

Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting  
Garvey Center – Leonardtown, Maryland  
Monday, May 24, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PRESENT**

**COA Members:** Bettie Broadhurst, Florence Lanham, Elfreda Mathis, Sheral St. Clair, Sandra Wheeler

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

**ABSENT**

**COA Members:** Sam Brown, Vicki Brown, Claudia Knowlton, Peggy Reardon, Kathie Reich

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda with addition was made by Sheral St. Clair and was seconded by Florence Lanham; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Addition: Under New Business add Update on Commission Member, Peggy Reardon

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the April 2010 meeting minutes with corrections was made by Sheral St. Clair and was seconded by Florence Lanham; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Privatization of Ripple Center Update:**

- The lease agreement between St. Mary's County and El Shaddai for use of the current space for the Ripple Medical Adult Day Program has been signed by the Board of County Commissioners. Signing the lease is the formal action which transfers the Ripple Center from County Government to a private organization. The transition will be effective July 1, 2010.
- El Shaddai has met with the employees of the Medical Adult Day Program and is scheduled to meet with the participants, families, and caregivers to address any questions or concerns they have regarding the transition. El Shaddai is looking forward to maintaining the current program content for the participants, including the Medical Adult Day Program Senior Prom which has already been scheduled for next spring.
- The Department of Aging will continue as the provider of meals for the program (via FitzVogt) and will invoice El Shaddai for the meals. .

**Friends of Ripple Projects:**

- No one available to give a report. Will follow up at the June meeting.

**2009 Tri-County Commission On Aging Meeting Follow-up:**

- The Tri-County Commission On Aging meeting was held on Thursday, April 29, 2010 at the Northern Senior Activity Center from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event topics were well received and the event was well attended.
- Several dignitaries were in attendance: Gloria Lawlah, Secretary, Maryland Department of Aging; Dick Myers, representing Senator Mikulski's Office; Hammad Matin, from Senator Ben Cardin's office; Commissioner Sam Graves, Charles County, attended. There were no St. Mary's County Commissioners present at the meeting.
- Elfreda Mathis went over the comments and suggestions from the comment cards received from participants. The Exercise portion of the program was very well received. Some of the topics that participants would like to see presented are: Results of the 2010 Census, Affordable Housing for Seniors, Legal Aid/Assistance, Advanced Directives/DNR Orders, Financial Planning for Seniors, and Money Management in Later Years After Retirement.

Dana DiGregorio will forward these notes and suggestions on to Charles and Calvert Counties for use in planning of future meetings.

#### **Site Information Visits /Presentations:**

- The Commission will be visiting Chesapeake Shores and Cedar Lane Apartments for a tour of the facilities. The July meeting is scheduled to be at Chesapeake Shores and the September meeting is scheduled to be at Cedar Lane Apartments. The Commission will have a short meeting after the tour of the facility.
- The tour of the Department of Aging sites is rescheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 starting at the Garvey Senior Activity Center at 9:00 a.m. with a meeting to follow at 1:00 p.m. back at the Garvey Senior Activity Center.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Lunch with the Commissioners**

- Lori Jennings-Harris noted that we have a 'full house' registered for the event, approximately 65 people. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2010 from 11:30 to 1:30.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **Recommendations for New Commission On Aging Members:**

- The Commission reviewed applications for potential new members and will provide the Board of County Commissioners with a list of recommendations for appointment to the Commission On Aging. Sandra Wheeler made a motion to recommend all four candidates for appointment, the motion was seconded by Bettie Broadhurst; all were in favor and the motion carried. Dana DiGregorio will forward this information on to the County Administrative Offices.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

##### **American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Fund Video :**

- There was a video published by the Maryland Department of Aging in cooperation with Maryland Public Television to show what the (ARRA) Funds have been used for, part of the video was shot at the new congregate meal site New Towne Village. This video is now available for viewing at [www.youtube.com/user/stateMaryland](http://www.youtube.com/user/stateMaryland). As soon as the Department of Aging obtains a copy of the video it will be available on our web page at [www.stmarysmd.com/aging](http://www.stmarysmd.com/aging).

##### **Department Of Aging on Facebook:**

- The Department of Aging has created a Facebook page and there is now a link on our webpage.

#### **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

- The Office Specialist at the Northern Senior Activity Center is retiring as of June 30. With approval from the County Administrator, The Department of Aging is currently reviewing applications to fill this position.

#### **Additional Comments**

- Sandra Wheeler asked about the new pool at the College of Southern Maryland Leonardtown campus. Lori Jennings-Harris has asked Sherrie Wooldridge, Community Outreach and Program Manager for the Department of Aging, to contact the college and obtain information regarding use of the pool by seniors and community members that are not students of the college. At this time there is no information. Lori will follow-up at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- Sandra Wheeler asked for an update on the Victory Woods Senior Housing Project. Lori Jennings-Harris stated that the Department of Public Works and Transportation is planning to present a plan to the Board of County Commissioners within the next few weeks, and that they hope to have the project completed by fall of 2011. Lori Jennings-Harris will provide the Commission with more up to date information at the next Commission On Aging meeting.

- Elfreda Mathis is now a member of the League of Women Voters and at the most recent meeting they discussed the programs are offered that are targeted to more global issues. One of the issues discussed was the building of a new nursing center in Lexington Park. Elfreda asked if Lori Jennings-Harris would be able to do a presentation on the current senior population and the needs of the seniors.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Garvey Senior Activity Center following a tour of the Department of Aging Senior Activity Centers, the Ripple Center and Nutrition Sites.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made by Sheral St. Clair and was seconded by Sandra Wheeler; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator