

MEETING MINUTES
ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
MONDAY, April 22, 2013
Chesapeake Shores Nursing Center

Call to Order – Time of day- 1:05. The meeting is a recorded meeting.

Roll Call - PRESENT

COA Members: Agnes Butler, Cindy Williams, Deborah Johnstone, Janet Kellam, Gail Murdock, Elfreda Mathis, David Ryan, Norma Pipkin, Bettie Broadhurst

Department of Aging and Human Services Staff: Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Stephanie Tench, Sr. Administrative Assistant

Presentation of Minutes From Previous Meeting -

The minutes from March's meeting were ratified due to not having a quorum. Motion to approve the minutes for March's meeting was made by Mr. Murdock and seconded by Elfreda Mathis and the motioned carried.

Presentation of Officers -

- Chairman:
 - Mr. Ryan mentioned several upcoming events:
 - Caregivers' Conference to be held on April 26, in LaPlata, MD. Must be registered in advance. Additional information can be obtained from Rebecca Kessler, Department of Aging & Human Services.
 - On April 29, the launch of Healthy St. Mary's will take place in Lexington Park.
 - Long-term Care Awareness Conference to be held on October 11, at the James Forrest Technology Center. There is a \$20 registration fee.

Committee Reports -

Annual Report Committee - No report

Nomination Committee - Mr. Ryan discussed the vacancy of the Secretary position previously held by Crystal Menear. It was determined by the County Administrator's office to accept Ms. Menear's resignation through a previous email received from her stating her intent. The Commission is seeking a volunteer to fill the position. Further discussion and concerns were voiced about the responsibilities of the Secretary. The minutes will be continued to be taken and prepared by Ms. Tench.

State Liaison Committee - Mr. Murdock sent an email containing bills recently passed by legislation in the General Assembly. Mr. Murdock stated the bills which were presented and passed were largely favorable for the senior population. Some of the bills that were passed are still having language worked out on them, but will not affect the outcome of the bill. One notable bill Mr. Murdock mentioned was a tax break for employers who hire veterans and individuals with disabilities. Ms. Williams stated having a united stand on any bill would have a greater impact and potentially better outcome.

Garvey Renovation Committee - Mr. Ryan and Ms. Harris met with Ms. Pat Myers, President of the Northern Senior Activity Council. Ms. Myers stated the advocacy for a Northern Senior Activity Center started in 1999. Ms. Myers stated the Council was vital and instrumental in helping design the center. Ms. Myers stressed the difference of Design Build method vs. Traditional Architectural Engineering. Ms. Myers also pointed out how different they are financially. The Northern Senior Activity Center was based on the Design Build method due to the financial budget and doing so, changes were negotiated between the builder and the Department of Public Works. The Council was not consulted on changes. Ms. Myers stressed that it was a lot of work and a lot of planning. Ms. Myers recommended having one initiative and stick with it. Ms. Myers stated a smaller group would be more practical. The Garvey build is slated for the Design Build

method and may encounter similar changes that may be between the builder and Department of Public Works only. The Northern Senior Activity Center Council remains active in the support of the Center. The Council remains active today. They have raised money for items for the center such as: chair rails, painting, storage sheds, lighting, fans, and changed the kitchen divider. The budget for the Garvey build appears to be based solely on of square footage.

County Commissioners' Committee -

No Report

Outreach Committee -

No Report

Senior Forum Committee -

Mr. Murdock was able to secure a date of September 27th with the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center to host the Senior Forum. Mr. Murdock stated that the County Commissioners are invited along with the press. As July gets closer, will need to look at advertising for this event.

Senior Agenda Committee -

There were two proposals by Montgomery and Charles Counties sent by email. Mr. Ryan made a suggestion of making a decision if involvement would be desired. The purpose of the documents was to make sure that a commitment to seniors was made by the Commissioners.

Discussion of Old Business -

- Charles County Health Forum – No one attended.
No Comment
- Senior Agenda – Montgomery & Charles Counties
No action was taken since not all members read the two Agendas that were distributed.
- Maryland Legislation
See State Liaison Committee Above

Discussion of New Business -

- Maryland Access Point (MAP) is being incorporated into the Southern Maryland region.
 - Will be known as the “No Wrong Door” or “One Stop Shopping”.
 - Being developed in St. Mary’s and will be available within the next few months.
 - Will be available to everyone in St. Mary’s County, not just for the Senior population.
- School Children and Seniors Interaction
 - Ms. Williams stated that no discussion and action was pursued because of the potential liabilities
- Chesapeake Shores Nursing Center, Lisa Bowie, Admissions Director
 - Chesapeake Shores will be hosting a Senior Olympics on June 4 with a rain date of June 11. Other participants are Asbury, St. Mary’s Nursing Center, Solomons Nursing Center, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Press will be there along with Channel 5 and Channel 7 news. The large field in the back will be utilized and will be bussing people in from the McKays parking lot. Many sponsors are donating their services for this event.
 - Chesapeake Shores has submitted an application to the state to become an “Eden” facility. Nursing Stations and offices would be eliminated. Pods would be introduced and a nurse and aide would be assigned to a group of residents. The aide would be responsible for laundry, assisting in daily living, bathing etc. The staff to resident ratio under the Eden plan would be increased. Currently, the facility is 123 bed facility, but have reduced to 117 residents to accommodate the “Eden” concept. Decisions have not been made to change the rooms from single to double occupancy. Many residents would like a double occupancy due to a comfort factor of having someone around in a strange environment. It is estimated that once the facility is approved, it will take approximately five years to be fully operational as an “Eden” facility.
 - A few residents will be selected to take a camping trip to Branson, Missouri. The main attractions to Branson, Missouri are the dinner shows and shopping. The selected residents must be mobile and family must give consent. Fund- raising is the main source to pay for the trip.
 - Chesapeake Shores is starting a respiratory program on June 10. Will be accepting patients with trachs (3 days post op), c-paps and will have a respiratory therapist and a pulmonologist on site seven days a week. Will not have to redesign to accommodate this change, but have merged with Genesis to be successful. Genesis will be supplying the equipment needed and Chesapeake Shores has the therapists.
 - A tour of the facility was given by Ms. Bowie to include the areas of: occupational therapy, physical therapy, activities room, dining room and resident quarters.

Director's Report –

- - Ms. Harris presented the Calvert County Commission on Aging event: Southern Maryland Tri-County Joint Meeting of Commission and Council on Aging to be held on Thursday, May 16 at the Calvert Pines Senior Center, Prince Frederick. Anyone who would like to attend, please let Ms. Tench know. If you would like to carpool, meet at the Giant Food store in California, MD at 8 a.m.
- Ms. Harris reminded the Commission to pay particular attention to this event and get ideas on what they thought may be important to bring to their Commission on Aging event they will host in 2014.

Upcoming Events –

- Southern Maryland Tri-County Joint Meeting of Commission and Council on Aging, May 16.

RSVP Time Sheets

- Please make sure the time sheets are signed before you leave

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 21, St. Mary's Nursing Center

Adjournment - 2:06