

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland
Monday, November 26, 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, Sam Brown, Florance Lanham, Sandra Wheeler

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

Guests: Sheriff Tim Cameron, Sheriff's Office; Sherrie Wooldridge, Community Programs Manager – Department of Aging.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda with corrections was made by Kathie Reich, and was seconded by Sandra Wheeler; the Commission agreed.

Correction: December meeting canceled, Next meeting scheduled for January 28, 2008.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve October 2007 meeting minutes was made by Sam Brown, and was seconded by Kathie Reich; the Commission agreed.

GUEST SPEAKER

Sheriff Tim Cameron:

- Sheriff Cameron attended this Commission On Aging meeting to provide information on several programs the Sheriff's Office has in place that would benefit the Department of Aging and our aging community. Sheriff Cameron spoke about several 'Crime Prevention Programs' such as Neighborhood Watch Program, C.C.A.P. – Cops/Citizens on Patrol, Are You OK Program, S.T.O.P.P.E.D. Program and Project Lifesaver.
- Sheriff Cameron spoke about Domestic Violence in St. Mary's County. Domestic violence cases have grown in number over the last few years, including the number of violent crimes against senior citizens, such as Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation.
- Sheriff Cameron also spoke briefly on Gangs in St. Mary's County.
- Sheriff Cameron answered questions from the Commission members.

Sherrie Wooldridge, Community Program Manager, Department of Aging:

- Sherrie Wooldridge, Community Program Manager for St. Mary's County Department of Aging, attended the Commission On Aging meeting to provide information on some of the community programs available through the Department of Aging, such as 'File of Life' and 'Cell Phones for Seniors'.

OLD BUSINESS

Christmas in April:

- At past meetings it has been discussed obtaining assistance through Christmas in April to have some work done at the Ripple Center. Sherrie St. Clair has been in touch with Maryann Chasen, with Christmas in April, regarding this matter and an application has been submitted.
- Sam Brown has also spoken with Maryann Chasen and she stated that the project is 'on the board' of projects to be considered.

Health Fair Update:

- The Community Health Fair sponsored by the Department of Aging, was held on October 26th, 2007. It was a successful event with 550 persons in attendance.

Boards, Committees and Commissions Chairpersons and County Staff Training Update:

- Sherrie St. Clair attended the Training for Boards, Committees and Commissions Chairpersons and County Staff.

Senior Tax Credit Update:

- Sandra Wheeler is a member of the Senior Property Tax Credit Review Committee, and provided the Commission with an update on the status of the Committee's final report. The task of the Senior Property Tax Credit Review Committee was to review the financial impact the program has had on St. Mary's County and whether the program was meeting its goals and objectives. Sandra Wheeler stated that the committee has not submitted a final report as of yet and the Committee has requested an extension on the due date for their final report pending some statistical and demographical information that has not been provided to the Committee members.
- Sandra Wheeler will follow-up with the Commission On Aging when more information is available.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Buildings – More Accessible for People with Disabilities and the Aging:

- Sherrie St. Clair is also a member of the Committee for Persons with Disabilities. A sub-committee through the Committee for Persons with Disabilities is studying accessibility enhancements on different public buildings in St. Mary's County. The committee is looking into ways to make some of the public buildings in St. Mary's County accessible to persons with disabilities as per the Americans with Disabilities Act.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Meeting with MetCom:

- Lori Jennings-Harris met with Steve King, the Executive Director of MetCom, this week to follow up on the Senior Housing issue. Mr. King stated that it would be discussed at the next County Commissioners Public Meeting.

Senior Housing:

- Jennie Page and Lori Jennings-Harris have met with two separate contractors interested in building senior housing in the St. Mary's County, regarding the needs for Senior Housing in this area.

The Big Read:

- The College of Southern Maryland has received a grant to sponsor 'The Big Read' program in an effort to get citizens to do more reading for pleasure. The book chosen for this program is 'A Lesson Before Dying' by Ernest J. Gaines. The Department of Aging is planning to schedule reading groups and have books available to be delivered to the Meals On Wheels clients.

First Annual Caregivers Recognition Breakfast:

- The first annual Caregiver Recognition Breakfast was held on November 13, 2007, to honor caregivers throughout the county for all they do. The Department is planning to continue holding this event each year.

Health and Human Services Meeting:

- The Health and Human Services Planning meetings are going to continue. The County Commissioners have noted that several unanswered questions will need to be answered before a decision will be made to move forward with initiating Human Services, entity.

Visit from Secretary Gloria Lawlah:

- Secretary Lawlah, Secretary for the Maryland Department of Aging, is scheduled to visit St. Mary's County on December 10, 2007. Secretary Lawlah is tentatively scheduled to visit all three of the Department of Aging Senior Centers as well as the Ripple Medical Adult Day Services Center.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

- Clancy Lyall, the Food Transporter for the Department of Aging is retiring at the end of December. His last day will be December 28, 2007
- Candice Nelson, Program Specialist at the Loffler Senior Center, will be moving on to work with children in a different county. Her last day was Wednesday, November 21, 2007
- Shelly Lahn, Food Service Technician at the Garvey Senior Center, is moving onto a new career path. Her last day will be November 29, 2007
- Jean Thompson, RN Manager for the Ripple Center, will be retiring at the end of this week. Her last day will be November 30, 2007.

NEXT MEETING

The December Commission On Aging meeting will be canceled due to the Christmas Holiday. The next meeting will be on January 28, 2008, at 12 Noon, at the Garvey Senior Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Kathie Reich made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Sam Brown seconded the motion. The Commission agreed. The meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Prepared by:
Dana DiGregorio
Sr. Administrative Coordinator