

Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting  
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland  
Monday, August 24, 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:** Sam Brown, Vicki Brown, Florence Lanham, Elfreda Mathis, Peggy Reardon, Kathie Reich, Sheral St. Clair, Sandra Wheeler, Patricia Woodburn

**Department of Aging Staff:** Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Stacie Prinkey, Client Account Specialist; Sherrie Wooldridge, Community Programs and Outreach Manager.

**Guests:** Anne Borgholthaus, Sithy McGraw

**ABSENT**

**COA Members:** Claudia Knowlton

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the June 2009 meeting minutes was made by Peggy Reardon and was seconded by Patricia Woodburn; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**Guest Speakers:**

**Sherrie Wooldridge, Community Programs and Outreach Manager – Department of Aging**

- Ms. Sherrie Wooldridge attended the August Commission On Aging Meeting to present the Commission with the "Department of Aging Road Show" slide show. The message is "Aging doesn't matter. We work together, supported by the St. Mary's County Government to encourage seniors to stay healthy and get involved."
- Ms. Wooldridge answered questions and provided information to Commission Members, Department of Aging staff, and guests in attendance.
- Ms. Wooldridge noted that the Annual Community Health Fair will be held in a new location this year. The event will be held on Friday October 30, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Hall located in Hollywood, Maryland.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

- Claudia Knowlton compiled a report of the responses of the Commission On Aging self-evaluation form that each commission member filled out.
- Most of the questions on the "self assessment tool" did not apply to the Commission On Aging. A majority of the commission members concur that the mission statement and objectives of the Commission On Aging need to be reviewed.

**Memorandum of Understanding for Transportation:**

- Lori Jennings-Harris, Director for the St. Mary's County Department of Aging and George Erichsen, Director for the Department of Public Works and Transportation signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding transportation needs and costs.
- The Department of Transportation has offered 2 busses for the Department of Aging to use for transportation. The Department of Aging is working on recruiting volunteer drivers for this need.

### **Responses to Letter of Interest on Privatization of the Ripple Center:**

- Presentations by the interested parties have been rescheduled for September due to scheduling conflicts.
- Once presentations are made John Savich – County Administrator, would like to move forward quickly in making a decision and making the move. If this privatization does not work or privatization is not achieved, then the Medical Adult Day Services Program will be terminated at the end of the 2010 Fiscal Year (June 30, 2010).
- Elfreda Mathis stated that this program should not be terminated because there is no alternative for the special needs of the participants.
- A motion was made by Sam Brown to have a letter submitted to the Board of County Commissioners requesting the Commissioners, especially the three (3) running for re-election (Commission President Russell, Commissioner Dement, and Commissioner Jarboe), attend the October Commission On Aging meeting to explain their plan for closing the Medical Adult Day Center. Sandra Wheeler seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

### **Friends of Ripple Projects:**

- The Friends of Ripple have a 5K Run/Walk scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2009. This is a huge fund raiser and the members are working on selling sponsorships, which will have a logo on the t-shirts given to the participants.
- Sam Brown has clearance from the county to have the event. There is an article in the County Times.
- Sam Brown would like to put out requests to the community asking for donations of items that are needed, such as bingo prizes, activity supplies, and birthday gifts.

### **Visit to Centers, July 1, 2009:**

- Claudia Knowlton was the only Commission member who took a self-guided tour of the Senior Centers, Nutrition Sites, and the Ripple Center.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2010 Tri County Commission On Aging Meeting**

- Kathie Reich stated that the Commission On Aging needs to start thinking about dates, program topics, speakers and issues for the 2010 Tri-County Commission On Aging Meeting.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Secretary for the Maryland Department of Aging Visit:**

- The Secretary for the Maryland Department of Aging, Gloria Lawlah, is scheduled to visit St. Mary's County on September 29, 2009. This visit is for Secretary Lawlah to see how the St. Mary's County Department of Aging is implementing and using the stimulus funds.
- The Department of Aging is using the stimulus funds for adding a Nutrition Site, providing weekend meals to certain participants of the Meals On Wheels program, and open houses at each of the Senior Activity Centers.

#### **The 2010 Department of Aging Area Plan Update:**

- Each Commission member received a copy of the 2010 Area Plan Update.
- The Area Plan is still to be finalized and be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for signature.

#### **The H1N1 Flu Plan**

- The management staff has discussed a plan for an outbreak of the H1N1 Flu virus. A plan of coverage and guidelines is being worked on at this time.

### **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

- The Department of Aging will not be filling the Deputy Director Position vacancy.
- The Nurse Manager has been working since July 13, 2009. She is busy and very happy at the Vivian Ripple Center.
- There will be a vacancy for the Waiver/Family Caregiver Program Coordinator in the Home and Community Based Services Division. The Director is confident that the Department will obtain approval to fill the vacancy.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

- Peggy Reardon asked about flu shot availability. Lori Jennings-Harris stated that we will be offering flu shots at the Community Health Fair in October, but those flu shots will not include the H1N1 vaccine.
- Kathie Reich will not be in attendance at the September Commission On Aging meeting, Elfreda Marthis, vice-chair, will chair the meeting.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 28, 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 3:34 p.m.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator