

MEETING MINUTES
ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
March 24, 2025
Garvey Senior Activity Center, 23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

CALL TO ORDER:

- Barbara O'Neal called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

- Ms. Barbara O'Neal
- Ms. Rowena Bossio
- Ms. Omonigho Olumese
- Ms. Triverr Gray
- Ms. Dawnn Hahn
- Ms. Shalonda Nelson
- Department of Aging & Human Services staff members present: Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Mercedes Jones, Coordinator

ABSENT:

- Ms. Kimberly Hansing
- Ms. Christine Morgan
- Ms. Aurora Hidalgo

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

- John Houser, Deputy County Attorney; Jennifer Utz, St. Mary's County Emergency Services Director

Approval of Minutes of February 24, 2025.

I move to approve the minutes of February 24, 2025.

Motion by Shalonda Nelson, seconded by Dawnn Hahn, motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Jennifer Utz, Director of Emergency Services** - Ms. Utz provided a follow-up to last month's Emergency Services presentation. At that time, concerns were raised regarding seniors being charged for county ambulance services, despite previous assurances that costs would not be passed on to them. Ms. Utz clarified that only insurance companies are billed for ambulance services. Individuals who use these services may receive a request for insurance information, but no invoices or bills will be attached to these requests. She emphasized that patients will not be billed directly or held financially responsible for ambulance services. Ms. Utz encouraged all residents to call 911 in the event of a medical emergency requiring immediate attention. A written FAQ addressing EMS billing was distributed to members and will also be made available at the Senior Activity Centers, and is also posted on the county website.
- Mr. John Houser, Deputy County Attorney** - Mr. Houser presented information on current legislation, including 12 bills that address issues both affecting the broader community and seniors specifically. He also discussed the current budget shortfall and its potential impact on county services and residents. Mr. Houser noted that more specific information about which bills will be passed, signed by the Governor, or vetoed - along with their implications - will become available following the conclusion of the legislative session on April 7, 2025. Mr. Houser provided the members with a memorandum which provides information on the bills. The COA members requested a presentation on the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Houser will have another attorney schedule that presentation.
- Dawnn Hahn, Senior Residency Specialist, Asbury Solomons** - Presentation has been scheduled for the next COA meeting, April 28th.

FINANCE:

- The Commission on Aging has a \$3000 budget for the current fiscal year, which ends on Jun 30, 2025. All funds must be expended before that date.
- Barbara O'Neal suggested the members table discussion about spending until the April meeting.

SENIOR FOCUS AREAS:

- Senior Transportation - No update.
- Senior Housing - No update.
- Senior Legislation - John Houser, Deputy County Attorney provided a legislative update.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 2024 Annual Report Due - Barbara will send information to members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Community Shred & Medication Take Back Day** - This event will be held on Saturday, April 26, from 9a.m. - 1p.m., at the Department of Aging & Human Services, located at 41780 Baldrige St, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Shredding services, medication collection, and safe disposal of medical sharps will be offered, free of charge.
- Transportation Advisory Meeting** - The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 17, at 1p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room (video and audio options available).
- Annual Tri-County Commission on Aging Meeting** - Scheduled for June 5, 2025 in Calvert County, details will be shared soon.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Motion made by Rowena Bossio, seconded by Barbara O'Neal, motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

April 28, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
 Garvey Senior Activity Center
 23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Commission on Aging (Monday, March 24, 2025)

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