

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland
Monday, September 24, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

Start Time: 12:00 p.m.
Location: Garvey Senior Center – Room 1, Leonardtown, MD
Chaired By: Sheral St. Clair, Chairperson

PRESENT

COA Members: Sheral St. Clair, Kathie Reich, David Mattingly, Sandra Wheeler, Elfreda Mathis

Department of Aging Staff: Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Jennie Page, Deputy Director; Dana DiGregorio, Senior Administrative Coordinator

Guests: Jayne Hunsinger, RSVP Program Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Sandra Wheeler, and was seconded by Kathie Reich

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve July 2007 meeting minutes as written was made by Kathie Reich, and was seconded by Sandra Wheeler; the Commission agreed.

GUEST SPEAKER – Jayne Hunsinger, RSVP Program Manager

Jayne Hunsinger, RSVP Program Manager, attended the Commission On Aging meeting to give a brief presentation to the commission regarding the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Jayne Hunsinger explained what the RSVP program does, what the volunteers that are part of the program do, what an RSVP station is and what the responsibilities of that station are.

OLD BUSINESS

Transportation Survey Update

- Jacque Fournier provided the results of the Transportation Survey that was published in the New Beginning Newsletter to Lori Jennings-Harris to pass on to the Commission On Aging. STS received 43 responses, most responses stated the individual does not use the STS system but would use the system if the need arose. Jacque Fournier noted that more advertising for the STS and SSTAP systems would benefit the community as well as the Department of Transportation.
- Sherie St. Clair suggested that the Commission members take the information home and review it, then this issue will be revisited at the next Commission on Aging meeting.
- On September 26, 2007 at 6:00 pm, Jacque Fournier will be speaking at the Center for Life Enrichment about how The Center for Life Enrichment could combine the STS Transportation System and the transportation currently used by the center. Sherie St. Clair recommended having Jacque Fournier to attend the next Commission On Aging meeting to address questions the Commission members have and to provide more information on future plans for increasing participation in the STS System as well as any new direction STS might be moving in.

Legislative Liaison Update

- Sandra Wheeler spoke with Mike Lachance who stated that the State Commission on Aging has not met since the new Governor was appointed. Mike Lachance also stated that the State Commission On Aging is looking at the former mayor of North Beach to represent the Southern Maryland appointment.
- Sandra Wheeler also found out that the meetings will be held in Anne Arundel County not in Baltimore.

Ripple Center Fundraising and Building Update

- Lori Jennings-Harris has been looking into some suggestions for construction help with the Ripple Center outside deck. One led to the Eagle Scouts and the possibility of them providing the labor. The Division Manager for Home and Community Bases Services is following up on that lead.
- Rebecca Cranston, Division Manager for Home and Community Based Services, Jean Thompson, Nurse Manager at the Ripple Center, and Sonia Perez, Social Worker at The Ripple Center, are following up with family and friends of Ripple participants to begin working on a 'Friends of Ripple' committee to help raise funds for activities and events at the Ripple Center.

Senior Rides Grant Update

- The Senior Rides Grant committee is meeting with the RSVP representatives to work on volunteers and insurance issues. The committee is also still obtaining additional information on forms, insurance and background information requirements.
- The Department of Aging has still not received the Notification of Grant Award so we cannot officially start the program or spend any funds for the program until that paperwork is received from the state.

Senior Tax Credit Update

- Sandra Wheeler sits on the Senior Tax Credit Review committee and provided the Commission members with an update on what the Senior Property Tax Credit is and what the committee is doing. The Senior Property Tax Credit Review Committee is a group of 5 appointees with two tasks, 1) to see if the program is doing what it is supposed to and 2) look at the financial impact on the county's resources. At this point the Committee is seeking an extension on the October due date because they are waiting on some financial statistical data from the treasurers office.

NEW BUSINESS

Major Rental Properties – Housing Authority

- Sherie St. Clair was going to share information with the Commission members from the September 2007 Housing Authority report, but did not bring the information to the meeting so this will be discussed at a future meeting.

Health Fair – October 26, 2007

- The Department of Aging will be hosting the annual Community Health Fair on October 26, 2007 from 8 am to 5 pm. Sherie St. Clair handed out flyers to each of the Commission members. Sherie St. Clair would like to have the Commission members attend.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

St. Mary's County Fair

- The Department of Aging had a table at the St. Mary's County Fair, which was held on September 20 – 23, 2007. The table was manned all weekend by Department of Aging employees and a great deal of information was given out.

211 System

- Sam Brown asked Lori Jennings-Harris to look into the 211 system for Health and Human Services. The 211 System is available in Washington, DC, Virginia, and parts of Maryland, but is not available in southern Maryland at this time. If a person goes onto the internet and search for United Way 211, this site allows you to enter key words related to information you are seeking in the southern Maryland area, you will then be directed to websites related to your request.

Heat Emergency Plan

- It was recommended at the last Commission meeting that the Heat Emergency Notice that is broadcast over the radio be sent to more radio stations outside of St. Mary's County so that more people can hear our message. Not every one listens to the 3 local stations. Lori Jennings-Harris asked Commission members to suggest other radio stations as possibilities to add to the list.

Personnel Changes:

- The Department of Aging received 83 applications for the Senior Office Specialist position. The applications are being reviewed.

Additional Comments

- Sandra Wheeler noted that Cedar Lane Apartments advertised for vacant apartments and that the price for the rent seemed excessive, over \$1000 per month. Jennie Page noted that with the new Colton wing is one price and another section is Section 8, so Cedar Lane has a sliding scale. Cedar Lane also has assisted living and independent living sections which could account for the difference in price. It was recommended that a representative from Cedar Lane attend the next Commission On Aging meeting to answer some of the questions that the Commission has. The Department of Aging will arrange to have a Cedar Lane representative at a future meeting.
- Elfreda Mathis asked about seniors being informed about registering their phone numbers with emergency services for early notification of emergencies and disasters. This was discussed at a previous meeting, and Lori Jennings-Harris pointed out that an article in the new September/October Beginning newsletter explains the registration process for Code Red Notification.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on October 22, 2007, at 12 Noon, at the Garvey Senior Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Elfreda Mathis made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Sandra Wheeler seconded the motion. The Commission agreed. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Prepared by:
Dana DiGregorio
Sr. Administrative Coordinator