

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting  
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland  
Monday, October 24, 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, Daniel Hinz, Kitty Turner, Florence Lanham, Mary Ann Grusholt, Sherrie St. Clair.

**Department of Aging Staff:** Jennie Page, Valerie Pilkerton, and Ted Grant

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda accepted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of 9-26-2005 will be approved at the next COA meeting upon completion of recommended changes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Senior Tax Credit Status: County Commissioner Legislative Proposal**

**Testimony to BOCC, 10-4-05**

**Requested repeal of Sunset Provision**

**Testimony to BOCC & State Delegation, 10-19-05**

**Requested repeal of Sunset Provision**

**Suggested amendment to local ordinance to replace state sunset**

**Future Action Required**

Pat Myers and Mary Ruth Horton presented testimony at both public meetings giving reasons why the sunset provision should be removed. It is not a state requirement because Carroll County does not have it on their legislation for the same purpose. The implementation procedures should be local not state because the local Commissioners best understand the fiscal status of the County.

Ms. Horton stated that she thought that the bill passed last year because we had the county ordinance to present as local government support. We need to have local support for the repeal of the sunset provision as a part of the local ordinance, so we asked for the local amendment. The requested amendment to the ordinance would do the same thing that the sunset provision would do but would keep local control. Ms. Horton thanked the COA members who went and said it really was good for the Commissioners to see support from the COA and senior residents. The seniors present in the audience appreciated being put at the beginning of the meetings so that they could get home earlier. Ms. Horton thanked Ms. Myers for her help with the NARFE proposal and asked her to report on her presentation of it at the meeting on 10-19-2005. Ms. Myers said that the proposed amendment would form a local advisory committee of 5 citizens, with each Commissioner appointing 1 citizen, to gather information on the effects of the tax credit and to make recommendations to the Commissioners who would decide what action is needed if any. We requested that this item be put on the Commissioners agenda and that a public hearing

be held after which the Commissioners would make a decision on the proposed amendment. Ms. Horton stated that for any future action required at this time, with COA continued approval, she and Ms. Myers would continue to attend meetings and speak for the COA and NARFE. Daniel Hinz made the motion to have Ms. Horton and Ms. Myers continue to represent the COA. The motion was seconded by Florence Lanham and passed unanimously.

### **Senior Survey Results Forum: October 7, 2005**

#### Results of evaluation forms from participants

Ms. Horton stated there were a total of 25 responses. There were very high scores on all categories and those present requested that more forums be held to discuss the other issues as well as follow up on the ones discussed today. A detailed report will be part of the final report to the County Commissioners. The use of cards used by attendees to write their questions worked out very well since we were short on time on each topic.

#### **Planning committee comments**

Mr. Hinz stated that he sat with four people that had signed up and did the initial survey in January. Mr. Hinz said that he heard great comments from individuals attending the forum. Ms. Myers stated that she was impressed with the number of people that wanted to serve on the panel. Mr. Younger had stated to Ms. Horton that he thought the forum turned out great. Ms. Horton stated that the individuals that took the notes during the forum were just excellent. She brought the notes today for any members that would like to look over them. Ms. Grusholt stated that the radio stations would be an excellent way to get information out for future forums.

### **Proposed New County Senior Housing Status**

#### **Where are we now? What is the role of DOA and COA?**

Pat Myers stated that Phil Rollins is making a presentation on Tuesday to the Board of County Commissioner at the Northern Senior Center at 4 p.m. We would like to have all seniors there. Mr. Rollins will be recommending senior housing, community recreation facility, and a community swimming pool. This will be the second presentation. The first presentation included things from the public hearing; soccer fields, and taking a look at all the land in the Northern part of the County. Ms. Myers stated that she is hoping that the Commissioners will make a decision to go forward with the housing portion and it be passed on to Land Use & Growth Management and Department of Aging. Ms. Horton stated that she hopes that everyone will be able to make Tuesday's meeting.

Ms. Myers stated that a form was passed out at the Forum to find out how many individuals are interested in housing. Copies of the forms will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Appointment of Nominating Committee

Ms. Horton stated that we would elect new officers in December to take over in January. She appointed Daniel Hinz and Arudith Young to that committee. She will also serve on the committee since she has served the two-year term as Chairperson that is allowed in the COA bylaws. There were no objections.

#### Status of Area Agency Plan Update to State Department of Aging

Ms. Page stated that this is the plan update for 2006. The area plan is submitted to the Maryland Department of Aging; which explains what is being done with the different grants they give us, and the projections for the following year. The 2004 plan has more detail of what is done in each program. Each year and then throughout 2007, updates are provided which include; new projections for each of the grants and the new budgets for the grants. Once the plan is approved at the state level, the notification of Grant Awards (NGA's) are sent to the local departments. We are projecting that we will serve 3,500 people next year, 1,065 of those are registered services, and 3,300 of those are unduplicated services.

## **DOA ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### Meal Program Monthly Status Report

Numbers: clients served, new clients, waiting list

Ms. Page stated the number of projected home delivered meals for FY 2006 is fifty-five thousand. Ms. Page stated that there are currently **234 clients** on the Meals on Wheels Program, and there is no waiting list. The Department of Aging is working with DPW&T to resolve issues of transportation. Enrollment for MADS is down to 48 from 52 with an average attendance of 36 to 37.

We currently have over 400 working volunteers with 52 stations. There are no budget concerns as of now.

Budget status: local, state, federal and client donations - No report

### Program Updates

Ms. Page stated that the Health Fair was a success. The weather did not keep people away, which was great. The Health Department used all of their flu vaccine on Friday. The Health Department stated that this was a record number of flu shots given at any clinic in one day.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Medical Adult Day Services – stated above

United seniors of Maryland

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Horton stated that the new director for the Department of Aging would be advertised sometime in January 2006.

Ms. Horton and Claire Whitbeck announced the Legislative Relay on January 24, 2006 with a rain date of January 31, 2006. Claire stated that she has tickets, which are \$10.00 each. Ms. Horton stated that she would like all the Commission on Aging to attend this event if possible.

Ms. Horton announced the meeting at the Northern Senior Center at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday and asked everyone who could to try to attend.

Ms. Horton gave out the phone number to call to add your support to the National Committee to preserve Social Security and Medicare. All programs are being put on the chopping block at the Federal level including Medicare and Medicaid programs. They would like all seniors to call the number and tell your congressmen that you don't want them to cut the Medicare/Medicaid programs and not to change the assets rules for nursing homes.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Ms. Horton discussed meeting dates for November and December with the Commission members. It was decided to keep the November 28, 2005 meeting date the same and to change the December 26, 2005 meeting to the week before on December 19, 2005. The board agreed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Pat Myers motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Daniel Hinz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:05p.m.

Prepared by:  
Valerie Pilkerton

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