

MEETING MINUTES
ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
July 28, 2014 1:00 p.m.
****Garvey Senior Activity Center - Leonardtown, MD****

CALL TO ORDER: The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. (This is a recorded meeting).

ROLL CALL: Members present were Bettie Broadhurst, Gail Murdock, Cindy Williams, Linda Fry, Diane Harding and Janet Kellam. Department of Aging & Human Services staff members present were Lori Jennings-Harris, Director and Beth Sandberg, Senior Administrative Coordinator.

ABSENT: Norma Pipkin, Deborah Johnstone, and Juanita Nether were excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the June 23, 2014 minutes was made by Mr. Murdock and seconded by Ms. Williams; the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Outreach Committee - Bettie Broadhurst

De-brief from June 26th Outreach event held at the American Legion in the 7th District.

Ms. Broadhurst expressed the Outreach event was a success. Mr. Murdock noted the attendees asked interesting questions. For the next event, Ms. Williams suggested changing the start time to later in the day. The presentation from Jennifer Stone, Community Programs & Outreach Division Manager, was very helpful and informative for all.

DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS:

Update on Garvey replacement activities. De-brief from July 17th Garvey Group meeting.

Ms. Williams stated the July 17th meeting was well attended and numerous Commission on Aging members were present. The Department of Aging & Human Services provided talking points to the co-leaders. Ms. Kellam noticed the population demographics information did not seem accurate. She contacted one of the co-leaders to explain her concern and the information was then corrected.

Ms. Kellam inquired what the focus will be for the next meeting with the Garvey Group. Ms. Williams indicated the group wanted to hear ideas from Commissioner Morris. Ms. Williams also wanted to find out if the outgoing commissioners can make recommendations to the new commissioners. Commissioner Morris indicated they do. Ms. Broadhurst would like the incoming commissioners to understand the Commission on Aging is a strong advocate for seniors.

The Garvey Group has created a petition, letter to editor, final petition, letter to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, and they intend to contact County officials informally when possible. The group is asking for members' input, requested a volunteer to serve as coordinator for 1st Friday, requested members to create sub-groups, meet with commissioners, and set up a monthly meeting schedule. Members have fabulous and very strong ideas. Many Commission on Aging members are planning to attend the next meeting on July 31st.

DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS:

Transportation Issues - Mr. Murdock inquired about when the County would provide transportation for wheelchair-bound consumers to help get them to doctor appointments. Mr. Murdock is aware of four (4) consumers who are in need. The Health Department provides transportation to doctor appointments for riders on Medical Assistance. STS will help with wheelchair-bound riders. The steps on the bus are too high and pose a problem for some consumers. At the September Commission on Aging meeting, we will invite the following people who provide transportation in the community: Lori Werrell, Director, Health Connections; Debbie Barker, Manager, Department of Aging & Human Services, Senior Rides Program; and Jacque Fournier, STS Transportation Manager or Mary Ann Blankenship, Transportation Supervisor, Department of Public Works & Transportation.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The new and updated website is on the web, which combines Aging & Human Services.

There was a question by one of the attendees at the Outreach event regarding transportation to the Senior Activity Centers. Ms. Jennings-Harris asked the Senior Center Operations Manager to follow up with attendee. Transportation to the Senior Activity Centers is provided by STS. The person who is interested will need to make a request at the center they are interested in attending, and as long as STS can get to the person's home, they will be able to provide transportation.

A consumer had a question/comment about the Oakley nutrition site. The attendance dropped dramatically in 2009; therefore, the Oakley Nutrition Site was consolidated with the Garvey Senior Activity Center. Home delivered meals are provided out of the Garvey Senior Activity Center to people who live in the Oakley area.

The Senior Rides Program has been approved for another year.

The caseworker position has been filled. The need arose when our Waiver program numbers started to increase.

Ms. Williams asked if the County is actively looking for volunteers to be on the Commission on Aging. Beth Sandberg will ask the County Administrator's office if anyone has shown any interest.

NEXT MEETING:

August 25, 2014 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Autumn Assisted Living at Wildewood, California, MD

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, August 11, 2014 - L.I.F.E. registration begins
Tuesday, September 9, 2014 - First fall L.I.F.E. tour
Friday, October 24, 2014 - Health Fair

RSVP TIME SHEETS: Please make sure they are signed before you leave.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m. and Mr. Murdock seconded; the motion passed.