

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland
Monday, November 28, 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, Daniel Hinz, Kitty Turner, Florence Lanham, Ardith Young, Sherrie St. Clair.

Department of Aging Staff: Jennie Page.

Others in Attendance: Don O'Neal.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda accepted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Ardith Young to approve the minutes 9-26-2005, which was seconded by Kitty Turner. Motion was made by Daniel Hinz to approve the minutes 10-24-2005, which was seconded by Ardith Young. COA members unanimously accepted minutes for September and October with recommended changes.

OLD BUSINESS

Senior Tax Credit Status: Public Hearing on Removal of Sunset Clause

The County Commissioners held a public hearing and Ms. Horton, Ms. Myers, and Bernie Goldsborough testified. The County Commissioners later voted unanimously to accept an addition to the county ordinance regarding the sunset provision. Ms. Horton and Ms. Myers will let the COA know when any Legislative Hearings will be held.

Senior Survey Results Forum Report

Ms. Horton stated that she was very pleased with the three articles in the Enterprise. Ms. Horton stated that she and Ms. Myers are working on the report which is almost completed. The report will include background information, outcomes, evaluation, summary, and future actions + timelines.

Ms. Horton gave a report on the recommendations in the report for the COA to approve. There are three areas that the COA covered, and the top priority was to schedule additional public forums. The next forum will be held at the Northern Senior Center no later than June, 2006. The third forum will be held at the Garvey Senior Center no later than September, 2006. Seminars on Medicare Part D have taken place and others are being scheduled.

Ms. Turner was wondering why the COA meeting is not listed in the Enterprise. Ms. Page stated that it is usually in with the other Boards, Committee, and Commissions listings in the paper.

Ms. Horton stated the other issue under the health care area that was mentioned was the quality of the food in the centers and Meals on Wheels program. Ms. Page commented on this topic stating the Department of Aging strives to provide nutritious well-balanced meals for all the

seniors. Ms. Horton stated if anyone has concerns regarding the meals, they should contact the Department of Aging or go to one of the centers and fill out an evaluation form. Ms. Horton requested that staff do a monthly report of the food evaluations and it be presented at the March, 2006 COA meeting.

By March of 2006, COA would like to have TRIAD revitalized in cooperation with the Sheriff's Department and the Department of Aging. Ms. Page stated that this is in the works. Ms. Horton stated that community education programs should be scheduled on a quarterly basis with the first presentation to be at the first TRAIID meeting.

In April, we want to increase the neighborhood patrols. In May, we want to increase the effectiveness of the Neighborhood Watch Program and have presentations of Emergency Preparedness at the three Senior Centers. In June, we want to continue with the efforts to get affordable, independent, and assisted living in St. Mary's County. Ms. Horton stated that they are working on the conclusion of the report and will try to have it done by next week to provide to the Department staff for comments and then a presentation to the BOCC will be scheduled. Ms. Turner moved and Ms. Lanham seconded the motion.

Ms. Horton stated she would let the COA know when the report will be presented to the BOCC.

Proposed New County Senior Housing Status

Ms. Horton stated that the BOCC approved and are proceeding with plans to build on the land where the Northern Senior Center is located. They are looking into many things in particular the water and sewage that may be a problem. Ms. Page will keep the COA up to date on the status.

NEW BUSINESS

Public School Retired Teachers Health Insurance Plan

Don O'Neil provided handouts and spoke on the subject. Mr. O'Neil stated the pension system for teachers is the worst in the state. He has requested that the BOE do an increase over the next 2 to 3 years. He wants the COA to write a letter stating that they support anything they can do in the negotiation system. Don O'Neil stated he would like to have health insurance increased up to 75% the cost of the health care for retirees that have worked 30 years for the Public Schools in St. Mary's County and appropriate adjustments for all other retirees. Motion was made by Ardith Young to support and Kitty Turner seconded the motion.

COA Officers for 2006: Nominating Committee Report

Ardith Young surveyed the members and Larry Younger will be the Chairman, Daniel Hinz will be the Vice Chairman, and Mary Ann Grusholt will continue as corresponding secretary. Ms. Horton stated that we need to make an exception to the bylaws. Ms. Horton stated that no one could hold the same office for more than two years in succession. The exception is unless there is no one to take the office. The person in office agrees to stay there until someone else can take that place. Ms. Grusholt has agreed to continue until a replacement is made. Motion was made by Kitty Turner and seconded by Florence Lanham to accept the Nominating Committee Report.

Senior Care Program

Ms. Page gave this information:

What is it? It is a State funded program and we receive \$97,458 a year for the program. It is for seniors 65-over to help them stay in their homes; it does not by itself keep anyone out of the nursing home. It is a program consisting of a three-agency system. The Department of Aging is the lead agency, Department of Social Services provides the Case Management, and the Health Department does the evaluation for the health needs of the client.

What is the need? We have 82 clients receiving the Senior Care Program now and 52 on the waiting list.

Ms. Page stated that she has met with Ella May Russell and Dr. Icenhower on this information because it is the three agencies that work together. We are also gleaming information from across the State and that information is coming in slowly. Ms. Horton stated that she thinks it is very important what Ms. Page is doing in reaching out to the other Counties and the State to see what they are doing with the Senior Care Program. Ms. Page stated she would provide that information when she receives it.

DOA ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Meal Program Monthly Status Report

For October, 4,205 home delivered meals were provided to 235 clients. More meals were delivered this month because the emergency meals were also delivered. There is no waiting list for the meals. Meal revenue for the Month of October for congregate meals was \$1,233.00, which is an average of \$1.42 per meal. The meals cost about \$4.00 each and that is the suggested donation. For Meals on Wheels, \$509.00 was received and the average with all the extra meals is .12 cents a meal or .17 cents if emergency meals are excluded.

Ms. Page stated that we always stay within our guidelines. Our Statistical and Financial reports are sent on time. We just had our Financial Audit from the Maryland Department of Aging and passed with excellence.

Budget Process for Next Year

Ms. Page stated that we have met with Finance once and will have training in January. Ms. Page will keep the COA up to date with the progress of the FY 2007 budget planning.

Other Items

Ms. Page gave an update regarding TRIAD; Diane Thompson from the Sheriff's Office has been given the task from Sheriff Zylak to work from his Department on TRIAD or the SALT Council. Sherrie Wooldridge is the liaison from the DoA. Ms. Wooldridge attended a 2-day conference on TRIAD. Ms. Page will keep COA posted on any updates.

Status of Oakley Nutrition Site. Ms. Page gave the Commissioners an informal report of the status of Oakley Senior Center and spoke to George Forrest regarding Oakley. At this time, they are looking into it.

Ms. Page stated that Social Security is currently located at the Hall of Fame at Chancellors Run Regional Park and there have been some concerns about the walking distance to the building. Other alternatives / locations are being considered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Medical Adult Day Services

Ms. Page stated attendance is running about the same (34 to 36), but our enrollment has decreased due to health issues. Referrals continue to come in and staff is working with these potential clients. Our Social Worker has resigned, and the position has been advertised.

United Seniors of Maryland: State Rally – 1/24/06 (snow date – 1/31/06)

Ms. Horton stated that United Seniors Rally is on January 24, 2006 and Ms. Whitbeck has tickets. The tickets are \$10.00 or \$12.00 at the door.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Northern Senior Center Christmas Party is on December 15, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$4.00.

Loffler Senior Center Christmas Party is on December 9, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$6.25.

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Horton discussed that there will not be a meeting in December due to the holidays and the next meeting will be on January 23, 2005. Kitty Turner motioned and Sherrie St. Clair seconded the motion. The board agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Prepared by:

Valerie Pilkerton

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