

Minutes

Legislative Advocacy Committee

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

February 26, 2004

Keizer, Oregon

Attendees: Dolores Raymond, Vice-Chair; Mariana Bornholdt; Don Butsch; Jack Ewing; Mary Harvey; Tim Malone; Linda Miller; and Dolores Hubert

Staff: Jane-ellen Weidanz & Sherry L. Whitehead

Guests: Bob Lawrence & Adeline Sampang

Excused: Harvey Roth, Ham Jackson, Helen Liere and Eunice Dutton

Called Meeting to Order

Approved January 2004 Minutes.

Announcements

Dolores Raymond is the new Vice-Chair of this Committee. Helen Liere, Chair, is on vacation so Dolores will be Chairing the Committee today.

Federal Issues

United Way of America has launched a campaign to advocate for funding to implement 211 (the phone number that the Federal Communication Commission has dedicated for local Information and Referral/Assistance numbers similar to the 911 system). The toll free number to call in support of the legislation and funding is (888) PASS-211.

MOTION: That we send a letter to the Congressional Delegation on S.1630 and H.R. 3111 supporting funding for 211-implementation program and that all the commission members call the toll free number (888) PASS-211.

(Don Butsch) *Passed*

Dolores Hubert received calls from some of the congressional members responding to the letter that the Commission sent in support of the Lifespan Respite Bill.

Alan Greenspan recommended to congress to cut future social security benefits rather than eliminating or reducing the tax cuts past last year.

MOTION: That we send a letter to the Congressional Delegation not to cut Social Security benefits rather to repeal the tax cuts that were passed in 2003.

(Tim Malone) *Passed*

The Presidents FY05 budget was released in early February. The changes he proposes to the housing voucher program (Section 8) are the most radical and threatening to residents in the history of the program.

MOTION: That we send a letter to the Congressional Delegation asking them not to cut the Section 8 Housing Program. (Dolores Hubert) *Passed*

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Write a letter to the Congressional Delegation on S.1630 and H.R. 3111.	Jane-ellen	
Write a letter to the Congressional Delegation not to cut Social Security benefits.	Jane-ellen	
Write the letter to the Congressional Delegation asking them not to cut the Section 8 Housing Program.	Jane-ellen	

Advocacy Enhancement Update

This group, which includes OA-DSAC, GCSS, OSACC, ODC, AAAs and SPD, has been developing a plan to increase number of people interested in advocacy on senior and disability related issues. The plan is to hold regional meetings/public forums to promote and develop key leaders. A message group has been developed to come up with a “jazzy” message to get people to the meetings. In November 2004, O4AD wants to hold a summit in conjunction with their Fall conference. The Advocacy Enhancement Committee is thinking about holding the summit at the same time.

Recommendation: That the Commission assigns Jane-ellen to represent the GCSS at the Advocacy Enhancement Regional meeting and forums.

(Dolores Hubert) *Passed*

Recommendation: That the Full Commission co-sponsor and attend the November 2004 Summit with O4AD and other advocacy groups.

(Tim Malone) *Passed*

Tax Reform

The Joint Interim Committee on Tax Reform is holding regional meetings. The meeting list will be in the Red Folders with those that have volunteered to attend. We will ask that John Brenne go to the one in Pendleton. Dolores Hubert will testify at the Portland meeting on behalf of the Commission.

Recommendation: That the Full Commission send a letter to the AAA Advisory Councils suggesting that they attend the Joint Interim Committee on Tax Reform’s local meetings. (Dolores Hubert) *Passed*

Action Items:	Assigned to:	Deadline:
Write letter to the AAA Advisory Councils suggesting that they attend the Joint Interim Committee on Tax Reform’s local meetings.	Jane-ellen	

Revenue Subcommittee

The subcommittee's first meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2004, 9-10 a.m. by conference call. John Brenne, Helen Liere and Mary Lawrence are the current members of the Subcommittee. If you want to be included, email Sherry.

New Front Door

Discussed the Commission members' feedback on the New Front Door concept.

Recommendation: That the Full Commission send a letter to James Toews and Barry Donenfeld with our comments about the New Front Door concept including our primary concern about funding. (Dolores Hubert). *Passed*

Action Items:

Assigned to:

Deadline:

Write a letter to James & Barry with our comments about the New Front Door concept.

Jane-ellen

Update on Mandated State Commission

Committee reviewed the letter and survey to the other states' commissions regarding an amendment to the Older Americans Act to mandate state commissions. The letter was approved with changes.

Discussed Level 12 & 13 and OHP Benefits

Discussed the implications if we restore 12 & 13 vs. maintaining OHP Plus Benefits. Both services and populations are important. However, We want to maintain services to the 125,000 in OHP Plus vs. restoring the 1,200 people who would receive services in levels 12& 13.

Recommendation: That the Commission send a letter to the Advocacy Coalition, the Governor, and DHS that the Commission recommends restoration of funds to OHP so that dental, prescription, and mental health services are restored vs. implementation of restoration of levels 12 & 13. (Dolores Hubert)
Passed

Member Input

The group created a subcommittee to finish work on the advocacy plan so that a final draft can be discussed next month. Dolores, Helen and Bob will serve on the committee. Jane-ellen and Sherry will schedule a meeting in early March.

Next Meeting

- Discuss GCSS Advocacy Plan
- Discuss Advocacy Enhancement