

Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland
Monday, March 23, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Start Time: 1:05 p.m.
Location: Garvey Senior Activity Center, Leonardtown, MD
Chaired By: Kathie Reich, Chair

PRESENT

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda with addition was made by Sandra Wheeler and was seconded by Sheral St. Clair; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Addition: Add to Old Business "Status of Victory Woods Housing Project"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the February 2009 minutes as written was made by Sandra Wheeler and was seconded by Sheral St. Clair; all were in favor and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Memorandum of Understanding for Transportation:

- Lori Jennings-Harris provided an update on the status of the Memorandum of Understanding for transportation services between the Department of Aging and the Department of Public Works and Transportation. At this time the Memorandum of Understanding for transportation is being reviewed by the County Attorney's office.
- Lori Jennings-Harris and Jennie Page answered questions and provided statistical information to the Commission members relating to transportation and transportation costs.
- Questions regarding the Medical Adult Day Services Program, costs for the program, funding for the program, and newspaper articles about potential privatization of the program were presented by commission members. Lori Jennings-Harris responded to these questions and noted that at this time the Department of Aging is preparing a request for Letters of Expression Of Interest on the Medical Adult Day Service Program, in an attempt to find a private entity to take over the program. The St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners stated at the last Budget Work Session that they will continue to subsidize the Medical Adult Day Program thru FY2010, and if no interest in privatization, or privatization is not achieved by that time, the program will be "in serious jeopardy of termination".

Northern Senior Center:

- There are just a few items left to be completed to get the Northern Senior Activity Center back to normal condition.

Review/Self Evaluation of Commission On Aging:

- Sam Brown provided a 3-page Self Assessment Tool for the Commission members to complete in review of the Commission On Aging and their effectiveness and compliance with the bylaws and mission.

Department of Aging Expectation of Commission On Aging:

- Lori Jennings-Harris was asked what the Department of Aging expects of the Commission On Aging, and responded with "Continue supporting the Department of Aging and its goals and mission". Lori Jennings-Harris also stated that the Commission does this effectively and with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Update on Friends Of Ripple Projects:

- Looking for volunteer to assist with the set up for the Ripple Medical Adult Day Services Center Senior Prom which is being held at the Dr. James A Forrest Career and Technology center on April 3, 2009.

Commission On Aging Tour of Senior Activity Centers:

- On March 11, 2009, Lori Jennings-Harris took a few of the Commission On Aging members on a tour of all the Senior Activity Centers, the Nutrition Sites, and the Medical Adult Day Center. Kathie Reich would like to plan an additional tour on a later date for those who were unable to attend.

Status of Victory Woods Housing Project:

- A meeting was held March 23, 2009 including all entities involved in the project. At this time the completion/opening date for the first phase is November 1, 2010.

NEW BUSINESS**Privatization of Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center:**

- Already covered earlier in the meeting

Food Service Evaluation:

- Kathie Reich asked Peggy Reardon to update the Commission monthly regarding the outcomes of the Food Committee meetings.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- There is a Lunch with your Commissioners planned for June 2, 2009 at the Northern Senior Activity Center.
- Capital Hill Day is Scheduled for April 21, 2009
- The 17th Annual Caregivers Conference is scheduled for April 17, 2009.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

- The Senior Office Specialist position at the Loffler Senior Activity Center has been filled.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- Lori Jennings-Harris noted that there will be a "March for Meals" fundraiser for the Meals On Wheels Program on Tuesday March 31, 2009, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Ledo's Pizza in Leonardtown.
- Sam Brown made a motion to compose a letter to St. Mary's Transit System (STS), Department of Public Works and Transportation, and the Board of County Commissioners to have Department of Public Works & Transportation review their charges for the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center transportation and reduce it to \$175,000. Elfreda Mathis seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.
- Lori Jennings-Harris reviewed the things that the Department of Aging is doing to boost admissions and participation in the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center.
- Claudia Knowlton requested more information on the Medical Assistance challenges facing the Medical Adult Day Service Center. Lori Jennings-Harris will have the Manager of the Home and Community Based Services attend and present at the next Commission On Aging meeting to provide information to the Commission.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 27, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Garvey Senior Activity Center.

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 at 2:50 p.m.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator