

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting  
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland  
Monday, July 25, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Start Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Location: Garvey Senior Center, Leonardtown, MD  
Chaired By: Mary Ruth Horton, Chairperson

**PRESENT**

**COA Members:** Mary Ruth Horton, Pat Myers, Larry Younger, Daniel Hinz, Ardith Young, Mary Ann Grusholt, Kitty Turner.

**Guests:** Clare Whitbeck

**Department of Aging Staff:** Gene Carter, Jennie Page, Dr. Grant, Kathy Mather, Alice Allen, MarieNoelle Lautieri, Julie Van Orden, and Janis Jacobs

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda accepted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Pat Myers to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Kitty Turner and Larry Younger. COA members unanimously accepted minutes of 6.27.05 with recommended changes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Senior Tax Credit Status**

Mary Ruth received an email from Commissioner McKay that the County Commissioners will be following up on the county ordinance that was adopted by the commissioners and authorizing legislation has been passed to county treasurer. Mary Ruth questioned whether there will be a means testing provision to determine who is eligible for the tax credit or whether it automatically goes into effect. Mary Ruth will continue follow up. Seniors will apply for the credit next year, as this is the base year to see what individual taxes are.

**Senior Service Priorities Survey**

Goal of the upcoming workshop is to determine why people prioritized senior needs in the way they did when they completed the survey and how the Department of Aging and the Commission On Aging can provide information and solutions. Pat, Larry and Mary Ruth had a meeting to discuss the purpose and expected outcomes of the workshop. Date, time and place were discussed; however Mary Ruth would like the input of Department of Aging staff. Larry inquired as to whether the new Northern Center might be available for this workshop, as it is such a showcase of the county. Gene Carter mentioned his concerns that 100 people at the Northern Center for the workshop with needs for break-out sessions would be disruptive of a full schedule of activities and groups, and feels Loffler would be a better location. Ardith pointed out that it is not an issue about meeting room availability at Northern Center; however the individual activity rooms are already scheduled with special groups. COA members concluded that the workshop will take place at Loffler.

Every attempt will be made to provide invitations to this workshop to the individuals, groups and organizations that completed the survey.

Ardith recommended going with one of the dates recommended by Leslee Metz, Operations Manager at Loffler so as not to disrupt any activities for the Loffler seniors. The members decided upon Friday, October 7, 2005. The workshop will be called the St. Mary's County Senior Survey Results Forum.

Schedule:

8:30 a.m. – 9:00:	Registration (Dept. of Aging staff requested to assist)
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.:	Introductions and Purpose (provide time to write concerns)
9:15 – 10:00 a.m.:	1 <sup>st</sup> Breakout session
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.:	Break
10:15 – 11:00 a.m.:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Breakout session
11:00 – 11:15 a.m.:	Break
11:15 – 12:00 p.m.:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Breakout session
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.:	Lunch
1:00 – 1:45 p.m.:	15 min. for each group to report
1:45 – 2:00 p.m.:	Wrap-up

Mary Ruth made a request for Dept. of Aging staff assistance with copying the program, sending out invitations, and taking reservations.

Discussion followed on how to invite those who were interested enough to respond to the survey, with the goal to seek a good cross-representation of county seniors who had filled out the survey form.

Facilitators:

Larry Younger has consented to be the facilitator Health sessions

Pat Myers will facilitate Housing sessions

Mary Ruth Horton will facilitate Public Safety session

Experts in each area are being sought; these people will not be speakers but present at sessions to provide answers to questions that may arise. Pat, Ray Cooper, Mary Ruth, and Larry will be serving on a committee to organize presenters and speakers for the workshop. Pat Simone from the Health Dept., Gene Carter, Jennie Page from the Dept. of Aging, Dennis Nicholson from the Housing Dept., and Sheriff Zylack were all mentioned as suggestions.

Gene Carter recommended using the Department of Aging daily lunch service for providing meals at this event. The suggestion was made to request the Board of County Commissioners will provide money for a small breakfast/refreshment set-up. Mary Ruth asked if the Dept. of Aging will provide folders, nametags and pens for attendees. Alice Allen will order the meals for that day when numbers are known.

All committee meetings are open to anyone who would like to contribute.

**Meal Program Status for June:**

Gene Carter reported that the program is continuing at about the same level as the previous month: approximately 220 meal recipients. The current budget still seems adequate for cover the cost of the program. There is no waiting list for meals.

Larry announced that Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home is making home meal delivery an activity.

**Oakley Nutrition Center Status:**

No report.

**Northern Senior Center:**

No report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

## **COA Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners**

Mary Ruth is seeking suggestions for the annual report for the Board of County Commissioners stating what the Commission On Aging accomplished during the previous calendar year.

### **Senior Housing: Independent and Assisted Living:**

Pat Myers reported that she was very pleased with a recent meeting at which the Board of County Commissioners indicated support for using a part of the remaining land at the Northern Center location for a senior housing concept. Gene Carter added that other ideas mentioned that would fit well on the property included a pool and gymnasium, which could also be utilized by senior citizens.

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Gene Carter introduced MarieNoelle Lautieri as the new Northern Senior Center Operations Manager and Kathy Mather as the Operations Manager at the Garvey Senior Center.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**RSVP:** Janis Jacobs reported that she has been meeting with volunteer sites and completing necessary reports. She thanked Larry Younger for his volunteer support with Meals on Wheels deliveries.

**Medical Adult Day Services:** Julie reported that the transition of participants from the Weisman Center to the Ripple Center combination was completed mid-July. Enrollment at the Ripple Center is now 44 participants, with availability for 48 total participants.

**UNITED SENIORS OF MARYLAND:** Mary Ruth passed out a list of the possible legislative state and federal priorities for USM and asked the COA members to vote for their three top priorities in both state and federal categories. The vote was as follows:

State Priorities in order:

#4 Support affordable transportation so seniors can be mobile.

#1 Support efforts to provide more affordable prescription drugs

#6 Support income tax exemption of \$2,400 for seniors so as to help keep seniors living in Maryland

Federal Priorities in order:

#4 Support preserving the quality and coverage of Medicare and Medicaid programs

#5 Support the study and funding of ways to provide affordable housing for seniors

#1 Support pre-tax payment of health insurance for seniors and long term care insurance.

Jennie asked that future consideration be given to support funding for aging programs as there is always a need here.

Mary Ruth will vote as the COA representative at the Coalition meeting following our meeting today.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On August 1, 2005 the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare is asking seniors all over the U.S. to call their senators and representatives in their district offices to state their concerns for Privatization of Social Security.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 26, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at Garvey, Rm. 1. (The COA does not meet in August.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Pat Myers motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Larry Younger seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Prepared by:

Sherrie Wooldridge

Senior Administrative Coordinator, St. Mary's County Department of Aging