

Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting

Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland

Monday, August 25, 2008

**CALL TO ORDER**

Start Time: 1:05 p.m.

Location: Garvey Senior Activity Center, Leonardtown, MD

Chaired By: Kathie Reich, Chairperson

**PRESENT**

**COA Members:** Sam Brown, Florence Lanham, Elfreda Mathis, Kathie Reich, Sheral St. Clair, Sandra Wheeler

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

**ABSENT**

**COA Members:** Vicki Brown, David H. Mattingly, Patricia Woodburn

**Department of Aging:** Jennie Page, Deputy Director

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve agenda was made by Florence Lanham and was seconded by Sandra Wheeler; the Commission agreed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve July 2008 meeting minutes with corrections was made by Sandra Wheeler, and was seconded by Sam Brown; the Commission agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center Capital Improvement Project:**

· Kathie Reich and Sandra Wheeler composed a letter to go to the Board of County Commissioners, seeking funding for a portion of the improvements needed for Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center. Kathie Reich provided the Commission members with a copy of the letter submitted to the Board of County Commissioners.

- Lori Jennings-Harris noted the Board of County Commissioners is planning on having one or more of the Commissioners and possibly John Savich, the County Administrator, attend a future Commission on Aging meeting to address this issue.

#### **Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center Transportation:**

- Lori Jennings-Harris continues to work with the Department of Public Works & Transportation regarding the recurring transportation issues. A meeting with the Transportation Manager is planned for this week to discuss the concerns that continue to surface.

#### **Update on Friends of Ripple Projects:**

- Sam Brown thanked all those who have supported and become involved with the Friends of Ripple Group.
- The group has become incorporated in Maryland and is working on filing the 1023 (IRS Package) paperwork to become a tax exempt entity.
- The ButterBraid Fund-raiser was a huge success. The Friends of Ripple raised over \$1000.
- The Friends of Ripple group is planning a Quilt Raffle; tickets will be available in September, 2008.

#### **St. Mary's Nursing Center:**

- Lori Jennings-Harris stated that Mr. Don Lewis, Director for the St. Mary's Nursing Center, paid a visit to the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center. Lori Jennings-Harris has a meeting scheduled with Mr. Lewis for this week.
- Kathie Reich suggested that Don Lewis attend a future Commission On Aging meeting to discuss the problems that are going on at the nursing center as related to the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center and the senior population the Commission represents. Lori Jennings-Harris stated she would extend the invitation to Mr. Lewis.

#### **Department of Aging – Image and Education:**

- The Department is still planning and preparing for the "Department of Aging Road Show". The Department is still working on a different name for the event. Department staff are preparing a slideshow and planning to visit many areas of the county to educate older adults and their families about the Department. The Department will recruit volunteers, center participants and service recipients, to assist the Department in its efforts to educate the community about the Department's programs and services.

#### **Department of Aging Website:**

- At the last Commission meeting, it was noted there was an error on the County's web site under the Commission on Aging's web page. Dana DiGregorio

contacted the Public Information Office and arranged to have the web page corrected.

· The Media Relations Division of the Department of Aging is working on updating and refining the Department of Aging web site to make it more reader and user friendly.

#### **Food Services Contract:**

· The food services contract was awarded to FitzVogt. The new food service provider is working out well. The Department has received very positive feedback from congregate meals participants.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Appointments to Commission On Aging:**

· Applications for appointment to a commission are brought to the Board of County Commissioners for appointment in June and December. A participant at the Garvey Senior Activity Center was encouraged to submit an application for appointment to the Commission On Aging in June, but due to an administrative error, her request for appointment was declined. The Commission will encourage this person to reapply for appointment in December.

· Sandra Wheeler noted that at the last Board of County Commissioner's Public Meeting, they were discussing housing in St. Mary's County and potentially waiving the 'impact fees' contractors must pay. Sandra Wheeler suggested that the Commission submit a letter to the Board of County Commissioners supporting the waiver of impact fees for contractors working on Senior Housing.

#### **DIRECTORS REPORT**

· **Human Services Council:** The Council is working toward a strategic plan which will address steps the council will take on planning the direction for the Department of Human Services.

· **Conserving Energy:** The Department of Aging, as well as the entire St. Mary's County Government, is working toward conserving energy in any way possible, everything from turning off lights when a person is not in their office to carpooling when possible.

#### **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

· There are no personnel changes at this time.

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#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

· Elfreda Mathis asked that it be clarified that it is 'Department of Aging' and 'Commission On Aging'.

· Sheral St. Clair stated she submitted an application to the Board of County Commissioners for appointment to the St. Mary's County Human Services Council. Her request for appointment was declined. She noted the meetings are open to the public and that she was invited to attend the meetings as a guest.

· After a brief discussion regarding the funding for, and the number of participants at the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center, Lori Jennings-Harris recommended Rebecca Kessler, Manager for Home and Community Based Services, and Stacie Prinkey, Client Account Specialist, attend the next Commission On Aging meeting to answer these questions and provide additional information on the matter.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 22 at 1:00 p.m. at the Garvey Senior Activity Center.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Sam Brown made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Sheral St. Clair seconded the motion. The Commission agreed. The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator