

Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland
Monday, September 28, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Start Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Garvey Senior Activity Center, Leonardtown, MD
Chaired By: Elfreda Mathis, Vice - Chair

PRESENT

COA Members: Sam Brown, Vicki Brown, Claudia Knowlton, Florence Lanham, Elfreda Mathis, Peggy Reardon, Sheral St. Clair, Sandra Wheeler

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

Guests: Sithy McGraw

ABSENT

COA Members: Kathie Reich

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Peggy Reardon and was seconded by Sheral St. Clair; all were in favor and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the August 2009 meeting minutes with one correction was made by Sandra Wheeler and was seconded by Sheral St. Clair; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Correction: Page 2, in the "Response to Letter of Interest...", fourth bullet, change "next COA meeting" to "October COA Meeting".

OLD BUSINESS

Review/Self Evaluation/Mission of Commission On Aging (COA):

- At last months meeting the Commission members briefly discussed the self review results. Sandra Wheeler suggested that the members get together and review and revise the mission statement and bring a draft to the next meeting for all the Commission members to review.
- This item was tabled until certain members of the Commission could meet and review the current mission statement and create a draft of a new mission statement. This item will be discussed at the October Commission On Aging meeting.

Responses to Letter of Interest on Privatization of the Ripple Center:

- The Department of Aging received 3 responses to the request for "Letters of Interest" regarding the potential privatization of the Medical Adult Day Service Program (MADS Program). Lori Jennings-Harris – Director Department of Aging, Rebecca Kessler – Home and Community Based Services Manager, John Savich – County Administrator, and Elaine Kramer – CFO for St. Mary's County, met with the interested parties to perform initial interviews.
- A set of second interviews have been scheduled for September 30, 2009 and October 7, 2009. These second interviews will be used to determine if the candidates are still interested in taking over the MADS program, and allow the candidates to visit the center to see what the facility is like.
- The Commission discussed the effect of privatizing the Medical Adult Day Services to not only participants and their families, but to the center staff, the administrative staff and other community members. Claudia Knowlton asked if a study had been done or would be done to determine what the loss of the MADS Program would do to the community.
- Elfreda Mathis asked what the role of the Commission on Aging would be after the privatization was complete? Lori Jennings-Harris stated that it would depend on the

organization that took over the MADS program and their willingness to continue communications and a working relationship with the Commission On Aging.

Letter to Board of County Commissioners (inviting them to attend COA meeting):

- Sandra Wheeler created a draft of a letter to go to the Board of County Commissioners inviting them to the October 26th Commission On Aging meeting. Sandra Wheeler read the draft to the Commission members. All present Commission members agreed to send the letter of invitation to the Board of County Commissioners.
- Commission members will come up with questions and points of discussion that they would like to present to the Board of County Commissioners and forward to Kathie Reich for review.

Friends of Ripple Projects:

- The 5K Run Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 18, 2009. The Friends of Ripple have signed up five sponsors for the event and have 70 – 80 pre registered runners, but are hoping for double that on race day.

2009 Tri-County Commission On Aging Meeting:

- St. Mary's County is due to host the Tri-County Commission On Aging Meeting. The Commission discussed ideas for topics of discussion for the Tri-County Commission On Aging Meeting. Suggested Topics are: Women's Topics, Health Care Reform, Aging in Place, and Caregivers.
- Dana DiGregorio will look into reserving the Northern Senior Activity Center in May for the event. Tentative dates are May 4th or May 11th, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

Selection of Nominating Committee

- The Commission discussed selecting a nominating committee. Commission members in attendance elected to nominate officers. Elfreda Mathis was nominated for the office of Chair, Claudia Knowlton was nominated to the office of Vice Chair, and Sandra Wheeler was nominated for a second term as Corresponding Secretary. Motion to approve the 2010 Commission On Aging officers was made by Peggy Reardon and was seconded by Sheral St. Clair; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Commission Vacancy

- To fill the vacancy on the Commission On Aging, Dana DiGregorio will contact the County Administrators Office to obtain applications from potential Commission On Aging members for the current Commission On Aging officers to review for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Oakley Nutrition Site:

- At this time, due to some recent personnel changes, the Department of Aging will be consolidating the Oakley Nutrition Site with the Garvey Senior Activity Center.

Advertising for Ripple 5K Run/Walk:

- Advertising for the Ripple 5KRun Walk is ongoing it is currently posted on the St. Mary's County Department of Aging web site, the "Senior Spot Light" or the "This and That" section of the Enterprise Newspaper, in the County Times, on the BayNet, on the SMECO community calendar online, and on SOMD.com.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

- No changes this month.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- Elfreda Mathis noted that funeral services were held for Commission On Aging Member Patricia Woodburn on Thursday September 24, 2009.
- Gloria Lawlah, Secretary for the Maryland Department of Aging, will be visiting St. Mary's County on Tuesday, September 29, 2009. Secretary Lawlah will be visiting our new congregate meal site at Newtowne Village, Chesapeake Shores and St. Mary's Nursing Center to view St. Mary's County's use of stimulus money received.

- Peggy Reardon noted that St. Mary's Nursing Center Administrator, Beverly Stickles, would like to attend the December or January Commission On Aging Meeting to give an update on the upgrades and improvements to the Nursing Center. Dana DiGregorio will follow up with Beverly Stickles to schedule.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 26, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Garvey Senior Activity Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Sam Brown and was seconded by Sheral St. Clair; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator