

Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting

Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland

Monday, January 28, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

Start Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Garvey Senior Center – Room 1, Leonardtown, MD

Chaired By: Sheral St. Clair, Chairperson

PRESENT

COA Members: Sheral St. Clair, Kathie Reich, Vicki Brown, Florence Lanham, Elfreda Mathis, Sandra Wheeler, Patricia Woodburn

Department of Aging Staff: Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Jennie Page, Deputy Director; Dana DiGregorio, Senior Administrative Coordinator

Guests: Rebecca Cranston – Manager, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) – Department of Aging.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda with additions was made by Sandra Wheeler, and was seconded by Florence Lanham; the Commission agreed.

Addition: Add 'Election of Officers for 2008' to 'New Business'

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve November 2007 meeting minutes was made by Sandra Wheeler, and was seconded by Kathie Reich; the Commission agreed. The Commission did not meet in the month of December

GUEST SPEAKER

Rebecca Cranston:

· Rebecca Cranston, Manager of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) attended this Commission On Aging meeting to provide information on the programs and services through the HCBS Division of the Department of Aging provide. She spoke briefly on the programs within the HCBS Division, which are: Medical Adult Day Services, Guardianship, Congregate Housing, National Family Caregivers Support Program, Ombudsman, Senior Care, and Senior Center Plus

- Rebecca Cranston answered questions from the Commission members and provided brochures and written information to the Commission members.

OLD BUSINESS

Ripple Center Project:

- As discussed in a previous meeting the Commission on Aging requested assistance from Christmas in April to build a new deck at the Ripple Medical Adult Day Center. Christmas in April representatives visited the Ripple Center and determined that they would not be able to do the deck job.
- Sheral St. Clair, Commission Chairperson, composed a letter to be sent to the Board of County Commissioners supporting the proposed request of funding for this renovation project be added to the FY 2009 budget. The letter was presented to the commission members for review. The Commission members reviewed, discussed and revised the letter. The commission members voted to support the letter, as revised, and recommend it be signed by the Chairperson and sent to the Board of County Commissioners.

Senior Tax Credit Update:

- Sandra Wheeler, who also sits on the Senior Property Tax Credit Review Committee, reported that the review of the Senior Property Tax Credit has been completed, and a report is being formed for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

Interagency Team Planning for Human Services

- Sheral St. Clair and Lori Jennings-Harris have been attending the planning meetings for the Human Services Project. The project proposes to create a single office that will coordinate the assistance for people with multiple needs. The agencies currently being considered for inclusion under a Human services umbrella are: the Core Services Agency, the Local Management Board, Community Services and the Health Departments Substance Abuse Coordinator.

Senior/Disability Transportation Issues

- Sheral St. Clair went to the Department of Transportation to inquire about the SSTAP program for her son. The SSTAP program provides transportation outside of the normal 2 mile radius of the STS program for a \$6.00 fee for seniors and persons with disabilities. Sheral St. Clair will follow up with more information after her son begins using the program.

Annual Tri-County COA Meeting

- Dana DiGregorio received an e-mail from Karen Lehman-Ciplak, Chief of Aging and Community Centers for Charles County, regarding the next Tri-County Commission on Aging meeting. The meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2008 at the Clark Center in LaPlata. A 'save the date' reminder card will be sent out sometime this month.

Election of Commission On Aging Officers

- Sheral St. Clair nominated Kathie Reich for Chairperson, Elfreda Mathis volunteered for Vice Chairperson, and Sandra Wheeler volunteered for Corresponding Secretary. The commission will vote at the next meeting, scheduled for February 25, 2008, so that commission members not in attendance will have the opportunity to vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Memo to Board of County Commissioners:

- The Meals on Wheels program is planning to send out a statement to each of the Meals On Wheels participants stating the cost of the program and giving them a chance to donate to the program. The prospective statement will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners and the County Administrator for review. The Department of Aging plans to start sending out the statements beginning in the month of February.

Detention Center Inmates:

- In the past, the Department of Aging has used the services of the "Work Release Program" through the Detention Center. The Detention Center inmates would assist the Meal Delivery Program with deliveries to the centers and nutrition sites. As of January 1, 2008 the Department of Aging will no longer be using the Detention Center inmates in this capacity.

The Wii Experience:

- On February 22, 2008 at 3:30 p.m., in coordination with the St. Mary's County Library, the Department of Aging will be having a "Wii Experience". Members of the Teen Advisory Group (TAG), who are experienced Wii users, will be coming to the Garvey Senior Center to demonstrate the Wii Game system to the senior participants and encourage some intergenerational competition.

Secretary Lawlah's visit:

- Gloria Lawlah, Secretary for the Maryland Department of Aging, visited St. Mary's County December 10, 2007. Lori Jennings-Harris met Secretary Lawlah at the Northern Senior Center and proceeded on a tour of the Northern Center, the Ripple Center, the Loffler Center, and the Garvey Center. It was a chance for Secretary Lawlah to visit and learn about the services St. Mary's County Department of Aging offers as well as discuss some of the needs of St. Mary's County.

Service Improvements:

- In addition to the Service Improvements for the Ripple Center, as discussed earlier in the meeting, some other Service Improvement/ Program Enhancements requests presented to the Board of County Commissioners were:

1. To move current grant salaries for two division managers, one for the Manager for Home and Community Based Services, and the other for the Manager of Information and Assistance position to county funded.
2. A new range for the Loffler Center
3. New furniture for the Loffler Center
4. Salary for an additional part time Case Manager for the Home and Community Based Services Division
5. A walk-in freezer for the Garvey Center.
6. An increase in funding for In-home Services

Meals Committee Meeting:

- In December 2007, the Meals Committee meeting was held at the Oakley Nutrition site.

New Enhanced Fitness Program:

- The kick off for the new Enhanced Fitness Program started in the month of January. There has been a better than expected response to this low impact exercise program and enrollment numbers are increasing.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

- There is a new Food Service Technician at Garvey Senior Center, Elaine Kauffman.
- There is a new Program Specialist at the Loffler Center, Sheila Graziano.
- There are two new part time meal drivers, Bernard Morgan and Robert Jones.
- We are currently conducting interviews for the Nurse Manager position at the Ripple Center.
- There are 3 new Americorp Volunteers: Denise Charlot with Senior Rides Program, Katherine O'Rourke with the Meals On Wheels Program, and Taylor Gregg with the Community Programs Division.

Additional Comments

- Sandra Wheeler and Florence Lanham attended the United Seniors of Maryland Meeting.
- The annual Caregivers Conference will be held at the Loffler Senior Center on April 18, 2008
- On February 5, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. there will be a 'Friends of Ripple' meeting. Vickie Brown requested the board members to attend the meeting and volunteer

to participate in the upcoming fund-raising events. The Friends of Ripple have planned a Bake Sale for February 19, 2008.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on February 25, 2008, at 12 Noon, at the Garvey Senior Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Elfreda Mathis made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Kathie Reich seconded the motion. The Commission agreed. The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator