

# Minutes

## Governor's Commission on Senior Services

December 10, 2004

Department of Human Services

**Members:** Dolores Hubert, Chair; Tim Malone, Vice Chair; Elaine Barrett; Don Butsch; Estill Deitz; Eunice Dutton; Jack Ewing; Chris Flammang; John Helm; Marilyn Hinds; Kay Kirkbride; Charles Kurtz; Bob Lawrence; Linda Miller; Barbara Nelson; Ed Payton; Dolores Raymond; Marjorie Reuling; Jack Roberts; Remona Simpson; and Maria Smith

**Excused:** Mary Harvey and Ham Jackson

**Guests:** John Brenne

**Staff:** Jane-ellen Weidanz and Sherry Whitehead

### *Called Meeting to Order*

Approved October 2004 Minutes.

### **Announcements**

New members of GCSS should make their Committee selection by the end of today's meeting.

### **Correspondence**

Jane-ellen reviewed November and December 2004 GCSS incoming and outgoing correspondence.

### **GCSS Legislative Training**

The Commission reviewed the GCSS legislative process, commission member roles, GCSS job descriptions for the legislative session, the definition of lobbying, lobbying responsibilities, and key steps in advocating.

### **General Issues Committee Update**

Eunice Dutton gave an update on the Senior Financial Abuse Coalition, disaster preparedness, and housing. The meeting resulted in the following motion:

**MOTION: Set a preliminary meeting with the Office of Emergency Management Services, DHS, GCSS, OHCA, and the Fire Marshall to discuss holding a summit on community disaster preparedness. (Eunice Dutton) *Passed***

### **Legislative Advocacy Committee Update**

Bob Lawrence gave updates on GCSS constituency and networking, legislative assignments, the bill review process, GCSS legislative overview, the SPD Data Book, and the Governor's Recommended Budget.

## Health, Abuse and Long-Term Care Committee Update

Estill Deitz gave updates on the Medicare Modernization Act: Part D discussion, the OHP update from Tina Kitchin, and an APS update from Morgan Brodie, SPD. The meeting resulted in the following motions:

**MOTION:** Write a letter to AARP, CMS, and the Congressional Delegation regarding the Commission's concerns with the six-week transition time for the Part D Prescription Drug Program. (Estill Deitz) *Passed*

**MOTION:** Write a letter to CMS and the Congressional Delegation regarding funding for the training of front line staff and grass roots public education. (Estill Deitz) *Passed*

**MOTION:** Write a letter to CMS, the Congressional Delegation, and AARP regarding the donut hole in the Part D Prescription Drug Program. (Estill Deitz) *Passed*

**AMENDMENT:** Write a letter to AARP, CMS, and the Congressional Delegation regarding the Commission's concerns with the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program including the six-week transition time into the new benefit, training of front line staff, grass roots public education and the donut hole. (Estill Deitz) *Passed*

**MOTION:** Write a letter to AARP asking them to include a simple yet educational piece about MMA Part D to put in their national newsletter. (Estill Deitz) *Passed*

## Mental Health and Addictions Committee Update

Tim Malone gave an update regarding Medicare Modernization Act: Part D, the impact of the budget cuts on mental health services, mental health legislation and the OMHAS update from Sandra Moreland. The meeting resulted in the following motions:

**MOTION:** Write a letter to the Congressional Delegation and CMS (CC: Jerry Cohen, AARP and Doug Stone, AARP) recommending that as they develop their formularies for the prescription drug plans, they should use Oregon's research model to determine the most effective drugs with the least side effects for all drugs, especially anti-psychotics and anti-depressants. (Tim Malone) *Passed*

**MOTION:** Re-direct our legislative focus from identifying seniors as a special population to re-allocating OMHAS's mental health training funds to develop geriatric mental health expertise on a local level. *Ayes* (Tim Malone) *Nay* (20)

**MOTION:** Develop a legislative concept that adds older adults as a special population for purposes of mental health and addiction services and to allocate a specific portion of OMHAS's mental health training funds to develop geriatric mental health expertise on a local level. (Don Butsch) *Passed*

## Executive Committee Update

Dolores Hubert gave an update on topics discussed at the Executive Committee's December meeting. Dolores also assigned mentors to all new members of the Commission.

## **Mid-Willamette Valley Senior Services AAA Designation (Cathy Cooper, SPD & Barry Donenfield, MWVSSA)**

Barry and Cathy spoke to the Commission regarding Mid-Willamette Valley Senior Services Agency's (MWVSSA) proposal to expand their current service area from Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties to include Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. MWVSSA also proposes to assume responsibility for the Medicaid programs for seniors and people with disabilities in all five counties. One hundred staff positions will be transferring from the State to MWVSSA to accommodate this caseload increase. This MWVSSA expansion is due to North Coast Senior Services (NCSS) returning the contract to the state.

## **Seniors and People with Disabilities Update (Cathy Cooper, SPD)**

Reviewed the 2005-07 Governor's Recommended Budget. We discussed the cap on enrollment in Home and Community-Based Waivered services for seniors and people with physical disabilities (this is a \$7.6 million cut, impacting the departments ability to serve approximately 700 individuals); \$16.9 million cut for assisted living facilities and in existing rates for non-relative adult foster care affecting approximately 4,000 individuals; \$22.4 million cut in adult foster care provided by relatives, impacting the departments ability to serve approximately 2,200 individuals; and \$9.1 million cut for full funding for existing Home Care Worker program administrative structure. Also discussed was the "Agency with Choice Model," which is a proposal to redesign the HCW program. The State is struggling to find funding resources to accommodate the workers compensation portion of the in-home services for Medicaid Title XIX waivered services. The "Agency with Choice Model" is a potential answer to the States funding difficulties. There will be a work group formed to discuss and develop the "Agency with Choice" model.

**MOTION: Assign Jane-ellen to develop a fact sheet for the current Governor's Recommended Budget, using language that is more suitable for purposes of the Commission.** (Charles Kurtz) *Passed*

## **Liaison Reports**

Estill Deitz gave an update on the Home Care Commission's November 2004 meeting. The Workers Comp claims have been much higher than anticipated. They are preparing for contract negotiations, which will begin in January 2005.

Dolores Hubert gave an update on the Service Priority Level Workgroup's November 2004 meeting. They discussed the draft report on survival priority level workgroup that is for the Legislature. If their proposed changes are accepted and funded by the Legislature, the Oregon Administrative Rules would need to be revised in the following areas: Mobility, meal preparation, medical, and cognition. There is no GCSS action required at this time.

Dolores Hubert gave an update on the December 2004 Adult Protective Services Workgroup. This workgroup is charged with revision of OAR Chapter 411-020-0000 Adult Protective Services (APS). There is a lack of protective services workers, screening is problematic and there is no standardization in how to complete the investigation and write the final report within the allotted 62 days. The workgroup is doing a line-by-line review. There is no GCSS actions required at this time.

<b>Action Item:</b>	<b>Assigned To:</b>	<b>Deadline:</b>
Prepare an example of written testimony including key points.	Jane-ellen	1/19/05
Submit press releases for all newly appointed GCSS members in their local newspapers.	Jane-ellen	1/15/05
Take Commission members on a tour of the Capitol.	Jane-ellen Sherry	
Email the Commission Jacqueline Zimmer's link to get her email alerts during the legislative session.	Jane-ellen	1/05/05
Write a letter to AARP, CMS, and the Congressional Delegation regarding the Commission concerns with the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program including the six-week transition time into the new benefit, training of front line staff, grass roots public education and the donut hole.	Jane-ellen	1/15/05
Develop a legislative concept that adds older adults as a special population for purposes of mental health and addiction services and to allocate a specific portion of OMHAS's mental health training funds to develop geriatric mental health expertise on a local level.	Mental Health Subcommittee	1/10/05
Develop a fact sheet for the current Governor's Recommended Budget, using language that is more suitable for purposes of the Commission.	Jane-ellen	1/05/05