

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting  
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland  
Monday, June 27, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Start Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Location: Garvey Senior Center, Leonardtown, MD  
Chaired By: Mary Ruth Horton, Chairperson

**PRESENT**

**COA Members:** Mary Ruth Horton, Pat Myers, Daniel Hinz, Ardith Young, Kitty Turner, Arlene Cooper, Ray Cooper.

**Guests:** Florence Lanham

**Department of Aging Staff:** Gene Carter, Jennie Page, Julie Van Orden, Ted Grant, and Janis Jacobs

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda accepted. Mary Ruth introduced Florence Lanham who is considering applying for a position on the Commission On Aging.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of 5.23.05 COA meeting were approved with recommended changes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Senior Tax Credit Status**

Mary Ruth feels there will eventually be positive action by the Board of County Commissioners regarding the Senior Tax Credit; however they have not yet publicly addressed this as a formal part of their agenda. This credit is to come into affect July 1, 2005

**Senior Service Priorities Survey**

October Survey Results Workshop date will need to be determined by (working around a holiday on Oct. 11 and the Department of Aging Health Fair on Oct. 21 & 22.)

Mary Ruth asked Jennie Page, Deputy Director of the Department of Aging, which of the Loffler, Garvey or Northern Senior Center locations would be the best facility for a minimum of 50 people in attendance with break-out groups. It was decided to schedule this for 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Loffler Center with the date remaining open-ended at this time.

Breakout Topics (based on results of senior survey as compiled by Raymond Cooper):

1. Health Care (Larry Younger will facilitate) and In-Home Services (Mary Ruth asked Julie VanOrden and the Home and Community Based Services team to contribute to this session)
2. Crime and Personal Security/ Identity Theft (Ardith Young has some appropriate information on this topic)
3. Housing/ Independent and Assisted Living

Mary Ruth asked for suggestions for resource people to be included which will be addressed by the committee this month.

#### **Meal Program Status:**

Gene Carter reported that currently there are 232 people served with no waiting list. He reported that he still has the feeling that this program is growing too large for a county this size, however if the Board of County Commissioners continue to put up the money it will continue. Mary Ruth asked if the money which was originally taken away whether it has been reinstated by the Governor? Gene said the \$500,000 will be returned to state meal budget soon. Kitty asked who pays for the meals, and Gene explained the funds are a combination of state, federal and local funding, with some contributions from local participants. Mary Ruth explained there are no requirements to pay under the Older Americans Act. Daniel Hinz asked about the envelopes which are handed out by meal drivers to give to the meal recipients for contributions. Gene said he will follow up with the Meals On Wheels Coordinator to encourage continuing with this process and provide drivers at each meal location to take them with the meals. A discussion followed about writing a letter to encourage and explain the importance of contributions. Julie verified that the Coordinator does explain at the initial screening that there is no fee for the service and contributions are encouraged. Kitty asked if people in nursing homes can receive assistance such as this, and it was explained that meals are included in the cost of the nursing home care.

Daniel Hinz said there was an article in the Enterprise Newspaper about the success of the recent March for Meals program and he feels it is a very important program. He asked whether the funds received by the Department of Aging require a financial statement for COA to review. Gene Carter explained that there is no specific report prepared; however county government reports are available to review since the funds go into the general fund then are allocated out to appropriate departments.

Raymond Cooper pointed out that if envelopes go out to meal recipients by the drivers there are going to be 15,000 per year. He suggested looking at a better way to do this. He feels reminding recipients on the menu they receive monthly that the drivers have envelopes available upon request would be a possibility.

Gene Carter said that the Department of Aging determines the best approaches and operating procedures and will consider all suggestions to improve the envelope process.

#### **Oakley Nutrition Center Status:**

Gene Carter reported that the BOCC have provided funds to keep the center open with some goals in place to determine continuation after FY06. The Oakley center is not air conditioned and Gene said there has been a request of Building Services to install one.

#### **Northern Senior Center:**

Pat Myers reported that the Ribbon Cutting Grand Opening was a wonderful celebration with great food and attendance. There will be an Independence Day celebration there on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She said new people are coming in every day and feels that the Northern Senior Center does not need to continue to be on the COA agenda. Residents of other counties are also welcome to attend activities at Northern. Mary Ruth commended the volunteers who are filling in as receptionists.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Tri-County Advisory Council Annual Meeting:**

This meeting was in LaPlata on June 9<sup>th</sup>, and St. Mary's County Commission On Aging members who attended were Daniel Hinz, Pat Myers, Larry Younger, Gene Carter and Mary Ruth. The morning session dealt with state issues and what COAs can do to. Gene Carter had a

part in the presentations. The remainder of the meeting was each county reporting on some of the special things going on for each. Daniel commented on what an informative meeting it was, and Pat said she liked hearing from the other counties but really enjoyed sharing St. Mary's County's positive successes (tax credit, survey, and the opening of Northern). Ardith asked what issues other counties have concerns with and Mary Ruth replied that transportation is still a major issue. Charles County is pleased that a County Commissioner is part of their Advisory council. There was a short discussion about how previously a commissioner would attend various St. Mary's County board and commission meetings, which is not a practice that is in effect presently.

### **Senior Housing: Independent and Assisted Living:**

Pat Myers reported that after the public meeting by Parks & Recreation (Phil Rollins) a meeting was held with the Northern Senior Housing Group to discuss and come up with a proposal on what housing we would like to see put on the site by Northern, provided the Commissioners, agreed to housing being placed there. The proposal included independent living 4 unit cottages on the outer perimeter (about 25 cottages = 100 units) and in the core one level assisted living to accommodate about 50 persons. More could be added depending on amount of land provided. Estimated this would take about 10 acres depending on sewage requirements. Would be called "St. Mary's senior Village". ON July 12, Phil Rollins will make a presentation to the BOCC to provide feedback on the public meeting and to obtain direction on which way to go for the Master Plan.

Kitty Turner reported that the southern part of the county is trying to pursue a similar idea and Mary Ruth reported there have been some snags with this particular project. Land has been donated, perk test has been done, however this property is not in the growth and development area which requires TDRs to be purchased. Additional land will need to be purchased and grants and money located to pursue this project further.

### **DEPARTMENT OF AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mary Ruth asked Gene to bring us up to date on the recent staff changes. Gene Carter reported that the hiring for the new Northern Center is complete as well as some additions to the Garvey staff. Queenie Pilkerton is still out as a result of an injury and it is not known whether she will return to work so interim arrangements have included Theda from Oakley to Garvey and Celie Hill working at Northern. Gene does not expect too many changes until about 1 year from now which he referred to as "a minor adjustment".

He explained Project Lifesaver which is a tracking system that the Department of Aging is working on with the Sheriff's Office for people who suffer with Alzheimer Disease or dementia and may wander away. The Department of Aging will assist members of the senior population with the cost of the program if the client cannot afford to purchase the equipment and will involve RSVP volunteers.

The food contract has been bid out and the only 2 bidders continued to be correctional facilities. He pointed out that is a service industry so it is difficult getting help.

The Medical Adult Day Services consolidation should be completed by mid-July, as it is a long process with lots of paperwork that needs to go through Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and Julie pointed out it is the end of the fiscal year. Staff is cooperating with getting paperwork back from doctors.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**NSC:** Report made earlier in the meeting by Pat Myers.

**RSVP:** Janis Jacobs reported that she is trying to bring everything up to date by attending board meetings and meeting with site volunteers and stations.

**Medical Adult Day Services:** Julie had nothing else to add from earlier comments.

**UNITED SENIORS OF MARYLAND:** Mary Ruth was not able to attend the USM meeting as she had another meeting to attend instead.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

During the month of July the county commissioners appoint new board members to committees. There is a pool of applications in the PIO office which Mary Ruth, Ray and Mary Ann recently reviewed. She is hoping that possibly 2 new people will be joining the COA.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 25, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at Garvey, Rm. 1.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Pat Myers motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Daniel Hinz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Prepared by:  
Sherrie Wooldridge  
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