respite care uniform throughout the state for specific purposes.

Other Groups' Priorities

- The O4AD's legislative agenda was distributed.
- Jim Davis and his different groups' legislative agendas will be discussed when appropriate.
- AARP will have their priorities posted by December 12th. Some of their focuses are: family caregiver support, health insurance reform, property tax relief for seniors, a partnership act regarding long term care insurance, increasing adult protective services staff, consumer protection, and affordable housing.

Development of GCSS Legislative Priorities

- Being active in promoting livable communities and manufactured home park closure legislation.
- To have trained geriatric mental health workers to go along on Adult Protective Service calls.
- Phase 2 of SB 781. To find funding for older adult suicide prevention and implementation of geriatric training for the workforce.
- To work on a caregiver assistance and recognition act and find financial assistance for caregiving expenses.
- Reinstate services that were cut in the 2001-2003 biennium.
- Help fund services to people without Medicaid.
- Reform financing for services for the next 10 or 20 years.

Adjourn: 9:49