

Minutes

Legislative Advocacy Committee

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

March 25, 2004

Keizer, Oregon

Attendees: Helen Liere, Chair; Dolores Raymond, Vice-Chair; Mariana Bornholdt; Eunice Dutton; Don Butsch; Jack Ewing; Mary Harvey; Dolores Hubert; Harvey Roth; Ham Jackson; Elaine Barrett; Adelina Sampang; Maria Smith; Bob Lawrence; and Barbara Brewer-Nelson

Staff: Sherry L. Whitehead

Guests: Rick Bennett

Excused: Tim Malone & Don Butsch

Called Meeting to Order

Approved February 2004 Minutes.

Announcements

Our letters to legislators and others aren't having our desired impact. We believe that personal visits may have more of an impact on our issues.

DHS Rebalance

The revised plan proposes to maintain health care services for the people in the Plus Population. They include foster children, people on public assistance, very low-income pregnant women, people who receive federal Supplemental Security Income benefits and people receiving long term care services. The savings identified through the Rebalance process have allowed DHS to preserve prescription drugs, mental health care, alcohol and drug treatment, therapies and other services for the "Plus" population. Long-term care services for people assessed in priority levels 12 and 13 will be restored July 1, 2004 pending federal approval. Services for the OHP standard will be eliminated. DHS is working with the federal government to get approval for provider taxes to reinstate some services to the OHP standard population.

MOTION: Recommend to the full Commission that Commissioners express their concerns by contacting the Human Services Committee of the Emergency Board in their areas regarding maintaining services to the 50,000 people in OHP standard versus restoring priority levels 12 and 13 affecting only 1200 people.
(Eunice Dutton) *Passed*

Special Session On Tax Reform

We reviewed and discussed Helen's Draft Report regarding the Commission's concerns about the ability of our tax system to provide for services of an expanding state. The report listed the Commission's principles, key findings, and recommendations that will increase fairness and stability in our tax system.

We discussed James Toews, response to the Commission's suggestions for legislative concepts and policy packages that DHS and SPD should pursue for the 2005 legislative session.

Advocacy Plan Subcommittee

The goal is to increase the number of senior advocates working on improving and increasing services to seniors and people with disabilities. The 2003-2004-advocacy plan includes four action steps:

1. Update Local Relationship List.
2. Continue to collaborate with the Advocacy Enhancement Workgroup to develop a shared vision and a coordinated plan to increase the number of advocates.
3. Identify strategies to involve advocates for children and seniors increasing intergenerational advocacy
4. Create an advocacy network, specific to senior issues that build relationships, communication trees and local leaders.

MOTION: Recommend to the full Commission adoption of the Advocacy Plan.
(Mary Harvey) *Passed*

Update on the "New Front Door Concept"

The goal is to "re-energize" the whole system, to serve seniors and people with disabilities not just for Medicaid clients. The "New Front Door Concept" Committee has created a survey to send out to the AAAs and DHS offices assessing how they deliver information and assessment services. The next meeting, Friday, April 2, 2004 will be to finalize the survey format and discuss policy package concepts.

Update on the "New Front Door Concept"

- Update on Mandated State Commissions
- Update on the "New Front Door"
- Ruth Shepard will be at the meeting to discuss her work on intergenerational issues.