

Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting

Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland

Monday, October 27, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

Start Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Garvey Senior Activity Center, Leonardtown, MD

Chaired By: Kathie Reich, Chairperson

PRESENT

COA Members: Sam Brown, Vivki Brown, Elfreda Mathis, Kathie Reich, Sandra Wheeler, Patricia Woodburn

Department of Aging Staff: Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Stacie Prinkey, Client Account Specialist

ABSENT

COA Members: Florence Lanham, David H. Mattingly, Sheral St. Clair

Department of Aging: Jennie Page, Deputy Director; Dana DiGregorio, Sr. Administrative Coordinator

GUESTS

Francis Jack Russell, Commissioner President – St. Mary's County Board of County commissioners

John Savich, County Administrator – St. Mary's County Government

Bob Schaller, Director – Department of Economic and Community Development

Hans Welch, Business Development Manager - Department of Economic and Community Development

Rebecca Kessler, Manager – Home and Community Based Services Division, Department of Aging

Georgia Nelson, Volunteer – Friends of Ripple

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda was made by Sandra Wheeler and was seconded by Patricia Woodburn; all were in favor and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve August 2008 meeting minutes with corrections was made by Sam Brown, and was seconded by Patricia Woodburn; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GUEST SREAKER

Rebecca Kessler, Manager – Home and Community Based Services Division

- Rebecca Kessler, Manager – Home and Community Based Services Division, and Stacie Prinkey, Client Account Specialist, attended the Commission on Aging meeting to provide the Commission with information about the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center.
- Rebecca Kessler answered questions and provided brochures and written information to the Commission members and guests in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center Capital Improvement Project:

- Kathie Reich addressed concerns regarding the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center Capital Improvement Project funds not being approved.
- Commissioner President, Jack Russell spoke to the Commission On aging voicing the Board of County Commissioners' concerns regarding the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center and agreed that the Board of County Commissioners would re-review the request for funds for the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center Capital Improvement Project in the 2010 budget cycle.
- John Savich, County Administrator, spoke briefly on costs of the facility, an estimated supplement of \$500,000.00 with almost half going to transportation, and the potential of changing locations of the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center to an alternate site to lower the Capital Improvement costs and potentially the operating costs of the center. Mr. Savich also spoke regarding financial support from local and federal governments. Mr. Savich put forth the question, "How can we reduce costs, increase revenue, and possibly eliminate the need to renovate the facility in order to keep the center and the services going, and still reduce costs?"
- Patricia Woodburn noted the importance of updating the electrical system at the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center, especially in the kitchen, for the daily running and safety of the center participants and staff.
- Rebecca Kessler noted that St. Mary's County Department of Building Services has been to the center and has educated staff regarding electrical ability of the building, and how to avoid electrical problems until an upgrade has been done.

- Mr. Savich suggested researching non-profit organizations in the community to partner with to optimize transportation and other services. Mr. Savich also noted that the Human Services Council should be utilized for help with answering some of the questions and issues at hand, regarding transportation.

Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Center Transportation:

- Sam Brown noted that \$210,000.00 of that budget go directly to transportation of participants and discussed some of the transportation issues that the participants face.
- Lori Jennings-Harris spoke to the Commission about meetings between Department of Aging staff and St. Mary's Transit System regarding transportation costs, reducing transportation costs and transportation issues that occur regularly. Ms. Jennings-Harris noted that this is an ongoing project and the Department of Aging will continue to work with the Department of Public Works and Transportation.
- Lori Jennings-Harris spoke on transportation costs and cutting costs, and noted that this is something the Department of Aging and the Commission On Aging need to continue working on.

Update on Friends of Ripple Projects:

- Georgia Nelson, volunteer and Friends of Ripple Chairperson, gave the Commission an update on the Friends of Ripple group. The Friends of Ripple sponsors fundraising events to raise money to help the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center. Ms. Nelson noted that Friends of Ripple meet the first Tuesday of every month, at 3:00 p.m. at the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center in Hollywood Maryland.
- Sam Brown stated that over \$1000.00 has been donated back to the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center in bingo prizes, birthday prizes, decorations for special events, a refrigerator for staff to use, and a new Christmas tree. Mr. Brown also stated that the goal of the Friends of Ripple Group is not only to facilitate the center but to promote and educate the community about the Vivian Ripple Medical Adult Day Service Center.

St. Mary's Nursing Center:

- The Commission wanted to know who owned the St. Mary's Nursing Center. John Savich stated earlier in the meeting that the land and the building are owned by the county, but the business is privately owned.

Department of Aging – Image and Education:

- Lori Jennings-Harris stated that the Department of Aging is continuing to update and make changes. The Department of Aging website and the New Beginning Newsletter both have new looks. The Department is also looking into advertising through T.V. commercials and several local publications.

Environmental Impact Fee/Victory Housing/Senior Housing:

Guest Speaker: Bob Schaller, Director – Department of Economic and Community Development and Hans Welch, Business Manager - Department of Economic and Community Development

- Bob Schaller, Director – Department of Economic and Community Development, and Hans Welch, Business Manager - Department of Economic and Community Development, spoke to the Commission On Aging about a project in the works for an affordable Senior Housing Facility. Mr. Schaller and Mr. Welch distributed maps and information regarding the placement and history of the project. At this time, the Department of Economic and Community Development is seeking count and federal funding for this project.
- Bob Schaller and Hans Welch answered questions and provided written information to the Commission members and guests in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

- No New Business

DIRECTORS REPORT

- **Community Health Fair:** Held on Friday, October 24, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., was a huge success. Over 600 people attended this event.
- **Human Services Council:** The next Human Services Council meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room located at the St. Mary's Airport in Hollywood Maryland.
- **Advocacy Training:** There will be an Advocacy Training sponsored by the Maryland Department of Aging, on Wednesday, October 26, 2008 at the Prince Frederick County Courthouse Square.
- **Nutrition Program:** The Department of Aging started with a new food provider several months ago. The Department is still receiving positive feedback from recipients. A survey will be going out soon to all Home Delivered Meals recipients to get additional feedback.
- **Conservation Efforts:** The Department of Aging is making every effort to conserve whenever possible. Turning off lights when rooms are unoccupied, shutting down electronics, carpooling, using county vehicles when available are just a few examples.
- **Budget Cuts:** There will be budget cuts for the next fiscal year, but the Department is unsure just how much will be cut from the state budget. Senior Housing will be cut \$290,000.00, Senior Information and Assistance will be cut \$40,500.00, I.T. will be cut \$20,052.00, and 'Fund Swap' will be cut \$64,000.00. Those figures are definite and there could be additional cuts.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

- There are no personnel changes at this time.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- Rebecca F=Kessler advised the Commission that there will be a 'Caregiver breakfast' on November 18, 2008 at the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center in Leonardtown Maryland, starting at 8:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 24,2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Garvey Senior Activity Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Sam Brown made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Patricia Woodburn seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m. p.m.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator