

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Monday, June 23, 2014**  
**Charlotte Hall Veterans Home**  
**Charlotte Hall, MD**

**CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. (This is a recorded meeting).

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

**ABSENT** – Samantha Lane and Diane Harding were excused.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – Motion to approve the May 19, 2014 minutes with amendments was made by Mr. Murdock and seconded by Ms. Nether, the motion passed.

*Ms. Broadhurst and Ms. Fry arrived to the meeting after voting had commenced on the minutes.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** –

- Outreach Committee - Bettie Broadhurst

The Commission is looking forward to the Outreach event being held on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion in the 7<sup>th</sup> District. Mr. Murdock indicated the American Legion newsletter was sent out to over 400 people and flyers have been posted at the Legion. Ms. Jennifer Stone, Community Programs & Outreach Division Manager, will present the Aging & Human Services Road Show.

**DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS** –

- Ms. Williams had contact with a consumer who was having problems with her Lifeline (Emergency Response System). The consumer indicated everything was working fine.
- Ms. Williams attended a seminar with Mr. Steve Gurney as the presenter. Mr. Gurney is the Publisher of Guide to Retirement Living SourceBook, Guide to Retirement Living. Mr. Gurney suggested advertising to grandparents versus seniors. His research shows everyone desires to live a life with a purpose and having accessible environments are crucial. Mr. Gurney also mentioned the Pocket Talker, which is an amplified stereo listener, to enhance meetings and/or church services. Another subject of interest for older adults is time banking. Partners in Care in Anne Arundel County has established a time exchange community supporting older adults aging in place.

**DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS** –

- Food contract -  
Ms. Jennings-Harris specified there is not an update at this time. The Department is maintaining the current contract until the end of August.

- **Transportation Issues -**  
Ms. Pipkin stated transportation continues to be a major topic for our seniors. After meeting with Ms. Kellam and Ms. Williams on May 25, 2014, transportation needs to be researched and explored more thoroughly to see what kind of changes can be made for our seniors. It was suggested the Commission invite the county's Transportation Manager, Senior Information & Assistance Manager, and the Health Enterprise Zone representative to the September Commission on Aging meeting. It was also suggested Ms. Lisa Ruetschle from Victory Woods be invited. The Commission would like to hear what services are available through the Department of Aging & Human Services and what are the issues specifically surrounding the county and how the county is addressing the concerns they are aware of. The Commission would like to know how they can help the county departments with the transportation issues. Ms. Pipkin would like to hear what the action plans are. Ms. Jennings-Harris indicated the Transportation Department has a Transportation Development Plan and they could provide information on the plan as it relates to seniors. Ms. Fry stated a shuttle bus service has begun within the Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ).
- **Update on Garvey Replacement Activities -**  
A meeting is scheduled for mid-July in the Potomac Building due to lack of space at the Garvey Senior Activity Center. The goal of this committee is to have the new Garvey Senior Activity Center moved up on the budget calendar. Ms. Jennings-Harris will have someone from her staff give a presentation. Ms. Pipkin will be the facilitator for the first meeting and conduct introductions. From the assembled participants, they will choose who will lead future meetings. Ms. Jennings-Harris informed the Commission on Aging the County supports construction of a new building and it is in the 2018 Capital Improvement budget. Ms. Williams suggests talking to the groups that already meet at Garvey to be involved with the committee and to work with Garvey staff to get contact information.

The Commission on Aging wanted to know how many people account for the number of seniors in St. Mary's County. Ms. Kellam conducted the research and provided informational statistics. In the 2010 census, which is the most recent census, she found:

1. There were 29,980 seniors age 50 and above.
  2. According to the public schools website, which supplied the numbers for September 2013, the official enrollment of school aged children was 17,189. In June, there were approximately 17,840 school age children.
  3. Leonardtown is one of the fastest growing communities in the state.
- Ms. Fry is participating in HOPE, a food pantry, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in September at 12:00 p.m. Ms. Fry will talk to Jennifer Stone to do a Community & Outreach presentation. Ms. Fry is also participating in the Healthy St. Mary's Coalition.
  - Samantha Lane has resigned from the Commission on Aging.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT –**

- In the last meeting, we had a discussion on voter registration. The Department of Aging & Human Services plans to have voter registration forms available at the Senior Activity Centers.
- The Department developed a draft questionnaire for the Garvey Senior Activity Center to get community feedback on the need for a new center.
- No personnel changes.
- Ms. Jennings-Harris went to the Autumn Assisted Living open house on June 19<sup>th</sup> and toured it. It is a very nice facility. There is a wing devoted to people with memory issues. Ms. Pipkin indicated the August COA meeting will be held at Autumn Assisted Living.

**RSVP TIME SHEETS –**

- RSVP time sheets were distributed for completion prior to the end of the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING –** July 28, 2014 at the Garvey Senior Activity Center 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**UPCOMING EVENTS –**

- Monday, July 14, 2014 - L.I.F.E booklet distribution
- Monday, August 11, 2014 - L.I.F.E. registration begins
- Tuesday, September 9, 2014 - First fall L.I.F.E. tour
- Friday, October 24, 2014 - Health Fair

**ADJOURNMENT –**

- Mr. Murdock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:22 p.m. and Ms. Williams seconded, the motion passed.

The purpose of the Commission on Aging 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 & 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.