

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland
Monday, July 24, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER

Start Time: 12:00 p.m.
Location: Garvey Senior Center, Leonardtown, MD
Chaired By: Daniel Hinz, Chairperson

PRESENT

COA Members: Daniel Hinz, Mary Ruth Horton, Mary Ann Grusholt, Sherrie St. Clair, Kathie Reich, Florence Lanham and Kitty Turner

Department of Aging Staff: Jennie Page, Julie VanOrden, Debbie Barker, and Valerie Pilkerton.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Sherrie St. Clair to approve the agenda, and was seconded by Mary Ann Grusholt. The board agreed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mary Ruth Horton to approve the minutes 06-26-2006, and was seconded by Florence Lanham. The board agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

Senior Tax Credit Status:

Ms. Horton stated we are currently waiting for the coordination between the County and the State regarding definitions so that we can determine the outcome of the questionable constitutionality. The amended senior tax credit bill, which increases the sunset provision from 3 years to 5 years has been passed. It is officially changed to 5 years. Seniors who apply and qualify are currently getting a tax credit.

Proposed Northern Senior Housing Status:

Daniel Hinz stated that Pat Myers, who is currently working on the status of this could not attend today's meeting. Jennie Page stated it is still where it was last month. They are working on the sewage capability and that will determine the amount of housing that will go on the property. If there is a need for drain fields to be put in it will limit the housing. Recreation & Parks is waiting on the design from the consultants from our last meeting on how it will be laid out. Once the Master Plan is prepared and approved, the responsibility for completion of the project will go to Housing and the Department of Aging. Jennie Page will then provide updates on the project.

Senior Housing Advocacy Status

Daniel Hinz stated a discussion was held on senior housing issues and how COA and the Department of Aging can advocate for residents of senior housing at the May meeting. As guests of the COA, a group of St. Mary's County Senior Citizen Residents identified certain issues they felt needed to be addressed and were seeking advice from the Department of Aging and the Commission on Aging for guidance. Mr. Hinz questioned whether the guests had contacted anyone from the COA or DoA. Ms. Horton stated that the residents had not contacted either COA

or DoA in regards to the guidance that was given to them. Ms. Horton stated that she tried several times to contact them to see if things had been resolved. She did not get a response from them and stated she would try to go by and check on them.

Senior Coalition Status

Ms. Horton stated she had contacted Claire Whitback to inform her that the COA as a member St. Mary's County Coalition voted unanimously to use some of the Coalition money to renew the Senior Coalition membership with the United Seniors of Maryland.

September Forum Report

Mary Ruth Horton stated that she has organized the topics to be discussed and since these are the least popular topics left we are not devoting all the forum time to them. There was a discussion of individuals who would speak for each category. The categories are listed below with names of those individuals that were discussed for each category:

- Assistance with caring for Grandchildren - ?
- Estate Planning – Kimberly Talbert-Myers
- Domestic Violence - Julie VanOrden
- Banking & Crediting - Julie VanOrden, Debbie Barker, and Jayne Hunsinger
- Employment - Debbie Barker
- Volunteer Opportunities – Jayne Hunsinger

Ms. VanOrden suggested contacting Social Services to see if we could get a representative for the Domestic Violence category. Ms. Barker suggested contacting the Employment office located in the Carter Building to get a representative for the Employment category. Names of individuals will be provided once they have been selected and agree to join us for our third forum.

NEW BUSINESS

Future COA Members

Mr. Hinz stated he spoke with the Public Information Office, which recommended the COA do a letter to the Board of Commissioners informing them that COA will be conducting an extensive recruitment campaign to fill open COA vacancies. A letter went out on July 10th to the BOCC to inform them. The COA sent a letter to PIO to advertise the need for more volunteers on channel 95.

Mr. Hinz stated that the Public Information Office supplied him with the applications and told the COA members to provide them to citizens they know that may be interested.

Program Emphasis Spotlight (Debbie Barker, Senior I & A Manager)

Senior Information and Assistance provides seniors and their families with guidance and referrals to Department of Aging services, public and private community resources, and information regarding assistance programs. Service coordination is available to seniors who require assistance in accessing services, applying for various assistance programs, or simply need help or information about a variety of issues such as:

- ◆ CURB ABUSE IN MEDICARE & MEDICAID (CAMM)
- ◆ FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – Electric Universal Service Program, Maryland Energy Assistance Program, Homeowners' Property Tax Credit, St. Mary's County Senior Property Tax Credit, Renters' Tax Credit.
- ◆ LEGAL ASSISTANCE
- ◆ PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE – Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program, Medicare Prescription Drug Program, Maryland Pharmacy Assistance.
- ◆ PROGRAM REFERRAL SERVICES
- ◆ SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SHIP) – Medicare, Social Security, Qualified Medicare Beneficiary, Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary.
- ◆ TAX ASSISTANCE

DOA ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Meal Program Monthly Status Report Numbers

The report for June's meal evaluation stated that 1,044 congregate meals were served in the centers for the month of June. There were 232 clients that received home delivered meals, 100 clients received hot meals and the other 132 received frozen meals. There is no Meals on Wheels waiting list.

Staff Changes

Ms. Page stated the Operations Manager at the Loffler Senior Center Ms. Mary Ann Thompson has resigned and her last day will be this Friday. The DoA has promoted Ms. Joyce Raum to Operations Manager at the Loffler Senior Center and her position at the Garvey Senior Center as a Senior Program Specialist is being advertised.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Medical Adult Day Services

Ms. VanOrden stated we have 53 enrolled in June with an average daily attendance of 35. One new client has been added in June.

RSVP Report

- ◆ A recognition lunch was held at Scheibels for the Point Lookout State Park for 16 volunteers.
- ◆ 15 new volunteers were recruited
- ◆ 4 New stations were added: Cedar Lane Apartments, NARFE local chapter, Valley Lee Firehouse, and 5th District Homemakers Club.
- ◆ A total of 1253 hours were reported for the month of June 06
- ◆ The RSVP renewal for fiscal year 07 was approved
- ◆ Several new grant opportunities and programs were researched

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Ms. Page stated that DoA is inviting the senior community to a morning reception to meet and greet the new Director, Ms. Lori Jennings-Harris on August 25 at 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Loffler Senior Center.
- ◆ Ms. Page stated that DoA is cordially inviting all elected officials, Directors, and staff personnel to a reception to welcome Lori Jennings-Harris on August 25 at 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. at the Garvey Senior Center
- ◆ There will be a Yard sale at the Northern Senior Center on September 16, 2006.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on August 28, 2006 at 12:00. Sherrie St. Clair moved to adjourn the meeting and Mary Ann Grusholt seconded the motion. The board agreed. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Prepared by:

Valerie Pilkerton

Senior Administrative Coordinator, St. Mary's County Department of Aging