

# Minutes

## Governor's Commission on Senior Services

March 23, 2007

Department of Human Services

**Members:** John Helm, Chair, Elaine Barrett, Peggie Beck, Jeff Brandon, John Brenne, Patty Brost, Denise Dion, Chuck Frazier, Marilyn Hinds, Kay Kirkbride, Charles Kurtz, Robert Lawrence, Lucy Morgan, Barbara Nelson, Dolores Raymond, Kathleen Schonau, Remona Simpson, Joan Staley

**Guests:** Dolores Hubert, Jean Palmateer, Michael Ward, Jonah Kushner, Bill Olson, Rob Johnson, Ellie Jennie, Liz Baxter

**Excused:** Eunice Dutton (E), Chris Flammang (E), Marjorie Reuling (E), Millie Salt (E), Kelly Wessels (E)

**Staff:** Marc Overbeck and Wendy Russell

### Called Meeting to Order 10:15

Introductions were made around the table.

Approval of January minutes: Accepted as written. Remona Simpson/Kay Kirkbride  
**Passed**

Review Agenda: A new agenda was passed out, which included Senator Morrisette making a brief presentation in the afternoon in place of the Future of Long Term Care discussion.

### Announcements

Michael Ward and Jean Palmateer from the Department of Transportation presented Dolores with an award thanking her for her advocacy on transportation issues.

Dolores announced she gave a presentation at the manufactured housing program in Washington County and was part of a public service announcement that will air on television.

Marc announced that the orientation manual will be updated after the legislative session and all members will receive new manuals.

## Transportation Issues

Jean Palmateer, Michael Ward

There will be a legislative hearing on March 26th for HB2422 regarding raising the cigarette tax, which will bring additional revenue for senior and disabled transportation. They also talked about 260 applicants for the \$30 million in special transportation grants available in Oregon. There are other discretionary program funds for rural areas. The problem is that someone in the local area has to take on responsibilities in order to receive the funds which is why many rural areas have little to no public transportation.

## Correspondence

### Incoming

Date Received	Addressed To:	From:	Regarding:
1/18/2007	DSAC Chairs & Contacts	PDAC	PDAC membership drive
1/18/2007	DSAC Chairs & Contacts	PDAC	Working partnership with DSAC's
2/1/2007	Cheryl Sanders	PDAC	Trainings
2/21/2007	Ruth McEwen	HCC	Trainings
3/1/2007	Dr. Goldberg	PDAC	Employment

### Outgoing

Date Sent:	Addressed To:	Regarding:
2/7/2007	Senator Wyden	Timber money
2/7/2007	Senator Smith	Timber money
2/7/2007	Representative Walden	Timber money
2/7/2007	Representative DeFazio	Timber money

## Staff Updates

Lee spoke briefly about some of the changes in the building regarding personnel. Marc expressed he was happy to be back working again with the Commission.

## Presentation and Approval of GCSS Bylaw Revisions Chuck Frazier

Chuck Frazier addressed how the revised proposed bylaws resolved issues and concerns raised at the last meeting. **Motion to approve with corrections.**

**Peggie/Remona. Passed**

## Discussion on Health Care Reform & SB 27

Liz Baxter

Liz Baxter, Executive Director of the Archimedes movement, spoke about the background on the Archimedes movement, which is proposing a comprehensive dialogue on health care in Oregon. Liz answered questions from members. Liz can be reached at [liz@wecandobetter.org](mailto:liz@wecandobetter.org)

## Committee Reports

**Executive-** An ad hoc committee to come up with guidelines on how applicants will be handled met via telephone and a handout regarding that meeting was given to Commissioners. Marc went over the stipulations and procedures suggested by the committee. Some suggestions were made and an updated handout with suggested questions will be available at the next GCSS meeting.

Marc will find out from Governor's office how they inform people who have applied but are not selected for an appointment. It will also be requested that the procedure be more streamlined and take less time or at least let applicants know that their information has been received.

Commissioners were asked to send in questions for the interview panel to use.

**Caregivers-** Remona reported that Jan Karlen gave a presentation on Alzheimer's Patient Care. Marjorie Reuling talked with the group about the Spousal Pay Rule Group she is part of. The committee asked that a letter be written voicing its concerns on the definition of spouse. Judy Bowen talked about the Lifespan Respite programs and grants, she will be attending every meeting she is available. Kay talked about the Home Care Commission and the Home Care Worker Rule Group she is part of. Marc shared with the group about legislation that GCSS is involved in.

**Elder Abuse-** Peggie began the report from her committee. A handout that Marilyn passed out at the meeting was distributed out to all Commission members; the handout will also be emailed to members. Marilyn spoke of the Berkowitz training and what is going on with Everyday Heroes. Peggie also reported that Jeff and Lucy gave a presentation on public conservator/guardianships and that Remona gave an update on the Financial Abuse Coalition.

**Mental Health-** Denise reported from the meeting, which included Chuck talking about the Community Support subcommittee of the second phase of the Hospital Master Plan. Also, Charles and Denise finished reviewing the county mental health plans for older adults and reported their findings to the committee. Other items included Denise meeting with Senator Monnes-Anderson to discuss the importance of SB 847. John Brenne informed the group that the Governor announced the Eastern OR Training Center would remain open.

**Legislative Advocacy-** Robert reported that copies of the testimony that has been given by the Commission were distributed, as were the Commission's platforms. The Committee went over the house bills and filled in any priority numbers and positions missing.

**Long -Term Care Industry Regulation**  
**Mary Gear, Lauren Rhoades & Linda Kirschbaum**

A discussion was held regarding regulation of the long-term care industry. Mary Gear, administrator of Licensing and Quality of Care, responded to eighteen questions posed by the Commission. Lauren and Linda provided brief background on the Oregon Health Care Association and steps the association and its members are taking to improve the quality of care in facilities in Oregon.

**Chuck expressed he would like to invite the panelists back for further discussion. Marc said he would check on availability.**

**Senator Morrisette—Legislative Update**

Senator Morrisette distributed a handout regarding bills he has sponsored that deal with senior issues. He discussed his proposals with the group. Senator Morrisette is a member of the Senior and Disability Caucus, which is meeting monthly. Senator Morrisette informed the Commission that there is some desire to merge the three main health care reform bills into one effort.

**Member Submitted Items**

Robert handed out AARP's analysis on SB27.

Chris Flammang's letter on federal Medicaid Funding was distributed to all.

John Helm talked about a matrix of the 3 health reform bills that is being developed.

John Brenne praised Kay's training in Tillamook on caregiving.

**Adjourn 3:00**

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Marc will find out from the Governor's office how appointments are handled exactly.	Marc	April 2007
A letter be written for Marjorie to take back to the Spousal Rules group regarding the definition of spouse.	Staff	April 2007
Put together a template for the county mental health	Denise	April 2007?

plans to make it easier to read about the older adults mental health programs		
Letters written to counties about their older adult mental health programs	Charles	April 2007?
Senate bills priorities and positions finished	Legislative committee	March 2007
Invite Mary Gear, Lauren Rhoades & Linda Kirschbaum back for more discussion on long term care facilities	Marc	April or later
Set aside specific time for Senator Morrisette	Marc	April 2007