

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland
Monday, July 23, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

Start Time: 12:00 p.m.
Location: Garvey Senior Center – Room 1, Leonardtown, MD
Chaired By: Sheral St. Clair, Chairperson

PRESENT

COA Members: Sheral St. Clair, Kathie Reich, Sam Brown, Vicki Brown, Florence Lanham, David H. Mattingly, Sandra Wheeler, Elfreda Mathis

Department of Aging Staff: Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Jennie Page, Deputy Director; Dana DiGregorio, Senior Administrative Coordinator

Guests: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as modified with additions was made by Kathie Reich, and was seconded by Florence Lanham; the Commission agreed.

Additions to Directors Report:

Senior Rides Program

Health and Human Services Plan for St. Mary's County

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve May 2007 meeting minutes was made by Sam Brown, and was seconded by Kathie Reich; the Commission agreed.

WELCOME NEW COMMISSION ON AGING MEMBERS

Sheral St. Clair welcomed two new Commission On Aging members, Elfreda Mathis and Sandra Wheeler. Each Commission member and Department of Aging staff member in attendance introduced themselves.

OLD BUSINESS

Transportation Survey Distribution

- An article on transportation, which included a transportation questionnaire, provided by the Department of Public Works and Transportation (STS) staff was published in the May/June edition of the New Beginning Newsletter. The Commission was concerned over the ability to distribute the questionnaire to enough seniors to get an adequate response to the questions at hand regarding senior transportation. As well as being published in the New Beginnings Newsletter, David Mattingly delivered 20-30 questionnaires to each of the 15 Catholic Churches in St. Mary's County; Sheral St. Clair has delivered surveys to the Leonardtown Library and will be distributing to the Charlotte Hall and Lexington Park Libraries to be displayed on the libraries' information center. The Department of Aging has also been distributing the questionnaire to all participants of the Area Plan Meetings which are taking place at each of the senior centers, nutrition sites and Medical Adult Day Care.

- Elfreda Mathis suggested that if STS does not get the results they need for the Survey we could try to do phone surveys, calling people who have signed up with the centers and obtaining surveys over the phone. Lori Jennings-Harris indicated she would pass along the suggestion to the Transportation Department.
- Elfreda Mathis asked if there is a dedicated service for transportation needs for seniors. Sheral St. Clair responded with information provided in a Resource Guide that the Health Department has put together to assist with the needs of persons with disabilities. The Department of Aging also provides a Resource Guide, available at all the senior centers and nutrition sites, which gives contact information for local businesses and service organizations and agencies to help fulfill the needs of the senior population

New Projects

- Sheral St. Clair asked the committee for suggestions for new projects that the Commission On Aging can become involved with. Lori Jennings-Harris noted that the Commission has been focusing on issues that were brought up at the Senior Forums - transportation issues & Emergency Preparedness. Lori Jennings-Harris also noted that since we have just received the approval for the Senior Rides Grant, that the Senior Rides Transportation Program could be the Commission's main focus right now. In addition, Lori Jennings-Harris suggested the Commission become involved in fundraising for the Medical Adult Day Program.

COA Report to David Zylak

- A Copy of the COA Final Report from the Senior Forums was sent to David Zylak, Director for the Department of Public Safety, to keep him informed of current issues of the Department of Aging. After reviewing the report Mr. Zylak responded indicating his willingness to offer information or assistance from his department.

NEW BUSINESS

Resource Guides

- Sheral St. Clair shared a resource guide that is being prepared by the Health Department for persons with disabilities.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Area Plan Meetings

- Lori Jennings-Harris gave an update on the Area Plan Meetings that have been held at each of the senior centers and nutrition sites. The meetings produced a great deal of information and insight as to what is important to our participants. Most of this information is not appropriate to what is needed for the Area Plan but will be taken into consideration by the centers to help improve the day to day operation of the centers, nutrition sites, and Medical Adult Day Services center.

Department Status Update

- The May and June Status report will be released by the end of this month.

Personnel Changes:

- There have been no new additions to staff at the Department of Aging this month.
- The Department of Aging is still in the process of hiring personnel to fill the Client Account Specialist position.

Meals Update

- The Department of Aging has some issues that have come to light during the public meetings that need to be addressed with the meal provider.

Health and Human Services Plan for St. Mary's County

- The Health and Human Services Plan for St. Mary's County was put together by the Local Management Board for St. Mary's County in conjunction with the Health Management Consultants, out of Columbia Maryland. The Local Management Board is planning to present the findings to the Board of County Commissioners at the public meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, July 31, 2007. Lori Jennings-Harris encouraged Commission On Aging members to attend and hear with the Local Management Board has to present.

Additional Remarks

- Sheral St. Clair will be contacting Mike Lachance, Legislative Liaison for the Maryland Department of Aging, to help keep the Commission on Aging up to date with Legislative and Federal issues related to the Aging population.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on August 27, 2007, at 12 Noon, at the Garvey Senior Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Kathie Reich made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Sam Brown seconded the motion. The Commission agreed. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator