

Minutes

Caregivers Committee Governor's Commission on Senior Services March 22, 2007 Department of Human Services

Attendees: Remona Simpson (Chair), Kay Kirkbride (Vice-Chair), Elaine Barrett, Chuck Frazier, Barbara Nelson, Marjorie Reuling, Joan Staley

Excused/Absent: Eunice Dutton (E), Kelly Wessels (E)

Guests: Kathleen Schonau, Millie Salt

Staff: Marc Overbeck and Wendy Russell

Called Meeting to Order 10:00

Review Agenda: There were no additions.

Approval of January Minutes: Motion approve as written. Marjorie/Elaine. Passed

Announcements: Elaine has been reappointed to the Commission for a second term. Millie has received her appointment to the Commission.

Review of Committee Workplan

The Committee will continue to monitor legislation that will help grandparents care for their grandchildren. The Relatives as Parents program (RAPP) meets once a month and will meet in March on the 29th from 9-12. They will also promote the Grandparents' Legal Guide and grandparents resource guides, both printed by AARP.

Elaine would like to be appointed as liaison for the Senior Companions Advisory Council in Eugene. It will be meeting April 4th to explore alternative services and finding resources for those needing extra care. Elaine will also be testifying on HB2780 on March 23rd regarding the Senior Companion Program.

The committee would like to encourage the legislature to give more funding to Operation Project Independence (OPI), which is a priority of the Commission.

SB768, which is a tax credit for caregivers, was introduced by Senator Morrisette and has been sent to the Senate Revenue Committee for a hearing. Robert Lawrence testified on behalf of the Commission.

HB2032, which would take some money from the property tax deferral account, is scheduled for a vote in the House on March 26th. The Commission opposes this bill.

Report on Alzheimer's Patient Care	Jan Karlen
<p>Jan talked about SPD's work with those facilities that have an endorsement to work with Alzheimer's patients. A fact and data sheet were provided, showing the \$1,904 plus \$478 room and board rate for patient care. Jan said SPD is looking at more specialized contracts with facilities. She can provide a more specific list of facilities by county.</p>	
Lifespan Respite Care	Judy Bowen
<p>The federal Lifespan Respite Act passed and requests for proposals will be going out. Lifespan Respite is available in every county to help with people from birth and up. The new request for grant applications was posted on ORPIN and will be available for the next 3 weeks.</p> <p>Judy will give information on respite coordinators to Wendy.</p>	
Spousal Pay Rules Update	Marjorie Reuling
<p>Marjorie reported on the first meeting of the rules group. The members of the rule group spent a great deal of time going over the proposal word for word. They are still working on definitions and clarifications so that there will be no misunderstandings of its intent. There will be another meeting at a later date.</p> <p>The committee would like a letter written from the Commission that Marjorie can take back to the rules committee outlining the concerns about the portion of the rule change regarding the definition of spouse. Elaine/Joan. <i>Passed</i></p> <p>The committee would like Naomi Sacks or another SPD staff member to come speak about the proposed rule changes.</p>	
Home Care Commission Update	Kay Kirkbride
<p>Kay is developing testimony regarding criminal background checks. The Commission feels annual background checks of Home Care Workers should be performed. She also noted an inquiry into the justice and law enforcement departments to find out if there was a way to be alerted when a Home Care Worker was arrested. There is no method at this point but perhaps it can happen in the future when law enforcement is more interlinked.</p>	
Legislative Update – SB 768 and Others	Marc Overbeck
<p>There are about 205 mental health bills, according to Marc. The Commission made a presentation this morning at the mental health caucus meeting.</p> <p>The Family caregiver bill was just referred out of committee but will be amended to put a \$60,000 income cap. Bob gave assignments to members to call their Senators that are on the revenue committee to push the bill.</p> <p>HB2780, which provides investments for Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents and RSVP, will be up tomorrow morning. Elaine will testify on behalf of the Commission</p>	

about 9:30.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The group would like to invite Naomi Sacks or another staff member to talk of spousal pay rules.

Judy Bowen will give a report on lifespan respite.

The group will invite AARP to find out about grandparent issues, and would like to hear from AAA's about what they are doing with grandparents raising grandchildren.

Legislative and "Caregivers Count Too" training updates will happen.

Adjourn: 11:50