

# Minutes

## Governor's Commission on Senior Services

January 27, 2006  
Department of Human Services

**Members:** John Helm (chair), Eunice Dutton (vice-chair), Peggie Beck, Denise Dion, Jack Ewing, Chris Flammang, Chuck Frazier, Marilyn Hinds, Kay Kirkbride, Charles Kurtz, Robert Lawrence, Linda Miller, Barbara Nelson, Dolores Raymond, Jack Roberts, Kathleen Schonau, Remona Simpson, Maria Smith, Joan Staley, Kelly Wessels

**Guests:** Janet Bray, John Brenne (League of Oregon Cities), Cathy Cooper, Barry Donenfeld, Lee Girard, Claudia Grimm (Oregon SHIBA), Jack Haciaik, Christina Jaramillo, Inez Keough, Ken Murphy, Carolyn Naegeli

**Excused:** Elaine Barrett

**Staff:** Morgen Brodie, Robert Gordon, Becky Murphy, Marc Overbeck, Wendy Russell

### Called Meeting to Order 9:05

Approval of December minutes: **Robert Lawrence/Jack Roberts. Passed.**

Review of Agenda: John Brenne would like to have the volunteers give their perspective on the White House Conference on Aging. It was decided that they would give their input right after the panel spoke.

Announcements: Kay Kirkbride was confirmed by the Senate to be a member of the Home Care Commission.

Jack Ewing provided a book report on the *Camp of the Saints*.

Robert Lawrence recommended that everyone read *You're Only Old Once* by Dr. Seuss  
Dolores Raymond recommended *The Best Little Democracy Money Can Buy* by Greg Palast.

### Public Input

Claudia Grimm, who manages SHIBA in Oregon, reported that over half a million people nationally were having problems with Medicare Part D. In November, their office answered 3,900 phone calls and another 3,000 in December. SHIBA was able to add 5 new staff as a result of job rotation and temporary services. They are still averaging 40 calls a day. SHIBA is run solely on a federal grant and has not had their budget approved for the year.

## **Staff Report**

Marc—He has been participating on behalf of the Commission on the United We Ride Advisory Committee, which will identify community projects that can receive federal coordination funds to promote transportation for older adults and people with disabilities.

The first meeting to review *Rescue Autumn's People* with Ken Murphy and DHS staff is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Liaison reports that were submitted were put in folders; there were also updated contact lists and draft minutes from the executive committee meeting.

In the folders there was information regarding travel reimbursement. Under meal reimbursement for dinner it should read \$19.50, not \$34.75. Mileage reimbursement has been reduced back to \$.445 a mile instead of \$.485.

Morgen—The members of the People with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) have decided to continue on their own as their own voice, instead of assimilating into the new Oregon Disabilities Commission.

The Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Program (ODHHS) is continuing to move ahead. We are hoping to post the job announcement for the trainer position next week. There are interagency agreements which not only provide the coordination of communication interpreters but also provide training. Training was held on January 26<sup>th</sup> for the Employment Department as part of the agreement with them.

## **Chair's Report**

John began his report with a discussion of the Executive Committee and its role. The Executive Committee meeting minutes were placed in the folders. The Committee discussed what their charge was and wants to sure they are not running parallel to the full Commission, but are working in a complementary role. Draft minutes will be a regular item in commissioner folders. The Executive Committee is discussing the Future of Long Term Care outreach program, in which GCSS will be hosting forums and getting

information from communities. GCSS will bring reports back to SPD and the Governor's office.

A proposed list of cities and dates was handed out to members on when and where the forums should be and how they should be held. It was decided that a subcommittee would iron out the details of how the forums should be handled logistically.

**Motion to accept conceptually the dates and places of community forums. Charles Kurtz/Robert Lawrence. *Passed.***

John asked that the Commission as a whole look at postponing Planning Days from June until September, due to the timeline of the public meetings being held throughout the state and the information which is being collected.

**Motion to move Planning Days to September. Barbara Nelson/Robert Lawrence. *Passed.***

## **Emergency Preparedness – Ken Murphy (Office of Emergency Management)**

Ken briefed the Commission on elements of the state's disaster preparedness efforts and requirements.

Oregon law states that counties (not cities) are required to have an emergency preparedness plan. Ever since 9/11, and every time a natural disaster occurs (earthquakes, tsunamis, and hurricanes), people bring up the need of a plan. Ken agreed that "Special needs" populations need particular attention. Emergency preparedness is challenging for all interest groups.

Ken responded to questions posed by the Commission:

1. Is there an evacuation plan for nursing homes and assisted living facilities, beyond getting them out of the building? **Ken has no authority to require private nursing homes to do anything regarding planning. Most plans seen do not address issues beyond getting residents and staff out of the building. He agrees there is a need for a process for dealing with medications, equipment, unique needs that not every facility might have.**

2. Is anyone trying to train people to be adaptable to circumstances and events? **There are lots of different trainings taking place; there is nothing coordinated specifically for older adults.**

Who is required to have a plan? (e.g. counties, cities, etc.) **Counties, not cities.**

2A. Who in Oregon has turned in their plans? What counties have exercised their plan? **Each community has some sort of plan, some are "better" than others. Ken noted that in running training drills, many communities find that not all their equipment works, and it is invaluable to find this out ahead of a real**

**emergency. Ken said he was happy to offer advice for working with various groups of people.**

3. Is there an interagency system? Do the local governments communicate with each other? **The level of communication does vary greatly from region to region. Again, his office is available as a resource for how to work with specific local areas, if desired.**
4. What federal and state resources are available? **Most of the resources for disaster preparedness come from federal grant moneys (FEMA, Homeland Security, etc.)**
5. How do you/do you distinguish what a local entity is promising to do for older adults as a population? **Plans do differ from area to area, but the plan is what a local entity creates for itself to follow, and that is what an entity is held accountable for implementing. Planning guides from the Office of Emergency Management are available. Ken agreed that older adults as a population may need more attention than they currently receive by some local entities, and it is valuable to think about how this group of people will fare in an emergency.**
6. What is Oregon doing with Homeland Security money? **Much of the focus of this money is on planning for potential emergencies (e.g. a 9.0 earthquake); 80% of the funds are earmarked for local jurisdictions, while 20% remains available for statewide use. Ken's office tries to provide incentives for local plans to deal with all groups and issues. He noted there is currently a great deal of competition among states for federal disaster preparedness funds. Ken would like to see a "balanced approach" where we can help citizens prepare for both terrorism-related and natural disasters.**

### **Medicare Modernization Act Update – Christina Jaramillo**

Christina reported that there have been real problems with the Medicare Part D prescription plans going into effect. About 10,000 dual eligible clients in Oregon had problems accessing their prescriptions. The governor authorized payment for emergency medications while the system is being straightened out. Many of the pharmacies did not receive the correct information to bill the insurance companies for prescriptions and many of the insurance companies changed their prescription formularies, causing confusion for both pharmacists and patients. The staff is still working daily with Medicare and the insurance companies to straighten out the situation.

### **White House Conference on Aging – Chris Flammang, Lee Girard, Barry Donenfeld**

Lee passed out a copy of the top 10 resolutions from the WHCOA and a PowerPoint presentation. She also gave an overview of the process. There will be a preliminary

report sent to the Governor's office in February and the full report will be given to the President in June.

Barry gave his impression of how the conference went. The whole thing was very structured with speeches and there was very little time to interact with other delegates. Delegates were given cards and were only allowed to submit one idea in each of the 6 workgroups they participated in.

Chris left with the feeling that amongst the delegation of 1,200 people that there was an awful lot of agreement on issues, concerns and realities for needs of seniors throughout the country. He felt that there was a positive end result even given the limited amount of activity.

Barbara Nelson and John Brenne were both Official Volunteers during the conference, and they gave their opinions on how things went.

### **Update from State Unit on Aging- Lee Girard**

Lee is now forwarding monthly reports to Marc, as well as the 6 month report on Senior Medicare Patrol. She provided updates on the Family Care Giver Support Program, Legal Services, the Senior Medicare Patrol, and Oregon Project Independence, as well as some national updates.

## **SPD Update –Cathy Cooper**

There was talk about the \$172 million shortfall in the DHS budget. It was pointed out that this was largely due to caseload increase and federal dollar reductions. The April Rebalance will use data from September 2005. Whatever numbers are used will become the base information for what DHS uses for the 07-09 budget.

Cathy noted all of the hard work that the staff, temporary workers and volunteers from the MMA unit did working nights and weekends to make sure people had their medications when Medicare Part D fell apart.

Durable Medical Equipment has now become a centralized unit inside DHS and there is a need for prior authorization instead of each field office having its own allocation. SPD is continuing to look at efficiencies and cost savings with the option of surplus use. So far there is a savings of \$33,000 month with utilization control. There is a recommendation of buy-backs of wheelchairs, loans of wheelchairs, etc.

SPD also wants to thanks GCSS for helping with community forums for Long-Range Planning and for being the “eyes and ears” for baby boomers.

At the next meeting there will be talk about the reconciliation of Medicaid and the federal budget.

**Motion that GCSS send a letter to thank MMA volunteers for all of their help during the part D crisis. Marilyn Hinds/Kay Kirkbride *Passed*.**

## **Planning Days Discussion**

John, Eunice and Robert are serving as a Planning Days workgroup. With the help of staff, they have put together their thoughts on Planning Days and a process to have the entire Commission review various parts of the purpose, agenda and outcomes over the next several months. The steering committee would like the Commission as a whole to decide how members want Planning Days to look. There will be a set time on the upcoming agendas for the members to discuss Planning Days.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Health, Abuse & Long Term Care Committee Report**

Kay—Tony Kramer, who is a potential member, attended the meeting. Elaine Young reported on how health inspections in residential care facilities were done. John Helm brought in a handout of the 7 questions being asked by the Future of Long Term Care workgroups. The committee agreed on the questions that they would focus on.

Kathleen is participating on a rules committee for the Buckley Bill, which would allow family input when benefits were being cut or denied.

Kelly- Jennifer Mead distributed a spreadsheet of programs in Oregon focusing on nutrition and fitness. The subcommittee would like to start looking for other programs to affiliate with such as Senior Fitness Day; information can be found at [www.fitnessday.com](http://www.fitnessday.com).

Marilyn- There will be an Everyday Heroes Campaign meeting on Feb 9<sup>th</sup> with 12 prospective partners.

Kay also mentioned that Chuck Frazier gave his input as a pharmacist in regards to the adult foster home provider training manual, and volunteered to work with staff for further refining of the materials.

### **Mental Health Committee Report**

Barbara- All members were present. Office Paul Ware from Portland Police Department gave the perspective of an “officer on the street”; he is their Crisis Intervention Training Coordinator. C.J. Reid from OMHAS spoke about the Governor’s Council on Drug and Alcohol Addiction meetings. Sandra Moreland spoke about SB 781.

### **General Issues Committee Report**

Eunice- Eunice provided a comprehensive report on her committee’s meeting, notably Bob Repine’s visit from Housing and Community Services on housing financing, housing need, homelessness, and manufactured housing issues. The Committee also brainstormed a list of questions for Ken Murphy, for use at the Commission meeting today.

### **Legislative Subcommittee Report**

Robert – Spoke about the proposed Constitutional initiative to include a fundamental right for health care. Robert was clear that the Commission cannot take a position on ballot measures, but provide education, and members can act alone as private citizens. He will ask Rep. Greenlick to attend a GCSS meeting to talk about it.

The Committee also discussed the Quarterly Report to the Governor, advocacy partnerships with O4AD, legislative interim committees, and liaison assignments.

### **Liaison Reports and Assignments**

**Linda Miller-** Announced there is a film called “Almost Home” that will be airing on OPB at 11 p.m. February 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Robert Lawrence** – Reported on meetings of Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities, and Human Services Coalition of Oregon.

**Eunice Dutton-** reported on the success of the financial abuse and end of life publications, and activities of the Senior Financial Abuse Coalition, whose next meeting will be in February. She also reported that MLTCRAQ did not meet last month.

**Charles Kurtz**- reported on Elders in Action, which has recently hired a new Executive Director.

### **Member Submitted Items**

Birthday cards were passed out to Jack Roberts, Chris Flammang, and Kathleen Schonau, with a belated birthday card to Peggie Beck, who officially became a member after her birthday had passed. A sympathy card was signed and mailed to Elaine Barrett.

There were copies available of the last set of handouts for the Future of Long Term Care packet and the State Plan for Older Adults, as well as a small number of copies of legislative accomplishments books for those needing them for local meetings.

**3:00 PM The meeting was adjourned.**

| <b>Action Item:</b>  | <b>Assigned To:</b>                           | <b>Deadline:</b> |
|--|---|------------------|
| Establish subcommittee on Long-Term Care Planning will work on operative details for Forums from the GCSS side, including outreach, training, and a possible transcript for GCSS members to use. | Marilyn, Dolores, Eunice, Kelly, Peggie, John | 5/06             |
| Send Letter to MMA staff and volunteers  | Marc/John                                     | 2/06             |