

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting  
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland  
Monday, May 21, 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, Sam Brown, Vicki Brown, Mary Ruth Horton, Florence Lanham, David H. Mattingly

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

**Guests:** Dr. Isenhower, Maryland Health Department

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mary Ruth, and was seconded by Sam Brown; the Commission agreed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve March 2007 meeting minutes was made by Sam Brown, and was seconded by Florence Lanham; the Commission agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**County Budget Hearing**

- Sherrie St. Clair attended the County Budget hearing on April 24, 2007 where she presented a letter, which she shared with the Commission last month, regarding the budget for senior transportation and senior housing to the Board of County Commissioners.

**Update on Tri-County Commission on Aging meeting**

- Sherrie St. Clair and Mary Ruth Horton voiced their appreciation to all the commission members and Department of Aging employees for attending and participating in this event making the event a great success.
- At the end of the Transportation portion of the meeting, attendees were asked to vote on a list of the issues regarding transportation. Mary Ruth Horton tabulated the votes and the consensus of the vote is listed below in order from most votes to least.
  - 1) Increase funding
  - 2) Get a State Plan for volunteer insurance
  - 3) Establish a clearinghouse of providers
  - 4) Expand medical out of county services
  - 5) Provide more education on system use
  - 6) Create a Mobility Coordinator position
  - 7) Increase SSTAP service
  - 8) Support local transportation budget

**Charlotte Hall Master Plan Update:**

- There is no new information at this time.

#### **St. Mary's College Report Update**

- There is no new information regarding the report from St. Mary's College anthropology class regarding senior transportation issues in St. Mary's County. Professor Bill Roberts is out of town at this time so the Department of Aging is waiting his return for more information.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **New Beginning – Transportation Article & STS Survey**

- In the most recent edition of the New Beginning newsletter there was an article on transportation which was accompanied by a STS Bus Transportation Survey. The survey is going to be used to obtain information on improving the STS Bus transportation service, as well the results will be forwarded from Jacquie Fournier to the Department of Aging
- Mary Ruth Horton recommended in addition to the surveys that were dispersed in the newsletter the Transportation Survey page should be made available at all the centers as well as given to the Meals on Wheels participants via the drivers. Sam Brown suggested making the Transportation Surveys available at the Library as well.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Budget Update**

- Three items in the Department of Aging budget submission, which had the potential of being cut from the budget, were discussed at one of the budget work sessions last week. The first item being a portion of RSVP Grant in the amount of \$10,859, which the Board of County Commissioners decided to continue funding. This portion of the RSVP grant is related to salaries and benefits, an amount of money meant to support the volunteers.
- The second item being the additional Medical Adult Day subsidy needed of \$17,000 for transportation costs.
- The third item being an Americorp position that was eliminated from the original request in the amount of \$2,885 which will now be supported.

#### **Departmental Status Update:**

- The Department of Aging status report for April should be available by the end of May.

#### **Staff Changes:**

- The Department of Aging has completed interviews for the two vacant Home and Community Based Services Program Coordinator positions, and are very close to filling those two positions – hopefully by the end of May.
- The Department of Aging has conducted second interviews for the vacant Home and Community Based Services Program Manager position, and are waiting on reference information before a final decision can be made. Again, hopefully the position will be filled by the end of May.

#### **LEA Day**

- The event was a great success. There was an impressive coordination effort between the Department of Aging staff and the Public Information Office and other departments within the county government.

#### **Renovations to the Garvey Center**

- The tile is being laid in the lunch room, which is now being referred to as the 'Great Room', and the crew plan to begin with laying the carpet next week.

- There is still a concern over the parking situation at the Garvey Center. With the construction of the new building in the lot next to the Garvey center, once the building is finished there is insufficient parking for two office buildings, let alone adequate parking for the senior center. Vicki Brown recommended using the empty fields on the other side of Leonard Hall Dr. to create a new parking lot to accommodate the additional need for parking spaces. Lori Jennings-Harris has been talking with George Erichsen, Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation, and Mr. Erichsen is conscientious to the situation and understands the Department of Aging senior centers' need for parking spaces for seniors. Mary Ruth Horton recommended designating with signs, at a minimum, the front spaces, along the walkway, as 'Senior Parking Only'.

#### **Additional Remarks**

- At the next Department of Aging all staff meeting in June, Michelle Lilly will be attending to do a presentation for the employees on Emergency Preparedness and how to put together an emergency kit. The Department of Public Safety is working on emergency kits or information on emergency kit preparation to have available for seniors
- Dr. Icenhower, Health Officer for the Health Department, joined our meeting as a guest and spoke shortly about how the Health Department and the Department of can work together to improve transportation for seniors.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on June 25, 2007, at 12 Noon, at the Garvey Senior Center.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Sam Brown made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Florence Lanham seconded the motion. The Commission agreed. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Prepared by:  
Dana DiGregorio  
Sr. Administrative Coordinator