

Minutes

Legislative Advocacy Committee

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

December 9, 2004

Department of Human Services

Attendees: Bob Lawrence, Chair; Dolores Raymond, Vice Chair; Don Butsch; Jack Ewing; John Helm; Kay Kirkbride; Charles Kurtz; Barbara Nelson; Ed Payton; and Jack Roberts

Excused: Mary Harvey

Staff: Jane-ellen Weidanz and Kim Hector

Called Meeting to Order

Approved October 2004 Minutes.

GCSS Constituency & Networking

We need to network with O4AD, AARP, OHCA, the Oregon Food Bank, Advocacy Coalition, Human Services Coalition, Alzheimer Association, Tri-met, Housing Authorities, faith based communities, and non-profits. We discussed if the Commission should focus more on "all" seniors vs. the most vulnerable and low-income. It was determined that we as a Commission are here to speak for those that don't have a voice. One of the problems with our networking system is that we are not reaching some middle class seniors, such as, widows that don't frequent senior centers and don't use the web. We discussed the possibility of forging a relationship with hospitals for networking.

Legislative Assignments

We have 23 members on the Commission assigned to their Legislators, covering different districts in the state. However, some of our members overlap. We will be asking for volunteers to cover legislators who do not have a member in their district. Each member will be asked to go to their Legislators with talking points from GCSS. This is to increase GCSS name recognition among Legislators and staff.

Bill Review Process

1. Email bills of interest to Bob Lawrence
2. Bob will then assign appropriate bills to Commission Members that have identified their issues of interest;
3. Member reviews the bill and decides if GCSS should track and if we should support, oppose, or stand neutral; giving it a brief overview and prioritized it 1-3
4. Member emails the review to Bob, Jane-ellen and Sherry
5. Bring the reviewed bill to the Legislative or Executive Committee for review and recommendations
6. Take the recommendations to the Full Commission.
7. Determine next step.

GCSS Legislative Overview

Discussed the GCSS Legislative Overview. Determined that the committee should review the document and return to the Full Commission with suggestions.

SPD Data Book

SPD is in the process of developing a data book filled with information that may be asked of us during the legislative session including; county information regarding SPD services, how many people the programs serve, etc. The book will be completed by the evening of December 14, 2004. There will be a conference call to discuss the information in the book on December 15, 2004.

Governor's Recommended Budget

Discussed the cuts in the home and community based services for seniors and people with physical disabilities. A cap on enrollment in Home-and-Community-Based Waiver services for seniors and people with disabilities cuts of \$ 16.9 million for assisted living facilities, and elimination of the non-relative adult foster care, and cuts of \$9.1 million from the Home Care Worker program.