

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**  
November 17, 2014 1:00 PM  
Garvey Senior Activity Center

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. (This is a recorded meeting).

**ROLL CALL:** Members present were Norma Pipkin, Chair, Juanita Nether, Gail Murdock, Linda Fry, Cindy Williams, Deb Johnstone, Diane Harding, and Janet Kellam. Department of Aging & Human Services staff members present were Lori Jennings-Harris, Director and Beth Sandberg, Senior Administrative Coordinator.

**ABSENT:** Bettie Broadhurst was excused.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the October 27, 2014 minutes was made by Mr. Murdock and seconded by Ms. Kellam; the motion passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORT:**

- Outreach Committee - Juanita Nether  
Ms. Nether feels the outreach event went very well and it was well attended. The attendees felt they received a lot of information and they didn't realize all the Department of Aging & Human Services does for the community. A large amount of the attendees would like to have the Road Show presented at their local church. Ms. Williams asked what the Commission feels went well and what did not at this presentation versus the presentation earlier in Avenue. Ms. Nether stated her contact made a big effort to have people in attendance. Ms. Pipkin suggested the Department include the head of a particular division do a presentation and to find out what the consumers' specific needs are. Ms. Pipkin also suggested the St. Joseph Community Center in Loveville would be a good location for the next outreach event.
- Legislative Committee - Mr. Murdock said a lot of things were changing due to the election. A large amount of Bills have been pulled back.

**DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS:**

- Maryland Access Point Aging & Disability Resource Center  
Ms. Jennings-Harris indicated things are going well and thriving. The person who co-locates with us from Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living (SMCIL) is in the office all day on Thursday. This person does the same thing as the MAP Coordinator, seeing consumers and addressing phone calls.
- Update on Garvey Replacement Activities - Ms. Forrest and Ms. Taylor
  - Ms. Forrest emailed a detailed memo on December 15<sup>th</sup> outlining strategies. As of today, 2168 petition signatures have been received. Ms. Sandberg stated the Department is seeing more AIM registration forms from the Garvey Senior Activity Center Group (GSACG) efforts. The cutoff date for the petition signatures has been extended to December 15, 2014.
  - A Road Show presentation will be made to the Garvey Senior Activity Center Group.
  - Ms. Pipkin indicated the Commission for Women is writing a letter of support for moving the planning of the new Garvey Senior Activity Center to FY2016.
  - Ms. Forrest received a nice letter of encouragement from Karen Strickland and her husband. The letter includes accolades for the GSACG. They have worked hard for the cause.

## **DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS:**

- Proposed Site Visits for 2015 - Ms. Pipken developed a list of proposed site visits and locations for the Commission meetings for 2015. The list was unanimously approved.
- New Commissioners - Ms. Pipken would like the new County Commissioners to be informed of “A Community for a Lifetime” and the transportation report. Once the budget process is over, in March/April, the Commission will plan to present the information at a public forum meeting.
- Annual Report - Work needs to begin on the annual report. Ms. Williams would like to include what the Commission’s needs and concerns are.
- Follow-up meeting with Calvert and Charles- After meeting in October with the Calvert County Commission on Aging delegation, a new meeting date had yet to be set. St. Mary’s and Calvert Counties would like to meet quarterly. Ms. Williams suggested the next meeting be held in February. Calvert County expressed an interest to continue and an invitation to Charles County will be extended. Ms. Pipken will contact the Northern Senior Activity Center to schedule a meeting with Calvert and Charles Counties in February.
- Transportation - Ms. Fry attended the Commissioners’ meeting regarding transportation issues. Ms. Fry indicated the County will have 67% more funds for transportation services. She indicated the County is looking at new commuter buses and fixing transit services. A survey will be conducted and should be completed by the fall. Ms. Fry wasn’t sure if the money will be available this year or not.
- Elections - At the January Commission meeting elections will take place.
- Ms. Williams visited Newtowne Village. She was happy to see better morale and feels the new service coordinator is great.
- Ms. Johnstone suggested when the Commission conducts site visits, the Commission members participate in the meal service offered.

## **DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Ms. Jennings-Harris**

- The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Caregivers’ Breakfast was held and there were 40 people in attendance. Each year, the breakfast is steadily growing.
- This a very busy time for the Department in general, but also the I & A Division due to open enrollment for Medicare.
- We have a new food provider, Culinary Services Group, and everything is going well.
- Staff updates:
  - Ombudsman position - filled
  - Program Specialist Northern Senior Activity Center - vacant
  - Database Specialist - vacant

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Murdock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:09 p.m. and Ms. Williams seconded; the motion passed.

**NEXT MEETING:** Garvey Senior Activity Center, Leonardtown, MD  
January 26, 2015

The purpose of the Commission is to provide the Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary’s County with advice and assistance concerning the administration and financing of county programs designed for the elderly residents of St. Mary’s, the operations and general performance of the St. Mary’s County Department of Aging and Human Services, the achievement of goals set for the elderly population and how best to work with the community in developing awareness and understanding of problems and concerns of the elderly population.