

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland
Monday, March 27, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER

Start Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Garvey Senior Center, Leonardtown, MD
Chaired By: Larry Younger, Chairperson

PRESENT

COA Members: Larry Younger, Mary Ruth Horton, Daniel Hinz, Florence Lanham, Ardith Young, Mary Ann Grusholt, Kathie Reich, Pat Myers, Sherrie St. Clair, Maureen Ault and Kitty Turner

Department of Aging Staff: Alice Allen, and Valerie Pilkerton. (Jennie Page, Acting Director, was absent due to a Budget Work Session)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Mary Ruth Horton to approve the agenda, and was seconded by Pat Myers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mary Ann Grusholt to approve the minutes 02-27-2006, and was seconded by Ardith Young.

OLD BUSINESS

Senior Tax Credit Status:

Ms. Horton stated the bill will go through the legislation process, which she explained. The County Commissioners requested that the bill be amended to increase the sunset clause from the current 3 years to 5 years. This would provide more time for the county and state to work out a method to resolve the constitutional issue while still providing the current senior tax credit under the current law. Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr. invited Ms. Horton and Ms. Myers to go with him to a meeting on March 7, 2006 that was set up by Delegate John Bohanan in Annapolis. Individuals from Budget and Taxation, and the Attorney General office were there to discuss the issue. A representative from Senator Roy Dyson's office was also in attendance. Everyone thought that the meeting went well and a possible solution had been suggested. Ms. Horton stated that she and Ms. Myers would not discuss the details of the possible solution until Commissioner Mattingly had a chance to discuss it with the other county commissioners, which was done at the regular commissioner meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 in St. Mary's City. Ms. Horton stated that the senior tax bill was voted out of the House Ways and Means Committee with the requested amendments. The process will continue with votes in the House of Delegates, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and the Senate. The governor must sign the bill for it to become law. Ms. Horton and Ms. Myers will keep the citizens up to date on the status. Larry Younger personally thanked both Ms. Horton and Ms. Myers for their hard work and dedication on the Senior Tax Credit.

Proposed Northern Senior Housing Status:

Pat Myers stated that a meeting was held Thursday, March 16, 2006 at which time the consultants gave an update on the Master Plan for the property where the Northern Senior

Center is located. Participants were, Phil Rollins, Director of Recreation & Parks, Jennie Page, Acting Director of Department of Aging, the consultants, Larry Younger, Daniel Hinz, and Mary Ruth Horton who were representing the Commission on Aging, Pat Myers, Mary Ann Grusholt, Molly Baker and Sandy Hormuth who were representing the Northern Senior Housing Group. The consultants presented several design layouts that reflected senior housing, a multigenerational building and a swimming pool. The group agreed that they did not want everything to be clustered together, that an apartment complex with several levels would be cheaper and discussion was held about showing cottages with one or two bedrooms or a den. Larry Younger stated the consultants proposed eight quad buildings with two bedrooms. Pat Myers stated that the initial proposal that the Northern Senior Housing Group proposed was 25 4-unit cottages for independent living and 50 units for assisted living. Another meeting is scheduled for April 17 at 10 a.m. Pat mentioned that if the meeting goes well the Recreation and Parks Board will be presenting the proposal at the Northern Senior Center on May 4 at 5:30 p.m. Daniel Hinz mentioned that the means to handle the sewage is a consideration on what can be done and how much can be done. Another factor determining this is how much of the land will perc. Once the Master Plan is prepared and approved, the responsibility for completion of the project will go to Housing and the Department of Aging. Jennie Page will then provide updates on the project.

Status of Director, Department on Aging

Ms. Allen stated that the interview process would start next week.

Second Senior Survey Forum

Larry Younger stated that the forum would be held on April 11, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Northern Senior Center. The three topics being discussed are, Education, Transportation, and Recreation & Leisure Activities. The panel facilitators will be Larry Younger for Education, Mary Ruth Horton for Recreation & Leisure Activities, and Pat Myers for Transportation. They have invited speakers for each category as follows:

Transportation: Alice Allen from the Department of Aging, Mark Kalmus from Transportation, Patti Whorl from the Health Department and Ardith Young from the Sunshine Group.

Education: Janis Jacobs from the Department of Aging, Vicki Grow from CSM, and Kathy Grimes for St. Mary's College.

Recreation & Leisure Activities: Alice Allen from the Department of Aging, Arthur Shepherd from Recreation & Parks, and Kathy Weigel from St. Mary's Library.

Ms. Myers stated that all COA members would need to tell Valerie Pilkerton today before they leave if they will be attending the Senior Forum. Ms. Horton stated that invitations were mailed to each COA member to distribute in their communities.

NEW BUSINESS

Current budget Status

Alice Allen stated the Board of Commissioners has reviewed the current budget request from all County Departments. The Department of Aging has requested:

1. 1.5 million this year, and last year was 1.2 million.
2. The manager for Community Base Services that is now being paid out of MADS and the Medicaid waver grant to be County funded.
3. Fiscal Specialist funded 100% from County, currently is funded 50% County 50% MADS.
4. Add a 30-hour week, Senior Program Specialist at the Oakley Site
5. Add a 30-hour week Office Specialist at the Northern Senior Center

Ms. Allen stated the Board of Commissioners are in approval of the addition to this year's budget for an extra \$24,000 for food. They are not in approval of numbers 2, 3, 4, and 5 listed above. The mileage and postage increased automatically this year due to inflation. Commission on Aging discussed the need to support the Department of Aging with the current budget requests listed above. A motion was made by Ardith Young to support DoA, and was seconded by Sheral St. Clair. The board agreed.

TRIAD Update:

Ms. Allen stated that Law Enforcement Appreciation Day is on Wednesday, May 16, 2006. The ceremony will be held on the front lawn of the Governmental Building Complex. It is open to the public. Each law enforcement entity in St. Mary's County nominates someone as the agency Officer Representative of the year.

Program Emphasis Spotlight:

Larry Younger stated he would like the Department of Aging staff to give an in-depth briefing on DoA programs, so that COA has a better understanding of them. This would take 10 or 15 minutes out of the COA meeting. Mr. Younger is asking for the COA suggestions in regards to this. A motion was made by Mary Ruth Horton to have 10 to 15 minute presentations from each program in the Department of Aging, and was seconded by Florence Lanham. The board agreed.

DOA ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Meal Program Monthly Status Report Numbers

Alice Allen handed out the report for February's meal evaluation and explained the process. She stated that 1,077 congregant meals were served in the centers for the month of February. There were 251 clients that received home delivered meals, 100 clients received hot meals and the other 151 received frozen meals. There were 15 new clients and 15 clients taken off for various reasons for the month of February. There is no Meals on Wheels waiting list.

Program Updates

Alice Allen stated that Leslee Metz the Operations Manager at the Loffler Senior Center has put in her resignation. Her last day will be April 3, 2006. That position will be advertised next week and Ms. Allen will be covering this position until it is filled. Interviews for the Social Worker position at the Ripple Adult Day Services were done last week and will be filled soon.

Lunch with Commissioners Status:

Alice Allen stated that Lunch with your Commissioners would be on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at the Northern Senior Center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Medical Adult Day Services

Ms. Allen stated we have 48 enrolled in February with an average daily attendance of 34. Three new clients have been added and two are ready to start in March.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Mary Ruth Horton stated the TRIAD is holding a seminar on identity theft preventions at Cedar Lane Apartments on June 30, 2006.
- ◆ The House Bill 313 and Senate Bill 315 are for the homeowner's tax program. This program will benefit our senior citizens. It is based on the amount of income and the value of your property.
- ◆ Pat Myers stated that the stage curtains have arrived for the Northern Senior center.
- ◆ On April 8, 2006, there will be a yard sale at the Northern Senior Center. If you have donations to drop off it can be done April 7, 2006.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on April 24, 2006. Pat Myers motioned to adjourn the meeting and Kathy Reich seconded the motion. The board agreed. The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Prepared by:

Valerie Pilkerton
Senior Administrative Coordinator, St. Mary's County Department of Aging