

Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland
Monday, April 27, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Start Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Garvey Senior Activity Center, Leonardtown, MD
Chaired By: Kathie Reich, Chair

PRESENT

COA Members: 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; Rebecca Kessler, Manager – Home and Community Based Services Division; Dana DiGregorio, Sr. Administrative Coordinator

Guests: Sithey McCraw; Don Lewis, Administrator – St. Mary's Nursing Center

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Sandra Wheeler and was seconded by Peggy Reardon; all were in favor and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Guest Speakers:

Don Lewis – Administrator, St. Mary's Nursing Center

- Mr. Don Lewis, Administrator for the St. Mary's Nursing Center, attended this meeting of the Commission On Aging to provide the Commission members with an overview of the St. Mary's Nursing Center and discuss some of the issues that the Nursing Center has experienced recently.
- Mr. Lewis answered questions and provided information to Commission Members, Department of Aging staff, and guests in attendance.

Rebecca Kessler – Manager, Home and Community Based Services, Department of Aging

- Rebecca Kessler, Manager – Home and Community Based Services Division, attended this Commission on Aging meeting to provide the Commission members with information about the Home and Community Based Services Division of the Department of Aging and Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center.
- Rebecca Kessler answered questions and provided brochures and written information to the Commission members, Department of Aging staff, and guests in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Memorandum of Understanding for Transportation:

- Lori Jennings-Harris has contacted the County Attorney for status of the most recent update to the Memorandum of Understanding. A few final changes were made to it and has gone to the Deputy County Attorney and the Department of Public Works and Transportation for final review. Lori Jennings-Harris is hoping to have a finalized document ready for signature by the middle of May.

Letter to Board of County Commissioners Regarding Ripple Center Funding:

- Kathie Reich composed a letter to the Board of County Commissioners regarding reducing and stabilizing costs of transportation for the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Services Center. Kathie Reich presented a letter of response from the Board of County Commissioners indicating they will take the recommendations of the Commission On Aging under consideration.

- Sandra Wheeler recommended composing an additional letter to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the Commission's views on subsidization/funding of Medical Adult Day Services in comparison to the subsidization/funding of other county programs.
- A motion to compose and send a letter to the Board of County Commissioners was made by Sheral St. Clair and was seconded by Patricia Woodburn; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Northern Senior Center:

- There is one item, carpet in the hallway, left to be completed to get the Northern Senior Activity Center back to normal condition. The carpet is on order, which will replace the carpet ruined by water damage.

Review/Self Evaluation/Mission of Commission On Aging (COA):

- This item will be moved to next month, due to time constraints of the meeting.

Update on Friends Of Ripple Projects:

- Sheral St. Clair gave an update on the activities of the Friends of Ripple group.
- The Group is working on a 5K Relay Fundraiser scheduled for October 17, 2009, as well as future fund raising events such as a Bake Sale and a Spaghetti Dinner.
- The Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center's Senior Prom was a great success. A great time was had by the participants, staff and guests.

Food Service Committee Meeting:

- There was no Food Service Committee Meeting this last month. The next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2009 at the Oakley Nutrition Site.

Victory Woods Housing Project:

- Lori Jennings-Harris provided the Commission members with a media release from the Public Information Office regarding the status of the Victory Woods Housing development. Osprey Properties is confident they will achieve the November 1, 2010 completion date they have set.

NEW BUSINESS

Tri-County Commission on Aging Meeting, May 14, 2009:

- Kathie Reich reminded the Commission members about the Tri-County Commission On Aging meeting scheduled for May 14, 2009 at the Calvert Pines Senior Center in Prince Frederick, Maryland.

Chesapeake Shores Nursing Home:

- Kathie Reich would like to arrange for staff from Chesapeake Shores to attend a future Commission On Aging meeting to provide the Commission members with information about the facility and services offered.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Lori Jennings-Harris proposed a second tour of the Department of Aging Senior Activity Centers, Nutrition Sites and Medical Adult Day Services Center for July 1, 2009. Commission members are asked to RSVP to Dana DiGregorio.
- Lori Jennings-Harris, Jennie Page, and Alice Allen visited the current site of the Leonardtown library to determine if the facility would be adequate for relocation of the Garvey Senior Activity Center if the new library is built on the Hayden Property recently purchased by St. Mary's County. At that time, it was determined that the current library space is inadequate for the needs of the Garvey Senior Activity Center and administrative staff in that facility, without extensive reconstruction and refurbishment. Lori Jennings-Harris suggested to John Savich, County Administrator, that in addition to the library, school, and recreation fields, a new building for the Department of Aging and Garvey Senior Activity Center be built on the Hayden property. This would possibly allow for another County Department to use that facility.
- The Department of Aging Meals Program will be receiving an American Recovery and Reinvestment Grant totaling \$19,828.00 to be split between Congregate Meals (\$13,286.00) and Home Delivered Meals (\$6,541.00). The Department of Aging is currently

waiting on the Requirements for Spending from the Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA) to determine what these funds will be used for.

- The Department of Aging is changing the acronym used to represent it as a department. Previously the acronym had been DoA, which has a negative connotation. The new acronym will be SMCDA (**St. Mary's County Department of Aging**).
- The 17th Annual Caregivers Conference was held April 17, 2009, in Calvert County. It was a great success. Next years event will be hosted by Charles County.
- Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (LEA Day) is scheduled for May 12, 2009. The ceremony is to honor officers who have fallen in the line of duty and recognize Officers of the Year.
- Lunch with Your Commissioners is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday June 2, 2009 and will be held at the Northern Senior Activity Center.
- Jennie Page introduced "Bruce the Goose" to the Commission members. Bruce is the new mascot for the Senior Rides Program. The Senior Rides Program is a volunteer based driving program for seniors needing transportation. The Senior Rides Program is diligently advertising and recruiting volunteer drivers for the program.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

- The Department is close to making a decision on a candidate for the Nurse Manager vacancy. The position is currently being filled by an agency nurse.
- Jennie Page, Deputy Director for the Department of Aging will be retiring June 30, 2009.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- The Commission members discussed the May Commission on Aging meeting. May's meeting falls on Monday, May 25 which happens to be the Memorial Day Holiday. The Commission Members present voted to change the May meeting date to Monday, May 18, 2009.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, 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 Patricia Woodburn; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator