

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting  
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland  
Monday, February 26, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PRESENT**

**COA Members:** Sherrie St.Clair, Kathie Reich, Mary Ruth Horton, Pat Myers, Mary Ann Grusholt, Florence Lanham

**Department of Aging Staff:** Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Kathy Goodspeed

**Guests:** None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Old Business** item added: "Presentation of Final Forum Report"

**New Business** item added: "Actions and Status: May/June New Beginning Articles"

**Announcements** all items removed from Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda with revisions was made by Mary Ruth Horton, and was seconded by Kathie Reich, the Commission agreed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A correction to the November 2006 was requested by Kathie Reich. The correct spelling of Kathie Reich's first name is Kathie, not Kathy.

Motion to approve November 2006 meeting minutes with corrections by Sherrie St.Clair and was seconded by Kathie Reich; the Commission agreed.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER**

- New members (David Mattingly, Sam Brown, and Vicki Brown) were not in attendance. The Commission was concerned whether or not the new members received a letter notifying them of the meeting. It was confirmed that they did. Sherrie St.Clair said she would give David Mattingly a call to welcome him. Sam and Vicki Brown are out of town.
- Time of Commission on Aging (COA) meeting still 1:30 on website.
- Mary Ruth Horton brought up that someone needs to contact PIO so that they know the new time of meeting and new members.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**New Beginning Newsletter Articles:**

- Lori Jennings-Harris provided copies of newsletter to Sherrie St.Clair.
- COA Seeking New Members, Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren, and the United Seniors of Maryland Rally articles made the January/February New Beginning newsletter.
- Lori Jennings-Harris reported one call of interest in "Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren."

- Pat Myers raised the thought that the seniors who are interested in the items such as “Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren” may not be getting the newsletter.
- Mary Ruth Horton suggested the idea that when we do the follow-up articles in the May/June New Beginning newsletter, include a short “If You Are Interested” article about support group for Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren.
- Transportation article will be in the May/June New Beginning newsletter as time was needed to gather all the information needed. Mary Ruth Horton said that would tie in nicely as the COA is having one of their transportation issues addressed at the Tri-County COA meeting.

**Letter to Transportation:**

- Sherrie St.Clair reported that she sent a letter to Jacque Fournier, Transportation Department. A response was received from Ms. Fournier. It was agreed that the availability of transportation for the seniors in our county is a concern. The entire letter was read to the Commission.
- Letter stated both MDA and local transit systems are addressing the rural routes to assist all populations in the county. The letter also referenced that a transportation development planned committee was recently formed. It is comprised of representatives from Social Services, Maryland Transit Administration, Pathways, Center for Life Enrichment, and the Department of Aging.
- As the letter from Ms. Fournier was not received until after the transportation committee meeting, Mary Ruth Horton was very concerned about the late notification. Mary Ruth Horton suggested that a letter come from the COA Chairperson expressing our discontent of the late notification of the meeting. If COA had been properly notified in time, we would have had a representative in attendance.
- Pat Myers wanted clarity on the statement pertaining to transportation seminars. What are travel training seminars? According to the letter travel training seminars are provided at senior centers to explain how routes are established, statewide funding levels, procedures for public transportation, and other transit programs.
- Mary Ruth Horton asked Lori Jennings-Harris if she received notification of the meeting. Ms. Harris did not recall getting this letter nor remember seeing it. Mary Ruth Horton wants to know more about a committee that we are told we are on. We need to get a copy of the minutes.
- Sherrie St.Clair will do a follow-up letter thanking Ms. Fournier for her response to our letter, but at the same time expressing COA displeasure regarding the late notification of the transportation committee meeting. The letter also will request a copy of the minutes and state that we are very interested in attending and want to be included in these meetings.

**Letter to Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation & Parks – Charlotte Hall Master Plan:**

- Sherrie St.Clair stated that the letter to Phil Rollins was sent.
- Mary Ruth Horton requested a copy of the letter

**List of Providers – Exploring Options:**

- Sherrie St.Clair asked for clarity on what the list of providers was about. Lori Jennings-Harris reminded the Commission that we wanted to discuss and explore options of providing seniors with information in an easy to read format about services that are needed, but the seniors are not sure where or who to ask about these services.
- Kathie Reich provided Lori Jennings-Harris with a sample of flyer used by St. Mary's County Garden Club.
- Mary Ruth Horton suggested tabling this item until next month's meeting.

**Food Committee Meetings – Planned to Begin in March:**

- Lori Jennings-Harris reported that the first meeting will be on March 8, 2007, 1:30 p.m. at the Garvey Center.

- Meetings will be quarterly, and the location will rotate through each center. Representatives include seniors from each center who eat the congregate meals on a regular basis, someone from Aramark, the Department's dietician will be involved, and staff will be in attendance at these meetings
- The Food Committee will address any concerns that come up, satisfaction surveys, menu changes.
- Mary Ruth Horton is glad Food Committee in place now, very pleased with progress so far.

#### **Ideas for Future Committee Projects:**

- Sherrie St.Clair stated with the Tri-County project coming up where we are hosting the COA members for Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary, this is a Committee project. Adding any other projects at this time would be difficult.
- Pat Myers suggested everyone come to next meeting with an idea.
- Mary Ruth Horton complimented Dana DiGregorio, working with Pat Myers, Sherrie St.Clair and herself, on the "Save the Date" cards; very efficient and out in a timely manner.
- Mary Ruth Horton also stated she thought a formal letter of invitation would go out to Delegate Wood. Sherrie St.Clair asked if letter should come from the Chairperson or Department of Aging. Mary Ruth Horton said she thought it would come from COA Chairperson.
- Pat Myers suggested tabling topic for next meeting.
- The Committee discussed the card, reviewed its details. Mary Ruth Horton described the card as a "Save the Date" card. Follow-up needs to be done 3 to 4 weeks prior to the event with a formalized letter on COA stationary. The letter will have more details, more specifics about the event, and the letter will request that they call Dana to R.S.V.P for lunch. This way we know how many lunches to order.
- Mary Ruth Horton also suggested putting this topic on the next COA meeting. The Committee agreed.

#### **Presentation of Final Forum Report:**

- Pat Myers reported that COA is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:20 to complete the presentation of all three forums to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). It was in Friday's Enterprise. Pat Myers hoped that the entire Committee would be there in attendance when they made the presentation. Mary Ann Grusholt thought she would not be able to attend.
- Mary Ruth Horton and Pat Myers talked about key community partners contacted to attend meeting. Mary Ruth Horton stated it was important to have the support of key community partners at the meeting. Sheriff Cameron was brought up-to-date and onboard to attend, and also Recreation and Parks.
- Mary Ruth Horton waiting for a response from the Library Director.
- Pat Myers left a message for Dave Zylak, Director of Public Safety, as he was very involved. COA covering emergency preparedness.
- Mary Ruth Horton contacting Health Department.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Charlotte Hall Master Plan Presentation to Board of County Commissioners:**

- Sherrie St.Clair reported that the first presentation to the BOCC by Phil Rollins was on January 23, 2007.
- Pat Myers stated the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting was the presentation of the concept plan. The last meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup> was held to ask for adoption of the concept plan. Adoption of the concept plan does not mean we can start building tomorrow as there are issues that have to be resolved. For example: one issue is the additional access needed for Whalen Road; and a second issue is public sewage.

- Phil Rollins was given the action to proceed with the Master Plan. Now that the Commissioners have adopted the plan, Phil Rollins will ultimately be responsible for the swimming pool and the multigenerational building. The housing, the assisted living, will go to Department of Aging.
- Pat Myers stated there would be a meeting in the next couple of weeks with Housing.
- Lori Jennings-Harris reported that the meeting went well; great to have approval to go forward.

**Tri-County COA Meeting:**

- Sherrie St.Clair stated that COA had already gone over, no further discussion.

**Actions and Status – May/June New Beginning Articles:**

- Mary Ruth Horton wanted to make sure that in the May/June New Beginning newsletter that the COA's Actions and Status be highlighted. New Beginning is our main communication tool. Articles on issues that the COA has done is important for seniors to read.
- Lori Jennings-Harris confirmed that it would be in the May/June New Beginning newsletter.
- Florence Lanham asked for more visibility on the Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren. Pat Myers restated Lori Jennings-Harris statement that only 1 person responded.
- Lori Jennings-Harris questioned Florence Lanham if she was asking about more visibility in the community or in the newsletter.
- Lori Jennings-Harris suggested the idea of a section in the New Beginning newsletter for the COA. Some of the topics discussed in the COA meeting can be spotlighted in the newsletter.
- Mary Ruth Horton suggested that topics be blocked off more, make it stand out for the seniors to see better.
- Pat Myers opened up discussion on how to reach more seniors. What ways can we reach more seniors? What about a sign-up sheet in the libraries for seniors to receive New Beginning newsletters. Sherrie St.Clair asked if the libraries already had the newsletter. General discussion developed about who is on the New Beginning mailing list.
- Mary Ruth Horton requested that a distribution list be provided at next month's COA meeting.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Planning Commission – Charlotte Hall Master Plan Presentation:**

- The Director confirmed with the Commission that item thoroughly discussed under New Business. No further discussion needed, the Commission agreed.

**Departmental Status Reports – October, November and December:**

- The Director confirmed with the Commission that they had received their copy of the Status Report for October, November, and December 2006. The January 2007 Status Report will be out soon.

**Update on Senior Forum #3 Projects:**

- The Director confirmed with the Commission that item thoroughly discussed under Old Business. No further discussion needed, the Commission agreed.

**Calls from Medicare Advantage Program Representative:**

- The Director reported that Debbie Barker, Information and Assistance, received a call from an individual representative interested in giving a presentation to seniors on a

Medicare Advantage program. The Director said no to this request as it would be only a one-sided presentation.

- The Director said there would be an opportunity for all of the Medicare Advantage presenters to come to the center to present the program to the seniors. This way the seniors can make an informed decision.

**Staff Changes:**

- New staff: Shelly Lahn, Food Service Coordinator, Garvey Center; Kathy Goodspeed, Client Account Specialist.
- Resignations: Julie Van Orden, Manager, Home & Community-Based Services, resigned to work with Angels' Watch. Julie's last day was February 5<sup>th</sup>. Susan Jackson, Ombudsman/ Senior Care, resigned effective March 6<sup>th</sup> to work part-time with the Department of Social Services. The process is underway to fill vacancies.

**Transportation Costs - \$6 Round Trip:**

- Transportation Department wants to charge a \$6 round trip fee for special events.
- Mary Ruth Horton said this is outrageous, have to fight it.
- The Director stated seniors do not pay anything now, a donation is welcomed.
- Sherrie St.Clair mentioned the \$6 is higher than STS.
- The Director said she would follow-up on the issue.

**Garvey Center Renovations:**

- The Director was pleased to report that the Garvey Senior Center has begun its renovations. One of the areas to change is the space in the lunch area, adding an exercise room. There are plans to make an exercise room for the seniors so they will have a space with more privacy and not out in the open.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mary Ruth Horton reported on her attendance at the State Department of Aging budget hearing.
- Pat Myers reminded the Committee of the April 28<sup>th</sup> fundraising yard sale at Northern. You can bring items to contribute to the yard sale on April 27th, but no clothes.
- New Public Information Officer – Karen Everett

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on March 26, 2007, 12 Noon.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Sherrie St.Clair requested a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Pat Myers made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mary Ruth Horton seconded the motion. The Commission agreed. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Prepared by:

Kathy Goodspeed

Client Account Specialist, St. Mary's County Department of Aging