

MEETING MINUTES
ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
Tuesday, May 21, 2013
St. Mary's Nursing Center

Call to Order- Time of day - 1:10. The meeting is a recorded meeting.

Roll Call- David Ryan, Gail Murdock, Elfreda Mathis, Bettie Broadhurst, Norma Pipkin, Deborah Johnstone, Janet Kellam

Department of Aging & Human Services staff – Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Stephanie Tench, Sr. Administrative Coordinator.

Absent- Cindy Williams and Agnes Butler

Presentation of Minutes from Previous Meeting- Motion to approve the minutes for April's meeting was made by Gail Murdock and seconded by Deborah Johnstone and the motion carried. Ms. Broadhurst requested attachments be sent to her in the .doc format if possible.

Presentation of Officers – Vice Chair – no report.
Chairman - See committee reports below.

Committee Reports –
Annual Report Committee – No report.

Nomination Committee – The Secretary position remains vacant without any volunteers stepping forward to assume the responsibilities.

State Liaison Committee – Mr. Murdock had nothing new to report, but Mr. Ryan presented a handout from MD Department on Aging passed out during the Southern Maryland Tri-County Joint Meeting of Commission and Council on Aging regarding the 2013 MD General Assembly Session Wrap-up. Mr. Ryan stated the document was very good in that it gave an explanation about each item passed in the General Assembly and items that were still considered unfinished.

Garvey Renovation Committee – Mr. Ryan brought up the importance of renovating Spring Ridge Middle School due to the fire that destroyed a large part of it. Spring Ridge was due to be renovated during the 2018 fiscal year. The money totaled in the account was \$775,000 so far for the renovation which was to occur in 2018. While the insurance monies will cover the destruction from the fire, it prompted the renovation of the rest of the school to occur sooner. The State is to cover 65% and the County will cover 35% of the cost of the renovation of the school. While the Garvey Build is in the fiscal year 2018, Mr. Ryan was hopeful that it may occur sooner since the Spring Ridge Re-build would potentially free monies for the Garvey build sooner.

County Commissioner's Committee – Mr. Ryan attended a recent Board of County Commissioners Budget hearing. Mr. Ryan stated the money \$ (\$277,000) in the Capitol Improvement Project allocated for the design build architectural engineering and the additional \$334,000 for the standard method of architectural engineering were combined as if the build were to be done by the traditional method vs. the build method.

Outreach Committee – Ms. Broadhurst stated she would like to contact local churches to market the Department and activities offered. Ms. Broadhurst stated many seniors in the community are still not aware what

the Department offers. Ms. Broadhurst stated the meeting at the Tri-County Commission on Aging was a great connection. Mr. Ryan asked if anyone saw anything at the Calvert Center they thought was worth incorporating in the new Garvey Center. Ms. Broadhurst mentioned the Calvert Commission on Aging building was overwhelmingly impressive. The main points that make it impressive are the calming colors, atmosphere, garden and space in general. Mr. Ryan remarked on the brochure holder and stated the information available in the holder was informative and to the point. Regarding the presentation by Kim Burton, Executive Director, Older Adult Program, Mental Health Association of Maryland, Mr. Ryan stated the presentation on behavioral health was very informative and apparently mental disorders are more prevalent than generally realized. Of the senior population about 48% over age 80 has Alzheimer's and 25% of seniors have some type of mental disorder. Ms. Broadhurst further explained that mental illness has a stigma associated with it, thus some are calling it behavioral health. Mr. Ryan gave further statistics related to mental health and mentioned that alcohol and the overuse of medications may be considered behavioral health issues. The Commission would like to see a presentation which can keep the agenda moving for next year's Tri-County COA meeting. If a presentation ends before the allotted time, have a fill in for the time. Think of the format, guest speakers and topics. Ms. Jennings Harris gave her assurance that the lunch and refreshments at next year's meeting will be top notch.

Senior Forum Committee –

Mr. Murdock would like to start advertising the Senior Agenda in June for the September event. The committee will work with Jennifer Hunt, Community Programs & Outreach Manager with the Department. The Commissioners will be invited and Ms. Mathis mentioned the issue of Senior Tax Credits the Commissioners have discussed and feel it would be a good topic. Ms. Jennings-Harris stated she would send a scanned copy of the documents handed out at the Commissioners Budget Work Session. Ms. Mathis also thought having a mission or strategic plan for the County would be a good topic. Mr. Ryan also stated another topic to discuss is that many senior programs across the map are being cut and affecting senior programs.

Senior Agenda Committee –

The Community for a Lifetime presented by Maurice DiPoli of the Calvert Area Council and State Commission on Aging was discussed. Mr. Ryan feels that the document representing Montgomery County would be better suited to St. Mary's County and could be easily supported by the St. Mary's County Commissioners. Ms. Broadhurst explained it as a commitment from the Commissioners to support and consider decisions made related to seniors in the community whether related to housing, transportation or health. Ms. Jennings-Harris stated she would provide input on the documents at a later date. Ms. Jennings-Harris further explained that the County has a Comprehensive Plan that may detail some of the issues raised in the documents presented by Mr. DiPoli. Ms. Mathis raised the issue of commitments being associated with grants. When the grants are depleted of money, the commitment is no longer there. Ms. Mathis strongly feels a commitment should be related to a solid

budgetary commitment and not a grant. It was decided to defer action until Ms. Jennings Harris has reviewed the documents from Charles and Montgomery Counties. In spite of her ending her tenure on the Commission, Ms. Mathis said she would be willing to work on the Senior Agenda project.

Mr. Murdock excused himself from the meeting to attend to personal business.

Discussion of Old Business – Senior Agenda – Pursue or Don't Pursue (See above)

Discussion of New Business – No new business.

Director's Report – Ms. Jennings-Harris discussed the budget cuts the sequestration has presented to the Department. Fiscal Year 2014 anticipates a reduction in Title III grants. This will affect both congregate and home delivered meals, the Ombudsman program, Family Care Givers Support program and the Vulnerable Adults program. We were told to plan for a about a 5% reduction in funding but as much as 10%. The budget cuts are projected to stay around 4.6%. Ms. Jennings-Harris stated that the Department has asked for additional money for the meals program from the Commissioners for fiscal year 2013 and has been granted the additional money. Fiscal year 2014 county funds are supported by the Commissioners. The budget has been realigned and appealed to the Commissioners and has support from the Commissioners. Ms. Jennings-Harris stated she would keep everyone updated if any changes present themselves. Ms. Jennings-Harris presented statistics Ms. Williams asked for at the previous meeting for Older Adult Population in St. Mary's County. Ms. Jennings-Harris also mentioned services, activities and seminars available to seniors offered by the Human Services Division referencing behavioral health and substance abuse issues.

Upcoming Events –

- Senior Olympics – June 4 at Chesapeake Shores (rain date June 11)
- Mr. Ryan plans to attend this event as a supporter
- Senior Forum – will be held on September 27 at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center.
- Long-Term Awareness Conference – will be held on October 11 at the James Forrest Technology Center.

RSVP Time Sheets – Please make sure they are signed before leaving.

Adjournment – 2:20

NEXT MEETING – Garvey Senior Activity Center, June 24, 2013 at 1 p.m.