

Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland
Monday, June 23, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Start Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Garvey Senior Activity Center, Leonardtown, MD
Chaired By: Elfreda Mathis - Chair

PRESENT

COA Members: Bettie Broadhurst, Sam Brown, Vicki Brown, Florence Lanham, Elfreda Mathis, Peggy Reardon, Sheral St. Clair

Department of Aging Staff: Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Dana DiGregorio, Sr. Administrative Coordinator.

ABSENT

COA Members: Claudia Knowlton

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Sheral St. Clair and seconded by Florence Lanham; all were in favor and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the May 2010 meeting minutes as written was made by Sam Brown and seconded by Sheral St. Clair; all were in favor and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Privatization of Ripple Center Update:

- Lori Jennings-Harris gave an update on the transition of the Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Program. The transfer will be effective as of July 1, 2010. El Shaddai is working diligently to have everything in order and ready for the July 1 transition.

Friends of Ripple Projects:

- Sam Brown gave an update on the Friends of Ripple Group. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 6, 2010. The group will be reviewing what El Shaddai wants the group to continue to do as an advisory group for the Medical Adult Day Program.
- The 5K Run/Walk is scheduled for October. More details as they are confirmed.

Site Information Visits /Presentations:

- Lori Jennings-Harris escorted the Commission members on a tour of the Department of Aging Senior Activity Centers, Nutrition Site, and Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center.
- Elfreda Mathis noted that the need for Senior Housing in the Northern part of St. Mary's County has been outwardly expressed and the Commission On Aging will need to be a part of supporting and advocating for this.
- The Commission members would like to have Hospice of St. Mary's attend a future meeting to do a presentation for the Commission. In addition Elfreda would like to have a presentation on Victory Woods Senior Housing Project when more information is available.
- Elfreda Mathis noted that the July 2010 meeting will be held at Chesapeake Shores following a tour and presentation from the staff at Chesapeake Shores.
- Sam Brown noted that St. Mary's Nursing Center is going back to being a privately owned entity. Sam would like to have St. Mary's Nursing Center do a presentation or have a site visit once they have transitioned.

Lunch with the Commissioners Review

- The Lunch with the Commissioners was a good event with a great representation from the senior community, good exchange and feedback from the attendees, greatly attended. The main topics discussed were: The lease agreement with SAYSF Church as a temporary facility for the Loffler Senior Activity Center taking longer than the senior community thought it should take, Rebuilding the Loffler Senior Activity Center or what looks like the lack there

of, lack of and poor lighting outside the Garvey Senior Activity Center for seniors leaving the facility in the evening, blinds for the front hall at the Garvey Senior Activity Center, and the cleaning crew issue at the Hall of Fame building while it temporarily houses Loffler Senior Activity Center programs (staff having to clean bathrooms, why can't the contracted cleaning crew from the Loffler building be used at the Hall of Fame building?).

New Commission On Aging Members:

- The Department of Aging received notice that two candidates have been chosen for appointment to the Commission On Aging. The official invitation letter from the county will go out June 24, 2010 requesting acceptance of appointment. Elfreda Mathis will contact them and invite them to the July meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Maryland Commission On Aging Meeting:

- Elfreda Mathis attended a meeting organized by the State of Maryland to bring together the Commission On Aging members to discuss topics of interest in the different areas of Maryland. The topic of discussion was County legislative related legal issues. They discussed the combining of departments within County Government. Montgomery County has combined their departments not as a way to save money necessarily, but to create a more efficient way of providing services to the community.
- Elfreda Mathis noted that the Maryland Department of Aging has a new web site, which provides lots of information and web links to other sites relating to aging issues and concerns. Elfreda asked if the Department of Aging could have a laptop to a future meeting to do a demonstration of the website to help the Commission members learn to navigate through the website.

ACTION ITEMS

Update on Victory Woods:

- Lori Jennings-Harris provided the Commission members with up to date information on the Victory Woods Senior Housing Project. The Board of County Commissioner voted a few weeks ago to go ahead with the building of the Victory Woods Project. They will begin breaking ground later this summer and the projected completion date is sometime next fall. Lori has asked to be included in future planning meetings to have additional perspective and provide an additional point of view from the side of the senior community.

Update on CSM Pool Opening and Use:

- Sherrie Wooldridge has contacted Mrs. Ferrera, a representative from the College of Southern Maryland (CSM), in regards to the new pool facility and our interest in use of the pool specifically by seniors. They are working on the schedule at this time. Lori Jennings-Harris will provide more information as it comes available from CSM.

Update Department of Aging Service Matrix:

- Elfreda Mathis would like to add a listing of senior housing facilities to the service matrix under the referral services offered. Dana DiGregorio will update the matrix and provide copies to the Commission members.

Follow-Up with Thank You cards:

- Elfreda Mathis is working on getting the Thank You cards for the Tri-County Commission on Aging Meeting presenters and dignitaries finished and sent out.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Fund Video:

- A video was produced and published by the Maryland Department of Aging in cooperation with Maryland Public Television regarding the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds and how they were used in several counties to enhance the nutrition and congregate meal programs.

Relocation of Garvey Senior Activity Center:

- Lori Jennings-Harris provided the commission members with a copy of the letter she drafted and sent to the Board of County Commissioners regarding moving the Garvey Senior Activity Center to the old armory, which is the current site of Leonardtown Library, if

the Library is moved to its new site. It is the opinion of the Department of Aging that the armory is not an efficient facility to house the Senior Activity Center and recommended a new building on the same site as the Library. Elfreda Mathis suggested preparing a plan showing benefits, needs and requirements for the Senior Activity Center Programs, ready for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners during the budget process.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

- The Office Specialist at the Northern Senior Activity Center is retiring as of June 30. The Department of Aging has made a selection for a candidate to fill the position with a proposed start date in the beginning of July.
- All staff, except one staff member, currently working at the Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center will be transitioning with the program.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 26, 2010 at Chesapeake Shores, located at 21412 Great Mills Road, in Lexington Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Sheral St. Clair and was seconded by Peggy Reardon; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned 1:40 p.m.

Prepared by:
Dana DiGregorio
Sr. Administrative Coordinator