

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting  
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland  
Monday, April 23, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Start Time: 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Garvey Senior Center, Leonardtown, MD  
Chaired By: Sherrie St.Clair, Chairperson

**PRESENT**

**COA Members:** Sherrie St. Clair, Kathie Reich, Mary Ann Grusholt, Sam Brown, Vicki Brown, Mary Ruth Horton, Florence Lanham, David H. Mattingly

**Department of Aging Staff:** Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Dana DiGregorio

**Guests:** None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda with revisions was made by Mary Ruth Horton, and was seconded by Mary Ann Grusholt; the Commission agreed.

**New Business** item added:  
Local Management Board (LMB) meeting

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve March 2007 meeting minutes with revisions by Mary Ann Grusholt, and was seconded by Kathie Riech; the Commission agreed.

**Revisions made to:**  
Update on Tri-County COA Meeting, fourth bullet  
Announcements, first bullet

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Southern Maryland Coordinated Transportation Planning Forum 3/22/07:**

- A memorandum from KFH Group was provided to all Commission members. The memorandum discussed information compiled during the group sessions discussions from the Southern Maryland Coordinated Transportation Planning Forum that was held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The information compiled during these discussions will be used when compiling the state transportation plan.

**Update on Tri-County Commission on Aging meeting**

- Everything is on schedule for the event. A tentative program/agenda was provided for the Commission members and Mary Ruth Horton reviewed the contents with the Commission.
- There are 38 confirmed for attendance
- The Commission is still in need of a volunteer from the Commission to keep track of the time for each speaker. Mary Ann Grusholt volunteered. Each set of panel members will have 5 minutes to answer the four questions, proposed on the invitation, as they relate to their particular county. Mary Ruth Horton will facilitate the Transportation portion of the

program and Pat Myers will facilitate the Emergency Preparedness portion of the program.

- A list of the answers, from St. Mary's County, to the proposed questions on both Transportation and Emergency preparedness was provided to the Commission members to allow them to come up with additional questions they would like to ask the panel members during the open forum portion of the program. The Commission then had a discussion on suggestions for participation questions regarding transportation issues, getting seniors out of town to outer lying areas, vehicle insurance issues, Senior Rides Grant, and vehicle and driver issues. Mary Ann Grusholt suggested adding a bus schedule or bus stop location list to the New Beginning Newsletter.
- The Commission discussed the needs for Emergency Preparedness and ways to get seniors evacuated or to shelters during an emergency. The Commission then discussed suggestions for participation questions to be asked of the panel during the open forum portion of the program. The discussion included: what constitutes a shelter? How does a person know where the shelters are? And where to go in an emergency? The reverse 911 system, evacuation issues for persons with disabilities and/or limitations, lack of education and knowledge on being prepared, and communication issues: cell phones.

**Charlotte Hall Master Plan Update:**

- No new update.

**St. Mary's College Report Update**

- The Commission is waiting on a final report from Professor Bill Robert's anthropology class regarding senior transportation issues in St. Mary's County.

**Local Management Board Meeting:**

- Mary Ruth Horton attended the most recent Local Management Board meeting to inquire about the recent change of including seniors and senior issues when in previous meetings we had been told that the Local Management Board only deals with children and families. Mary Ruth was informed that the Board of County Commissioners had recommended that seniors and senior issues should be included in order to find out what the needs are in the county and what the unmet needs are.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**County Budget Hearing (4/24/07):**

- Sherrie St. Clair read a speech prepared for the County Budget Hearing scheduled for April 24, 2007 regarding the budget for senior transportation and senior housing. Mary Ruth Horton made some corrections regarding the number of senior centers and nutritional sites.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Budget Update**

- Lori Jennings-Harris will be in attendance at the county budget hearing scheduled for April 24, 2007. The Department of Aging requested the inclusion of 2 internship positions, one college student and one high school student totaling \$20,000, and an Americorp position totaling \$2885.00 that will both not be included in the capitol budget. The Department of Aging also requested an additional \$10,000 from 2007 in Home Health Services, but we ended up with a \$7885.00 reduction from the additional \$10,000 requested.

**Departmental Status Update:**

- Commission had received January and February status reports. March is still pending.

- Department of Aging employees are working through the renovations. Looking forward to the end of the renovations so that the Department can get back to normal functioning status.

**Staff Changes:**

- No changes in staff since the last Commission On Aging meeting. We are interviewing to fill the three open positions in the Home and Community Bases Services division.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on May 21, 2007, 12 Noon. This meeting will be held on the third Monday of the month instead of the fourth due to the Memorial Day holiday.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Sam Brown made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Florence Lanham seconded the motion. The Commission agreed. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Prepared by:  
Dana DiGregorio  
Sr. Administrative Coordinator