

MEETING MINUTES
ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

March 22, 2022

Department of Aging & Human Services Building, 41780 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Dial-In Number: 301-579-7236

Participant Pin: 985097

CALL TO ORDER:

- Carolyn Guy called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

- Ms. Carolyn Guy
- Mr. Gail Murdock
- Ms. Janet Perryman
- Mr. Walter Boswell
- Ms. Catherine Buckler
- Mr. Thomas Ridley
- Ms. Rowena Bossio
- Ms. Marie Bennett
- Ms. Omonigho Olumese
- Department of Aging & Human Services staff members present: Lori Jennings-Harris, Director and Mercedes Jones, Coordinator

ABSENT:

- Ms. Janet Newman
- Ms. Christine Morgan

Approval of Minutes of February 28, 2022.

I move to approve the minutes of February 28, 2022 with changes.

Motion by Gail Murdock, seconded by Marie Bennett, motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Sam Brown, President, A Community That Shares (ACTS) provided information about the organization which provides in-home medical equipment, at no charge, to residents of Southern Maryland.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Homeless Coalition - Carolyn Guy
 - The last meeting was held on March 16. Department of Social Services has funding for families with children who need rental or utility assistance. St. Mary's County Libraries have volunteers assisting those who make \$45,000 or less a year prepare their taxes. The library received a grant and used it to install computers for individuals to schedule telehealth appointments. The total stats presented at the last meeting - 51 homeless families in SMC, 10 of those families have children (32 total homeless children), all are sheltered, 19 families are in hotels, 9 are considered chronically homeless, and 8 are veterans.
- Senior Housing - Walter Boswell, Christine Morgan, Omonigho Olumese
 - The Housing Committee will look through the survey responses to determine if there were any responses regarding housing. The Housing Committee will also provide the group with a list of Senior Housing in St. Mary's County.
- Senior Transportation - Janet Perryman, Rowena Bossio
 - The committee members met with the Department of Public Works and Transportation and received information about the price change for the bus route to and from the Senior Centers. The survey showed that 218 seniors use Public Transportation and 259 do not. The committee looked at the website and feels that it is not user-friendly. The members will review the website from a user point-of-view and offer recommendations on how to make the St. Mary's Transit System more user friendly.
- Senior Legislation - Gail Murdock, Rowena Bossio
 - The committee have been tracking legislation pertaining to seniors/elderly which is under consideration in the 444th Maryland legislature session. The legislative bills, which are being tracked and monitored in the Maryland House and Senate, are associated with transportation, senior housing, voting material for seniors, retiree taxes, and estates/trusts. The current legislative session is scheduled to adjourn at midnight on April 11. Within twenty days following a session adjournment, passed bills (except for budget bills/constitutional amendments) must be presented to the Governor. Therefore, at the end of the current session, the committee will provide status of the legislative bills currently being tracked.
- Veteran's House - Thomas Ridley
 - Visited the Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home and is working on having a representative from the Veteran's Home attend the COA meeting as a presenter. The committee spoke about the possibility of some of the Veteran Home's members attending the centers for activities. Also discussed, was an Adopt a Vet program.
- Technology Committee - Catherine Buckler, Janet Newman

- The Technology Committee established contact with Mr. Keilan Ruppert, the new Program Specialist for the Northern Senior Activity Center who is hosting free individual Tech Tutoring by appointment at the Northern Senior Activity Center only. Mr. Ruppert is providing 15-30 minute appointments focusing on one of your device (smartphone, laptop, or other device). Information is on page 22 of the New Beginning, March/April 2022 edition. The Technology Committee shared the Technology Charter (resulting from the recent 2021 Commission on Aging Survey) of what the seniors were asking for in regard to technology.
- Outreach Committee - Marie Bennett
 - The committee produced two articles for the Senior e-News published on March 23rd. The committee distributed a writing style sheet for members to use when drafting any written documents to the Outreach Committee, and also provided deadlines for the New Beginning Newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- COA Board Training
 - Volunteer Board Training will be held on May 2, 2022. RSVP by April 22.
- Tri-County COA Meeting
 - The Tri-County COA meeting will be held in June and hosted by Calvert County.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Marie Bennett to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Janet Perryman.

NEXT MEETING:

April 25, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
Department of Aging & Human Services Building
41780 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Commission on Aging (Monday, March 28, 2022)

Generated by Mercedes P Jones on Monday, April 4, 2022