

The governor's commission on senior services: Inspiring and educating the 2017 legislative session

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: Oral Presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Gerontologists, home health workers, congregate living staff, mental health professionals, social service workers, local and state government employees.

ABSTRACT: In the coming legislative session, Aging and People with Disabilities, a program area of DHS will be faced with a \$10M budget shortfall impacting services to seniors and people with disabilities. The Governor's Commission on Senior Services is organizing a conference to inspire and educate legislators, consumers, advocates, caregivers and academics on the issues facing seniors and people with disabilities in Oregon. This informative session will highlight the work of the Commission, the recommendations and outcomes of the 2015 Oregon White House Conference on Aging, and how the 2017 conference will help shape policy decisions under budget constraints and a growing aging population. The panel will focus on four topic areas of interest to the Commission: Healthy Aging, Long Term Services and Supports, Elder Justice and Retirement Security. Healthy Aging is a practice that encourages the delay and prevention of elders from entering into Long Term Services and Supports. Healthy Aging requires livable communities with access to affordable housing, transportation and social services. The Governor's Commission on Senior Services recommends the Oregon Legislature to expand services around health, including mental health, livable communities for all ages, and caregiver supports to keep individuals in their own homes.

OBJECTIVE(S): Participants will leave the session with the knowledge to discuss and advocate for issues related to these four topic areas.

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