

Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland
Monday, October 22, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

Start Time: 12:00 p.m.
Location: Garvey Senior Center – Room 1, Leonardtown, MD
Chaired By: Sheral St. Clair, Chairperson

PRESENT

COA Members: Sheral St. Clair, Kathie Reich, Sam Brown, Florance Lanham, Elfreda Mathis,

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

Guests: Jacqueline Fournier, Supervisor – DPW&T, Transportation; Beverly Stickles, Executive Director – Cedar Lane Apartments; Janice Pruett, Move-In Coordinator – Cedar Lane Apartments.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Kathie Reich, and was seconded by Sam Brown; the Commission agreed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve September 2007 meeting minutes with corrections was made by Kathie Reich, and was seconded by Sam Brown; the Commission agreed.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jacqueline Fournier, Transportation Supervisor, DPW & T:

- Jacqueline Fournier, Transportation Manager for the Transportation Division of St. Mary's County, attended the meeting and explained the results of the Transportation Survey published in the May/June edition of the New Beginning Newsletter. The Transportation Department received 43 responses to the questionnaire, 11 of which already use the STS bus system and did not have any issues with the bus system. Of the rest of the responses received, participants in the survey either do not use the system because they have alternate transportation (i.e. family or friends who help transport them) or do not use the STS system because the stops are too far from their place of residence, too far to walk to or STS service does not service their area. Jacqueline Fournier noted a few other issues that were determined by the survey, such as county residents not knowing what other ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) services STS offers, the times that residents are needing transportation, and the need for drivers with CDL licenses. In addition there is not enough funding for the program

- thru state and federal funding, so the Transportation Department is applying for several grants to help supplement the funding.
- Kathie Reich asked about a comment from the survey results “make bus schedules available at the stores and supermarkets.” Jacqueline Fournier stated that most stores are specific about if and where schedules may be posted. She also noted that all drives carry schedules and that a person can contact STS to have a schedule mailed to them.
 - Elfreda Mathis suggested doing a survey of the businesses to find out their needs and expectations of public transportation for their customers and employees.
 - Sam Brown suggested approaching local clubs and community organizations to help raise funds for the purchase of additional and new vehicles specifically for the Senior Centers.

Beverly Stickles, Executive Director – St. Mary’s Home for the Elderly, Cedar Lane Apartments:

- Beverly Stickles, Executive Director – Cedar Lane Apartments, attended this meeting to review rental fees determination and eligibility, as well as answer any questions of the Commission on Aging. Beverly Stickles began with an overview of Cedar Lane Apartments. A discussion followed regarding the number of apartments, services offered, amenities, ‘fee for service’ program, rent fees, and qualifications and eligibility of residents.

OLD BUSINESS

Transportation Survey Discussion:

- This item was discussed during Jacque Fournier’s presentation.

Christmas in April – Ripple:

- Sherie St. Clair spoke with Maryann Chasen on October 22, 2007 about the Ripple Center applying for Christmas in April to assist with the building of an exterior ramp and deck for the participants. Maryann Chasen was familiar with the Ripple project and suggested that the Ripple Center submit an application for this project.

Senior Tax Credit Update:

- This item will be discussed at a future meeting. Sandra Wheeler, Commission on Aging member who would have presented this information, was unable to attend the meeting today and was unable to provide an update.

Health Fair – October 26, 2007:

- The Department of Aging will be hosting a Community Health Fair on Friday October 26, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Loffler Senior Center. Sherie St. Clair requested that the Commission on Aging members plan to attend the Community Health Fair

Action Item List from August Meeting:

- At the August meeting of the Commission on Aging, Kathie Reich presented the Commission members with an Action Item List. It listed all of the issue items that

came up during the Senior Forum that the Commission on Aging, and several St. Mary's County Government Offices, were to work on. The Commission reviewed this list one by one, and determined if these items were being worked on or needed to be revisited.

NEW BUSINESS

New Budget Cycle Underway:

- The New Budget Cycle is underway.

CALVEX Drills:

- Lori Jennings-Harris has been attending the CALVEX Drills, trainings and drills to help the tri-county area be prepared in case of emergency at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Facility, sponsored by the Department of Public Safety.

Training for Boards, Committees and Commissions Chairpersons and County Staff:

- Sherie St. Clair and Dana DiGregorio will be attending a training for Boards, Committees, Commission Chairpersons and County Staff on November 3, 2007. They will provide the Commission with an update next month.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NCOA Report:

- Lori Jennings-Harris handed out a report from the National Council on Aging.

Presentations at Future Commission Meetings:

- Lori Jennings-Harris would like to have a staff member and/or members of other departments and agencies provide presentations at COA meetings.

Partnership with AARP:

- The Department of Aging has entered into a partnership with AARP for the upcoming tax season. AARP will have IRS trained tax preparers at each of the centers during the tax season to assist seniors with their tax preparation needs. AARP will provide all the materials needed including laptops and all forms; the Department will be providing the space.

New Beginning Article:

- On the front page of the November/December edition of the New Beginning Newsletter is an article that summarizes all the information received at the Public Meetings held by the Department of Aging.

Transportation Report Update:

- There is still no report available, but Professor Bill Roberts has promised to have it for the Department of Aging soon.

Personnel Update:

- The Department of Aging has hired Betty Jean Wathen as the new Senior Office Specialist for the Loffler Senior Center.
- The Department of Aging has hired Stacie Prinkey as the new Client Account Specialist for the Home and Community Based Services Department.

Additional Comments

- Sam Brown asked if there had been any progress on the Friends of Ripple project since it had been handed over to Sonia Perez, Social Worker at the Ripple Center. Lori Jennings-Harris stated that there has been no official meeting of a group, but Sonia has started contacting many of the interested parties and is trying to plan a first meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on November 26, 2007, at 12 Noon, at the Garvey Senior Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Kathie Reich made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Elfreda Mathis seconded the motion. The Commission agreed. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator