

MEETING MINUTES
ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
August 25, 2014 1:00 p.m.
****Autumn Assisted Living at Wildewood, California, MD****

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:38 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: Diane Harding was excused.

Ms. Fry later excused herself from the meeting to attend to personal business.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion to approve the July 28, 2014 minutes was made by Mr. Murdock and seconded by Ms. Williams, the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Outreach Committee - Bettie Broadhurst

Ms. Nether and Ms. Broadhurst are working together on the next Outreach event, which will be at St. Peter Claver Church in Ridge. Ms. Kellam also offered her help and support. Ms. Broadhurst would like to invite community members in addition to the parishioners. Previously suggested was to have the next Outreach event at a different time of day. Ms. Broadhurst's suggestion is to leave the time decision up to the event location and they can tell the Commission what time will be appropriate.

DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS:

Transportation - Ms. Pipkin asked if the Department of Aging & Human Services followed up with the gentlemen in the 7th district that was looking for transportation to the Senior Activity Centers. Ms. Jennings-Harris stated Alice Allen, Senior Center Operations Division Manager, contacted the gentlemen and explained the available options. Ms. Jennings-Harris is not certain if he had a chance to use the transportation options yet. Ms. Sandberg will follow-up with the gentlemen.

Update on Garvey Replacement Activities - De-brief from August 14, 2014 meeting - Ms. Dale Taylor emailed a summary of activities to the Grow Garvey participants. Because the Northern Senior Activity Center was successful with their facility build, Ms. Taylor feels it is vital to set a goal of 3,000 signatures for the petition. The petition can be signed by every St. Mary's County registered voter, not just 50+ years old. Mr. Randy Guy provided a lot of good information and feedback. The petition has been taken to several locations to obtain signatures. There is a lot of momentum and Mr. Murdock believes we will reach the signature goal. Ms. Cinda Raley attended the Garvey Group meeting and provided contact information to encourage everyone to send letters to the Commissioners. Ms. Taylor would like to see everyone attend the October 7, 2014 Commissioners of St. Mary's County meeting. She also asked the Commission on Aging members come as a private citizen, not as a COA member. The Garvey Group would like to show the commissioners they are serious about moving the build to the year 2016 and it is best for the county and its citizens. Ms. Taylor also asked for help staffing future events. The Garvey Group leaders have put together a critical needs list and talking points for the October meeting. Ms. Broadhurst is amazed at the enthusiasm and what the Grow Garvey group has accomplished in such a short time.

DISCUSSION OF NEW OLD BUSINESS:

Transportation Speakers - At the next Commission on Aging meeting we will have representatives from the Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ), St. Mary's County STS, and Department of Aging & Human Services to talk about transportation.

Tri-County Commission on Aging Meeting Follow-up - After the Tri-County Commission on Aging meeting in May, Ms. Pipkin wrote letters to the Chairperson of the Calvert and Charles Counties COAs requesting to meet more regularly. Ms. Pipkin received a response from Nancy Alexander from Calvert County stating she is interested in meeting quarterly. Ms. Pipkin feels with the State funding issues seniors are facing, we will have a stronger voice if we work as a group. Ms. Pipkin and Ms. Alexander will set a date for the meeting and will invite the Charles County representative. Ms. Broadhurst specified the Tri-County Commission on Aging meeting will not always be a political meeting. It is about how we can work together and accomplish issues within our County and what we can do for our citizens. Ms. Pipkin indicated Calvert solved their transportation issues via partnerships and she would like to hear more about their partnerships and how they developed.

Mr. Murdock suggested discussing how the mileage tax will hit everyone really hard in regard to the volunteer work that is done. Make sure you tell your elected officials you are opposed to the mileage tax. Some people may not be able to volunteer as much if this tax comes into effect.

State Commission on Aging Meeting - The meeting will be held on September 10th in Hagerstown and the focus is on the "village concept". The concept will follow our A Community for a Lifetime.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Lori Jennings-Harris

The Department is working on the FY2015 Area Plan Update. This must be done every year and next year we will work on the multiple year plan, which is a lengthy process. The Department received notification from the Maryland Department of Aging specifying we needed to submit our information within 21 days. Historically, we have been given 6 weeks to gather all the necessary information. Gathering the information takes a lot of time to coordinate with different divisions and agencies outside of the Department. Next year, we will hold meetings with seniors at the three (3) Senior Activity Centers to hear their ideas, which we may want to incorporate into the plan.

A Senior Rides insert was included with the County property tax bill. From that mailing, we have acquired four (4) new Senior Rides volunteers. Also, we have been awarded the 6th Senior Rides Grant this year.

Ms. Deborah Johnstone has been nominated for 2014 Governor's Service Award. The nomination shines a light on the important work of a volunteer. Out of 215 nominations, Ms. Johnstone was selected to receive the 2014 Governor's Service award in the National Service Participant category. Congratulations! The ceremony will be held on October 9, 2014 in Annapolis.

RSVP TIME SHEETS: Please make sure they are signed before you leave.

NEXT MEETING: September 22, 2014 - 1:00 p.m., Garvey Senior Activity Center

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, September 10, 2014 – State Commission on Aging meeting

Friday, October 24, 2014 - Health Fair

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Murdock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m. and Ms. Kellam 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.