

MEETING MINUTES
ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
February 24, 2014

CALL TO ORDER – The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. (This is a recorded meeting).

ROLL CALL – Members present were Norma Pipkin, Chair, Deborah Johnstone, Janet Kellam, Samantha Lane, Bettie Broadhurst, Juanita Nether, Linda Fry and Cindy Williams. Department of Aging & Human Services staff members present were Lori Jennings-Harris, Director and Beth Sandberg, Senior Administrative Coordinator.

ABSENT – Mr. Gail Murdock was absent, and Ms. Diane Harding was excused.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Motion to approve the January 27, 2014 minutes was made by Ms. Kellam and seconded by Ms. Nether, the motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

Ms. Williams arrived to the meeting after voting had commenced on the minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER – Linda Fry

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

- Outreach Committee – Bettie Broadhurst

Ms. Broadhurst has been working on outreach to the 7th District. Ms. Broadhurst spoke to Sam Brown, a former Commission on Aging member, who indicated the best places to communicate are the churches, rescue squads and fire departments. Ms. Broadhurst was informed the fire department does not have a newsletter, but they do have a Facebook page and a website. Mrs. Hayden indicated they would be more than happy to advertise. Mrs. Hayden also mentioned the 7th District Optimist Club. Ms. Pipkin will help make the connection with the President of the Optimist Club. Mrs. Broadhurst called Christ Church and Holy Angels Church and they will be glad to market for the Commission by putting information on their bulletin board and in their program. Ms. Broadhurst called All Saints, but there was no answer and is having trouble finding information for Sacred Heart. We are waiting until after the Tri-County Commission on Aging meeting to schedule the Road Show. It appears June 11th or 12th at 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. are the best date/time. The Commission will meet at the American Legion Hall in the 7th District. The Commission will provide coffee and cookies. Ms. Broadhurst will meet with Jennifer Stone to confirm plans. Ms. Broadhurst suggested COA members travel with Jennifer Stone, Community Programs and Outreach Division Manager, while doing presentations on the Department of Aging & Human Services. Ms. Broadhurst finds a lot of people do not know what is offered at the Senior Activity Centers and would like to get the word out about the innovative things going on at the centers. The criteria for participation at the Senior Activity Centers are the consumer needs to be a minimum of fifty (50) years and sixty (60) years or older for the meals programs.

COMMITTEE REPORT –

- Ms. Fry attended the Woman's Club meeting and the Public Health Officer, Dr. Brewster, was in attendance. They discussed getting St. Mary's healthy. Ms. Broadhurst indicated the program looks a lot like the Commission on Aging's Senior Agenda - A Community for a Lifetime. The Healthy St. Mary's Coalition came about when the Human Services Council and Community Health Advisory Committee were combined. The groups involve community members, leaders of departments and agencies. It is open to anyone who has an interest in the focus areas of supporting the health of St. Mary's. COA can get a report from Department of Aging. Ms. Fry thought this was something the COA may want to get involved in since we are seniors. This group is working on Behavioral Health. As they have these meetings, there is usually input from the community (including mental health and substance abuse) as to what is needed. From that, they develop action teams.

DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS –

- Resolution – The Senior Agenda resolution has been adopted. There was a very nice article on the Baynet.com website. We are the third county in the State, including Montgomery and Charles to adopt a resolution. We are leaders.
- Internet Training – Ms. Pipkin spoke to Carolyn Miller from St. Joseph's Community Center and the internet training was set up at the Northern Senior Activity Center. The training was successful. Training was held in the morning and the room was full of participants. The trainers were very patient, thorough, and had good handouts. Ms. Pipkin indicated there was a participant in the training who was over 80 years old. Someone expressed a need, the need was met over and above anything Ms. Pipkin could have ever imagined. Ms. Miller recruited the participants and brought them to the Senior Activity Center. If people request additional training, we can reach out to MDoA to train again. We can do the same thing at the Loffler Senior Activity Center.
- Delegate Bohanan Town Hall Meeting – Ms. Pipkin, Ms. Williams, Ms. Fry and Mr. Murdock attended the meeting. Delegate Bohanan's interest seemed to be in education. When asked about minimum wage, Delegate Bohanan said he has not made a decision on the issue. Delegate Bohanan felt it was a Federal responsibility. He also discussed the balanced budget requirement in Maryland. After the meeting, Ms. Williams and Ms. Pipkin approached Delegate Bohanan about the Garvey Senior Activity Center and he believes there is plenty of money in the County budget for a new building. Delegate Bohanan said we will need to discuss this with the Commissioners and the State would be glad to help.
- Senator Dyson's Letter – After the last meeting, it was determined letters would be sent to our delegates and senators in Annapolis stating our concerns for the Maryland seniors. Senator Dyson responded and indicated he co-sponsored and supported two bills to allow military retirees to keep a larger percentage of their retirement, as well as expanding the currently limited income tax credit for individuals paying long term care insurance premiums.

- New Boards and Officer Training – Ms. Pipkin, Ms. Kellam, Ms. Nether, Ms. Williams and Ms. Fry attended the training. Ms. Pipkin is now certified on the Open Meeting Act.
- Victory Woods – Ms. Pipkin spoke with the manager of Victory Woods on February 24, 2014. On February 20, 2014, Lea Arnold and Jacque Fournier spoke to the residents of Victory Woods and gave them a bus schedule, as well as explained how the bus schedule works. Ms. Arnold volunteered to ride along with the residents to make them feel more comfortable.

DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS –

- Plan for meeting sites and visits – The March meeting will be held at Cedar Lane Apartments. The April meeting will be held at the Northern Senior Activity Center in preparation for the Tri-County Council on Aging meeting. The May meeting will be held at the Garvey Senior Activity Center. In anticipation of its opening, the June meeting will be held at the Autumn Assisted Living at Wildwood.
- Other new business - none

DIRECTOR'S REPORT –

- The Governor's Leadership in Aging Awards is accepting nominations.
- As RSVP volunteers, you may not submit RSVP time sheets for time you have participated in political activities.
- There is a Drug Summit for Parents planned on March 7, 2014 at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Hall starting at 6:30 p.m. This event is through the Department of Aging & Human Services Division. The program will address heroin use, issues and problems in the County. The focus age group is 16-24. We want the community to be aware that drug use is a problem in the county. We will have a number of panelists speaking at our event.
- For the May 15th meeting, the Commission on Aging will need to arrive by 8:00 a.m. The committee will meet at 12:30 p.m. on April 28th to finalize all plans. Make sure you RSVP to the senior activity center or Beth if you are going to have lunch on the 28th.

UPCOMING EVENTS –

- March 20, 2014 - Commission for Women Banquet
- March 27, 2014 - RSVP Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at the James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center at 3:30 p.m.
- May 15, 2014 - Tri-County Commission on Aging Meeting at the Northern Senior Activity Center

RSVP Time Sheets – Please make sure they are signed before you leave.

NEXT MEETING – March 24, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at Cedar Lane Apartments.

ADJOURNMENT –

- Ms. Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:18 p.m. and Ms. Broadhurst seconded. The motion passed by an 8-0 vote.