

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Monday, May 19, 2014**  
**Garvey Senior Activity Center, Leonardtown, MD**

**CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. (This is a recorded meeting).

**ROLL CALL** – Members present were Norma Pipkin, Chair, Bettie Broadhurst, Juanita Nether, Gail Murdock, Cindy Williams, Diane Harding, and Janet Kellam. Department of Aging & Human Services staff members present were Lori Jennings-Harris, Director and Beth Sandberg, Senior Administrative Coordinator.

**ABSENT** – Linda Fry, Samantha Lane, and Deborah Johnstone were excused.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – Motion to approve the April 28, 2014 minutes with amendments was made by Mr. Murdock and seconded by Ms. Nether, the motion passed.

**DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS** –

- Victory Woods – Lisa Ruetschle

Ms. Pipkin invited Lisa Ruetschle from Victory Woods to discuss their challenges with transportation. Ms. Ruetschle thanked the COA for being their biggest advocate. Victory Woods has been open for 3 years; it's a building of seniors 62 years old or over. There are a total of 84 residents at Victory Woods and approximately 30 people (40%) do not drive. Recently, Victory Woods was granted a route enhancement and they are now an "on-call" bus stop. The bus will arrive at Victory Woods 45 minutes after the hour. Ms. Ruetschle and a few residents participated in a trial run. Lea Arnold, the DPW&T Specialist/Trainer followed-up on their experience. The bus was on time. The group wanted to go to Walmart to shop and return to Victory Woods. The group was looking for door-to-door service. The bus proceeded south instead of going north to Walmart. The group needed to transfer to the north bound bus at Tulagi Place in order to arrive at Walmart's front door. Once at Walmart, the group had an hour to shop. The group met the south bound bus going back to Tulagi Place at 2:00 p.m. and had to transfer again to the Calvert connection. Unfortunately, that bus doesn't arrive until 3:00 p.m. so they had an hour to wait. The group decided not to wait an hour and called another resident to pick them up. The group decided the new route enhancement wasn't going to work. This particular trip from Victory Woods to Walmart was going to take 6 hours, which is unacceptable. Mr. Murdock asked why the group needed to get on Calvert bus and Ms. Ruetschle indicated it's the only bus to get the group back to Victory Woods door to door.

Ms. Williams suggested speaking with the person in charge to plead your case for a more convenient transportation option. Let them know whatever they can do would be appreciated. Also, it's not possible to do grocery shopping, especially if you are in a scooter or wheelchair when using public transportation. Ms. Ruetschle was told once FDR Boulevard is completed, the road will go all the way through and will help to do a

faster loop. Ms. Williams also suggested calling the manager of Walmart or K-mart to see if they would do a delivery service or shuttle since so many seniors do not drive.

Ms. Pipkin asked for clarification about the “trial” trip enabling her to understand what the group went through. After clarification was given, Ms. Pipkin asked what the Commission on Aging can do to assist. Ms. Ruetschle indicated she will use the suggestions given to her. Ms. Pipkin will continue to follow-up with Ms. Ruetschle.

Ms. Williams wanted to point out she likes the fact that someone came to the Commission on Aging with a concern and asked for help to a problem.

Ms. Jennings-Harris has indicated transportation has been an on-going issue for senior riders. It’s important to remember whatever the options or resources are we need to include helping our neighbors. Transportation service has its limitations and it can be very expensive to operate.

- Consumer follow-up - Cindy Williams

Ms. Williams will contact the participant from the meeting with Senator Dyson’s representative about her Lifeline.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Legislative Update - Gail Murdock

The General Assembly is closed. Forty-five (45) delegates are not running for re-election and seven (7) senators have retired. Ms. Williams asked, out of the retiring senators, who affects us? Mr. Murdock indicated Johnny Wood is one of them.

Another topic of discussion is getting seniors out to the polls to vote. Turnout has been very low. Ms. Williams believes this is a good topic for the Commission on Aging to work on. Ms. Williams and Ms. Kellam indicated the Commission’s target audience is seniors and the auxiliary audience of people who are in the lives of seniors and have decision making capabilities. Ms. Nether stated a lot of seniors are not registered to vote and she has worked with them to get registered. Ms. Jennings-Harris said our Senior I&A Division have asked our consumers if they are registered to vote. If not, and interested, we will help them complete the application.

Ms. Williams will put the word out with the League of Womens Voters to talk to the seniors at the churches and make them aware of absentee ballots.

- Outreach Committee - Bettie Broadhurst

June 26<sup>th</sup> Road Show - We have a dynamic and wonderful flyer. The flyer has left some intrigue and mystery. Ms. Williams asked where the Commission on Aging is represented on the flyer. Ms. Broadhurst believes this is a marketing piece for the Department of Aging & Human Services and not the Commission on Aging, although the Commission on Aging will be there and will be a part of it. Ms. Williams initially understood this to be the Commission going to remote areas to hear seniors’ concerns. The Commission represents the Department of Aging & Human Services, but also represents all the seniors

in the county. The Commission wants seniors and caregivers to come forth with their concerns.

Ms. Jennings-Harris pointed out the focus of the Road Show is getting the information to the community about the Department, letting our seniors know what is available, and getting feedback from the community. Ms. Stone, Community Programs & Outreach Manager, stated the consumers will take the time after the presentation to voice their concerns. Ms. Stone, Sam Brown and Mr. Murdock will distribute the flyers. Ms. Pipkin said to arrive at 8:00 a.m. to set up for the event. The American Legion Post is donating the coffee, cups, sugar, etc.

## **DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS**

- Debrief of Tri-County Commission on Aging meeting

Ms. Pipkin wanted to know what went well and what needed to be fine-tuned. Ms. Williams loved the friendliness of our Commission on Aging, loved that a representative from St. Mary's County was at each table and felt the meeting was very well done. The speakers were very good. Ms. Williams felt so much effort went into the meeting, but only 16 guests came. Mr. Murdock said starting off with the Elder Care lawyer was good, and the session was very informative. Ms. Nether said the feedback she was hearing was excellent. All evaluations were good, except for one, which rated everything at the bottom of the scale, but we believe the instructions were not read correctly. Many commented that Brandy Tulley, Garvey Senior Program Specialist, was engaging and very good. Her presentations were wonderful. Ms. Kellam said the conversation about the Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) form was interesting. After lunch, we will need to have an exciting speaker. We will need to make sure the speakers adhere to the allotted length of time for the session. Ms. Broadhurst thought the meeting was fabulous and everyone enjoyed it. She learned a lot and feels inspired. There was no lag time between presenters. Ms. Kellam felt the work that went into putting the meeting together was phenomenal and thanked everyone for their help. Ms. Williams will write thank you notes.

- Ms. Pipkin noted Ms. Fry will attend the Triad/SALT meeting being held on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Lexington Park Senior apartments on Pegg Road at 2:00 p.m. There will be training on elder abuse awareness and the meetings are open, therefore anyone may attend. Also, on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m., there will be a self-defense demonstration at Victory Woods. Triad/SALT is concerned about drug abuse and/or prescription sharing as it pertains to seniors. Some seniors are selling and sharing their medication.

- Possible future meeting sites -

Ms. Williams would like for the Commission to meet at the large churches in the area. Ms. Pipkin asked if there are any places visited in the past that the Commission would like to return to. Ms. Pipkin suggested St. Mary's Nursing Center, Autumn Assisted Living at Wildewood and Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Ms. Jennings-Harris suggested Chesapeake Shores and Ms. Williams suggested the Ripple Center, St. Mary's Adult Day Center, since there have been a lot of changes to their facility. Ms. Harding also suggested Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Mr. Murdock indicated Charlotte Hall Veterans Home has now received a 5A rating overall, which is the highest you can receive.

Presentation from Jennifer Stone, Community Programs & Outreach Manager -

The attending COA members introduced themselves to Ms. Stone.

The Department is made up of seven (7) divisions. Her division is Community Programs & Outreach, which is responsible for delivering timely and topical information to the community. She supplies the information through a number of different ways, by coordinating the articles in the newspaper, using Facebook, and through planned events, to name a few.

The Department has a new website that is now combined as the Department of Aging & Human Services website. She has ensured the information is accurate and up to date. The Resource Guide is being updated as well and Ms. Stone is working on confirming the information. Ms. Stone has indicated consumers do not know about all the services and programs offered.

Ms. Williams asked if there has been any Garvey activity regarding the need for a new Garvey Senior Activity Center. Has there been a questionnaire distributed asking seniors if their experience was adequate, was the space adequate enough for the program, questions all about the structure of the building?

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT –**

- We have a new food provider. FitzVogt had also provided meals to Cedar Lane residents and they lost the contract to Culinary Services Group. Our meals continue to be prepared at Cedar Lane's kitchen. Our contract does not end until August with FitzVogt and they have subcontracted to Culinary Services Group for the continuation of our meals through the end of their contract. Ms. Allen is preparing the request of bid proposals to go out. The food provider may change.
- The annual Department barbeque is scheduled on May 30<sup>th</sup> - moved from Point Lookout to Cecil Park. The menu has changed. Staff previously prepared the meal and cooked out, but Bear Creek will provide the barbeque.
- No personnel changes.
- Maryland Access Point (MAP) site is available for a tour.

**NEXT MEETING –** June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. – Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

**ADJOURNMENT –** Mr. Murdock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m. and Ms. Williams seconded; the motion passed.

**UPCOMING EVENTS –**

- Thursday, June 19, 2014 - Lexington Park Senior apartments on Pegg Road at 2:00 p.m. there will be training on elder abuse awareness. They are open meetings anyone may attend.
- Thursday, June 26, 2014 - Outreach Event in the 7<sup>th</sup> District
- On August 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. - Self Defense Demonstration at Victory Woods