

MEETING MINUTES
ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
October 23, 2023
Department of Aging & Human Services Building, 23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

CALL TO ORDER:

- Janet Perryman called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

- Ms. Janet Perryman
- Ms. Carolyn Guy
- Me. Thomas Ridley
- Ms. Catherine Coates
- Ms. Rowena Bossio
- Ms. Nicola Barr
- Ms. Barbara O'Neal
- Ms. Kathryn Kennedy
- Ms. Jean-Marie Hansen
- Ms. Kimberly Quade
- Department of Aging & Human Services staff members present: Mercedes Jones, Coordinator

ABSENT:

- Ms. Omonigho Olumese
- Ms. Christine Morgan

Approval of Minutes of September 25, 2023.

I move to approve the minutes of September 25, 2023 with changes.

Motion by Carolyn Guy, seconded by Kathryn Kennedy motion carried.

FINANCE

- Update on COA budget provided by Mercedes. One thousand fifty eight dollars of the \$3000 budget has been spent. A spreadsheet will be shared with the group.

PRESENTATIONS

- Brandy Tulley, Deputy Director, Department of Aging & Human Services provided information on the Senior Activity Centers
 - Thomas Ridley suggested weights at the centers be opened to more people to encourage use.
 - Members suggested that signage to centers by increased around the centers. Ms. Tulley will look into this.
 - Potential for COA to fill a need for more engagement with the Healthy Partnership Initiative and the Senior Activity Centers.
 - Members discussed reciprocity with Charles County as their residents are able to attend the St. Mary's County Senior Activity Centers. However, St. Mary's County residents are not permitted to use the Charles County Senior Activity Centers.

SENIOR FOCUS AREAS

- Senior Transportation - Jessica, Richards, Regional Transit Coordinator, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, provided a summary of the October 11th Regional Transportation Coordination Committee meeting. Of note was the suggestion of having micro-classes at the Senior Activity Centers on public transportation.
- Senior Housing - Robust discussion about desperate need for additional senior homeless shelter housing. A Housing Authority Representative will attend the next meeting to provide an update about what was discussed at the October 25th Housing Authority meeting, as it concerns senior housing.
- Veteran's Issues - Thomas Ridley met with the new Director of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Mr. Lombardi. Discussed was the progress that had been made previously on the connection of the Veterans Home with the Three Notch Trail has been stalled and no longer a priority.
- Department of Aging & Human Services Update - Mercedes Jones shared an update.

NEW BUSINESS

- Review of Meeting with Public Works and Transportation - Janet and Rowena met with the department on October 12th. They discussed the lost and found policy, there is a sign on the buses explaining the system. They also discussed there is a policy that buses can't drive up to buildings with an overhang which limits how close they can get to passengers. Finally they arranged for Public Works and Transportation to present to the Commission on Aging at the November 27th meeting. On November 9th, STS staff will hold a presentation at the Loffler Senior Activity Center to discuss policies and answer any questions.
- Discussion of December Holiday/Outreach Activities - There is usually no COA meeting held in December, the members meet for a holiday lunch. Members have decided to meet on December 4th at the Front Porch at noon.
- Nominating Committee - New COA Officers will be elected in January 2024 (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary). In November, we will ask that someone contact all members to see who is interested in a position.
- Other Items Discussed:
 - File of Life Tags - The Department does not have any more. A motion was made by Kathryn Kennedy to procure more tags with the amount at the discretion of the Chair and Vice Chair. Jean-Marie Hansen seconded, motion carried.
 - AARP Driver Safety: St. Mary's County conducted an AARP Driver Safety class prior to COVID. COA is looking into the classes being offered in SMC again.

OLD BUSINESS

- 2024 Tri-County Commission on Aging Meeting - The members are planning to have a Commissioner attend the meeting. The members will reach out to the state for a keynote speaker. There was discussion about having someone from the Regional Transportation Coordination Committee and the Housing Authority speak at this meeting.
- Identify at Least Two Outreach Event Venues and Times - November and December outreach dates will be added to the calendar. The COA made contact with 65 people in October and over 100 (119) people total. The members are currently meeting their goal of at least 2 events monthly.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Motion made by Carolyn Guy, seconded by Kathryn Kennedy, motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

November 27, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Garvey Senior Activity Center

23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Commission on Aging (Monday, October 23, 2023)

Generated by Mercedes P Jones on Friday, November 17, 2023