

**Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting  
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland  
Monday, May 22, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PRESENT**

**COA Members:** Daniel Hinz, Mary Ruth Horton, Ardith Young, Mary Ann Grusholt, Pat Myers, Sherrie St. Clair, Maureen McCarthy-Ault, Florence Lanham and Kitty Turner

**Department of Aging Staff:** Julie VanOrden Jayne Hunsinger, and Valerie Pilkerton.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Ardith Young to approve the minutes 04-24-2006 with one change, and was seconded by Mary Ruth Horton. The board agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Senior Tax Credit Status:**

Ms. Horton stated there has been no action since the April Commission on Aging meeting. The status of the amended senior tax credit bill, which increases the sunset provision from 3 years to 5 years has been passed. It is officially changed to 5 years. Ms. Horton and Ms. Myers will be working with Senator Dyson, our Delegates, and our County Commissioners and will keep the citizens up to date on any changes. Mr. Hinz thanked Ms. Horton and Ms. Myers for their hard work and dedication to the Senior Tax Credit Initiative.

**Proposed Northern Senior Housing Status:**

Pat Myers stated that in the April minutes we announced that a meeting was going to be held on May 4, at 5:30 p.m. at the Northern Senior Center regarding the proposed Northern Senior Housing. This was cancelled, and a new date has not been decided on at this time. Recreation & Parks is waiting on the design from the consultants from our last meeting on how it will be laid out. 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**

Julie VanOrden stated that a staff meeting was scheduled this past Friday with Mr. Forrest as our guest speaker. Mr. Forrest had to cancel the meeting due to important issues that arose at the Leonardtown High School on Friday. The meeting will be rescheduled for this week.

**Outreach: DOA & COA Roles**

Ms. Horton stated that at last month's meeting, Julie VanOrden gave a presentation to explain to COA what the Home and Community Based Services Division's responsibilities are.

Ms. VanOrden told the COA that she and a group go out to make presentation to the community. The question came up regarding a representative from the Commission on Aging attending with Department of Aging staff to make the presentations throughout the community. COA had suggested they would like to do their own separate outreach. Ms. Horton expressed the forums are a form of outreach provided by the COA. Ms. Horton stated that having two things going out stating the same information regarding COA would not have a significant benefit for the community. We should have more uniformed presentations to the community and the COA and DoA should work together to achieve community awareness. Ms. Horton stated that we need to work on how to reach more citizens regarding the third forum. Ms. VanOrden stated that when DoA goes out to do these presentations it's not just targeting the seniors, but people that deal with seniors such as caregivers and corporations. Mr. Hinz stated he thought Ms. VanOrden's idea to target the working people who care for our seniors is a great idea.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Budget Public Hearing Testimony Report**

Ms. Horton stated she did go to the budget public hearing and covered all the issues that were discussed at our last meeting. She requested that the requested positions be put back in the budget. She has not heard any news in regards to the finalization of the budget hearing.

### **Current Budget Status**

Julie VanOrden has no status on the Budget Hearing at this time. The Board of Commissioners will sign the budget tomorrow at their meeting.

### **Program Emphasis Spotlight: (Discussion on Senior Citizen Housing Advocacy)**

A discussion was held on senior housing issues and how COA and the Department of Aging can advocate for residents of senior housing. As guests of the COA a group of St. Mary's County Senior Citizen Residents identified certain issues they felt needed to be addressed and were seeking advice from the Department of Aging and the Commission on Aging for guidance. Julie VanOrden stated that the Department of Aging has money set aside for seniors in need of grab bars and other medical essentials needs that they can't supply themselves. Ms. Horton stated that she is going to get in contact with the Fire Department and have them come out and make sure that everything is safe in case of a fire. Jayne Hunsinger stated that Jane Loughren, Vice Chair of the Hazard Commission might be able to help in this situation and she supplied her email address. Ms. VanOrden stated that they can contact the St. Mary's County Housing Authority, Ms. Cynthia Phillips and the St. Mary's County Land Use & Growth Management and they would be able to supply them with rules, regulations and the building codes. Ms. VanOrden offered to do the mediation referral and she will provide them with the number of Legal Aid. Ms. Horton suggested that if things are not resolved by the time COA has their third forum to come to the forum and let COA know.

### **COA Meeting Time**

Mr. Hinz stated that Kathy Mather gave him the only time available for the COA meeting to be held in Rm 1 is at 12:00 to 2:00. The meeting will officially be from 12:00 to 1:30. COA discussed the morning and other locations. Motion was made by Kitty Turner to approve the new meeting time for COA be 12:00 to 2:00, and was seconded by Maureen McCarthy-Ault. The board agreed.

## **DOA ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Meal Program Monthly Status Report Numbers**

Julie VanOrden gave the report for April's meal evaluation and explained the process. She stated that 724 congregate meals were served in the centers for the month of April. There were 236 clients that received home delivered meals, 98 clients received hot meals and the other

138 received frozen meals. There were 3 new clients and 17 clients taken off for various reasons for the month of April. There is no Meals on Wheels waiting list.

### **Program Updates**

Ms. VanOrden stated that the Aging in Place Initiative Group will meet at the Loffler Senior Center on May 31, 2006. Ardith Young from the Sunshine Group will be their guest speaker.

### **Staff Changes**

Ms. VanOrden stated the Social Worker position for the Ripple Medical Adult Day Services Center has been filled by Sonia Perez. The RSVP Program Manager position has been filled by Jayne Hunsinger. The Operations Manager at the Loffler Senior Center has been filled by Mary Ann Thompson. The Senior Program Specialist at the Loffler Senior Center has been advertised and interviews are underway. We would like to welcome our new employees to the Department of Aging.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Medical Adult Day Services**

Ms. VanOrden stated we have 54 enrolled in April with an average daily attendance of 36. Four new clients have been added in April.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ◆ Daniel Hinz stated the TRIAD is holding a seminar on Identity Theft Preventions at Cedar Lane Apartments on June 30, 2006.
- ◆ Pat Myers stated the Northern Senior Center is holding their first Anniversary on June 14, 2006 from 11:00 to 2:00.
- ◆ The Commission on Aging thanked Ardith Young for her dedication and announced that this is her last meeting. Ms. Young is moving.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on June 26, 2006 at 12:00. Ardith Young moved to adjourn the meeting and Mary Ruth Horton seconded the motion. The board agreed. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Prepared by:

Valerie Pilkerton

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