

## **Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting**

**Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland**

**Monday, February 25, 2008**

### **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, Florence Lanham, Elfreda Mathis, David Mattingly, Sandra Wheeler, Patricia Woodburn

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

**Guests:** Debbie Barker – Senior Information and Assistance Manager – Department of Aging.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve January 2008 meeting minutes with corrections was made by Kathie Reich, and was seconded by Sandra Wheeler; the Commission agreed.

**Corrections:** Misspelling of Commission member's name; revision of sentence in second bullet of 'Ripple Center Project'; revision of sentence in number 1 of the first bullet of 'Service Improvements'.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

#### **Debbie Barker:**

- Debbie Barker, Senior Information and Assistance Manager, attended this Commission On Aging meeting to provide information on the programs and services through the Information and Assistance (I & A) Division of the Department of Aging. She spoke briefly on the programs and benefits for which the I & A staff assist the senior population with preparation completing and submitting various forms and applications.

- Debbie Barker answered questions from the Commission members and provided brochures and written information to the Commission members.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Ripple Center Project Update:**

- The Friends of Ripple had a bake sale on February 19, 2008 to help raise funds for the center. Commission On Aging members Sam Brown, Vicki Brown and Sheral St. Clair volunteered to help with the bake sale, which was a huge success. Through donations and sales of donated baked goods, \$531.00 was raised.
- Sheral St. Clair read the letter that was sent to the Board of County Commissioners supporting the proposed request for funding for the renovation project in the FY 2009 budget.
- Sheral St. Clair read a letter that Julie Randal, Chairperson for the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, wrote on behalf of the Commission On Aging supporting the funding of the renovation project for the Ripple Center.

### **Senior Property Tax Credit Review Update:**

- Sandra Wheeler, who also sits on the Senior Property Tax Credit Review Committee, reported that the review of the Senior Property Tax Credit has been completed, a report has been submitted and the report will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners during their public meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2008.

### **Interagency Team Planning for Human Services Update**

- Sheral St. Clair and Lori Jennings-Harris have been attending the planning meetings for the Human Services Project. The project proposes to create a single office that will coordinate the assistance for people with multiple needs. The agencies currently being considered for inclusion under a human services umbrella are: the Core Services Agency, the Local Management Board, Community Services, and the Health Department's Substance Abuse Coordinator. At the last meeting, a consensus about the Human Services Project was not reached so a report and recommendation will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners, but at this time it is uncertain as to the direction of this recommendation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Wii Experience**

- Sheral St. Clair obtained, through a generous donation from AMEWAS, 3 new Wii game systems with additional hand sets. These Wii systems will be distributed to the senior centers and the Ripple Center. The Garvey Center was scheduled to have a Wii experience on February 22, 2008 at 3:30 p.m., but the event was canceled due to inclement weather. The Wii experience is a demonstration of the Wii Game system by members of the Teen Advisory Group (TAG), who are experienced Wii users, in coordination with the St. Mary's County Library. This event was planned to encourage senior participants to engage in some intergenerational competition.

### **Election of Commission On Aging Officers**

- Last month, the Commission On Aging held nominations for new commission officers. Kathie Reich was nominated for Chairperson, Elfreda Mathis was nominated for Vice Chairperson, and Sandra Wheeler was nominated for Corresponding Secretary. The Commission accepted these nominations to be voted on at the next meeting. SHERAL ST. CLAIR presented the nominations to the Commission members for a vote. Patricia Woodburn made the motion to accept the slate of nominations as new officers, Elfreda Mathis seconded the motion; the Commission agreed.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **FY2009 Budget:**

- The Department of Aging County Budget was submitted on February 15, 2008. All of the items that have been discussed in the past few meetings, including the proposals, such as the Ripple Center Renovation Project, were included in the budget.

### **Frozen Meals Contractor:**

- G.A. Foods is new frozen shelf stable meal provider for the Department of Aging. The department will receive the same meals at a cost that is \$0.10 less than the former provider.

### **Caregivers Conference:**

- The Caregiver Conference is scheduled for April 18, 2008 at the Loffler Senior Center in Great Mills.

## **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

- Doris Bean, RSVP Office Specialist, retired this month. Her last day will be February 29, 2008.

## **Additional Comments**

- Elfreda Mathis inquired if our meals program was affected by the recall of Castleberry Foods products. Lori Jennings-Harris stated that yes our food service provider was affected by the recall but none of the items used in our meals program were on the recalled items list. A notice was distributed to all Meals Program participants including a list of recalled items in order to keep our participants informed.
- SHERAL ST. CLAIR asked Dana DiGregorio to obtain new Commission On Aging badges for all Commission members reflecting the new officers. Dana DiGregorio agreed to follow up on this matter.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on March 31, 2008, at 12 Noon, at the Garvey Senior Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Kathie Reich made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Florence Lanham seconded the motion. The Commission agreed. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator