

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting**

**Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland**

**Tuesday, May 27, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Start Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Vivian Ripple Adult Day Services Center, Hollywood, MD

Chaired By: Kathie Reich, Chairperson

**PRESENT**

**COA Members:** Kathie Reich, Sam Brown, Vicki Brown, Florence Lanham, David Mattingly, Sheral St. Clair, Sandra Wheeler, Patricia Woodburn

**Department of Aging Staff:** Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Jennie Page, Deputy Director, Rebecca Kessler, Manager – Home & Community Based Services; Dana DiGregorio, Senior Administrative Coordinator

**ABSENT**

**COA Members:** Elfreda Mathis

**GUESTS**

Peggy Reardon

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Sheral St. Clair, and was seconded by Florence Lanham; the Commission agreed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve April 2008 meeting minutes, with corrections, was made by Sheral St. Clair, and was seconded by Sam Brown; the Commission agreed.

**Corrections:** Correction to "Approval of Agenda" section – should be March 2008 meeting minutes; Spelling correction on page two.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Annual Tri-County COA Meeting:**

- On May 8, 2008 Kathie Reich, Sam Brown, Vicki Brown, Elfreda Mathis, Sandra Wheeler, Pat Woodburn, and Lori Jennings-Harris attended the Annual Tri-County COA Meeting in La Plata. The attendees discussed with the other members the issues that were addressed at the meeting.

**Budget Update:**

- The Department of Aging 2009 Budget has been approved. A few of the items requested for the 2009 Budget, such as the renovations for Ripple, have been moved and will be up for consideration in the 2012 Budget.

**Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center Capital Improvement Project:**

- The request for renovations to the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center kitchen has been removed from consideration in the 2009 Budget and moved to the 2012 Budget. The Board of County Commissioners has agreed to the Department of Aging developing a three year plan for the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center.

- Lori Jennings-Harris spoke about the possibility of the Department of Aging considering moving the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center to the St. Mary's County Nursing Center.

- The Commission discussed the ongoing cost of transportation. Vicki Brown suggested inviting the Board of County Commissioners to the next Commission on Aging meeting and request the Commissioners give the Commission Members an update on where things stand. Sam Brown suggested the Commission Members prepare a proposal of the request to present to the Board of County Commissioners, and invite them to a future meeting to respond to the request.

- It was suggested that the Department of Aging break down the requested budget and request less in hopes of getting some funds to make renovations or upgrades to the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center.

**Department of Aging – Image and Education:**

- The Department of Aging is working on many avenues of advertising and education regarding the Department of Aging as well as the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center.

**State of Maryland Commission on Aging Meeting:**

- On Wednesday, April 30, 2008 Lori Jennings-Harris and Kathie Reich attended Local Commissions on Aging Stakeholders Meeting, hosted by the Maryland Commission on Aging, at the Glenwood Senior Center in Cooksville, Maryland. Also in attendance was Gloria Lawlah, Secretary – Maryland Department of Aging. Some of the issues addressed at the meeting were Transportation issues and seniors being involved in government issues, affecting those issues by "lobbying" legislators, and being able to make a difference.

**Lunch with the Commissioners:**

- On Tuesday, May 6, 2008, Sandra Wheeler, Pat Woodburn, Lori Jennings-Harris, and Jennie Page attended the Lunch with the Commissioners at the Garvey Senior Activity Center. All five Board of County Commissioners attended. The Commissioners went around the room and sat with community members and senior activity center participants during lunch. Commissioners answered questions and addressed concerns of the community.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Commission On Aging Meeting Time:**

- Kathie Reich suggested changing the time the Commission On Aging meets. Dana DiGregorio will check with the operations staff at the Garvey Senior Activity Center for a time that will work for the Center and the Commission.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Garvey Senior Activity Center Open House:**

- An Open House for the Garvey Senior Activity Center is scheduled for June 27, 2008 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30. A special recognition for all those involved in the Garvey Senior Activity Center renovations is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Lori Jennings-Harris asked the Commission on Aging members to attend if available.

### **Garvey Relocation:**

- The possibility of moving the Garvey Senior Activity Center has been discussed. There are several potential buildings available for this endeavor, but a decision has not yet been made as discussions were preliminary.

### **Web Site:**

- The Department on Aging is upgrading their website to include pictures, scrolling pictures and a photo gallery of events and happenings at the Senior Activity Centers.

### **Auto Notify Function:**

- The Department of Aging has put into effect the Auto Notify function to their website. When a person is signed up for the auto notify function they will be alerted via e-mail when updates and changes have been added to the Department of Aging web site.

### **Capitol For a Day:**

- St. Mary's County will be participating in "Capitol for a Day". This event is scheduled for July 17, 2008.

### **Retired Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P) Advisory Council:**

- The R.S.V.P. Advisory Council has been formed and has conducted their first meeting; their next meeting is scheduled for August. Jayne Hunsinger, RSVP Project Manager, is still looking for members to join the council.

#### **Board of County Commissioners Human Services Council Members:**

- The St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners is looking for membership applications for the Human Services Council. Lori Jennings-Harris provided blank applications for the interested members.

#### **Home Delivered Meals:**

- The request for bids for the Home Delivered Meals Contract has gone out. A pre-bidders conference was held last week and the potential bidders toured the Garvey, Loffler, and Northern Senior Activity Center kitchens.

#### **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

- No personnel changes for the Department of Aging this month.

#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

- The Commission members requested that a detailed report be added to the Department of Aging monthly status report of what is happening at the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center. This will assist Commission members with being more informed of issues that the commission may want to get involved in,
- Sam Brown requested an update on the numbers of participants at the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center from Rebecca Kessler, Manager – Home and Community Based Services.
- Sandra Wheeler informed the Commission Members that Mr. Walter Sanders, a former Commission On Aging member, has passed away and a memorial service has been planned.
- Kathie Reich will not be attending the next Commission On Aging meeting scheduled for June 23, 2008. Kathie Reich will contact Elfreda Mathis, Vice Chairperson, to chair that meeting.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will tentatively be held on Monday, June 23, 2008 at 12 Noon, at the Garvey Senior Activity Center.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Sheral St. Clair made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Sam Brown seconded the motion. The Commission agreed. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator