



Commission on Aging Minutes

Monday, June 22, 2026 at 1:00 PM

23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Rowena Bossio called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and the quorum was established.

2. ROLL CALL

- A. PRESENT

- Triverr Gray (on-line)
- Kei Jenkins (on-line)
- Aurora Hidalgo
- Rowena Bossio
- Christine Morgan
- Dawnn Hahn
- Kimberly Hansing
- Department of Aging & Human Services (DAHS) Coordinator: Mercedes Jones, Coordinator

Guest: Jessica Richards, Regional Transit Coordinator, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

ABSENT

- Omonigho Olumese
- Sara Oliver
- Shalonda Nelson
- Barbara O'Neal

- B. Approval of Minutes

Move to approve minutes of April 27, 2026

Moved by: Aurora Hidalgo; seconded by: Kimberly Hansing

Motion Carries

3. BUDGET

- A. FY2027 BUDGET - The COA has a \$3,000 budget which will be used to host the Tri County Commission on Aging Annual meeting in 2027. The Tri County meeting date of June 10, 2027 is from 9:30am to 3:00pm and will need to be brought for motion at a future meeting.

Other categories of areas to be addressed include agenda, speakers, gift bags, and food.

4. SENIOR FOCUS AREA

- A. Senior Housing - Discussion centered around lack of senior housing in the County. Mercedez will provide POC from Housing Authority.
- B. Senior Transportation - Rowena Bossio reported a Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be held July 16th at 1:00 pm in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Chesapeake Building, 41770 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Healthy St. Mary's Partnership (HSMP) Annual Meeting: **24 September 2026** (Thursday) at the USMSM SMART Building. - We discussed taking a further look at areas of interest with the COA.
- B. The 2026 Community Health & Wellness Fair: **9 October 2026** (Friday) from 9:00am – 3:30pm at the University of MD, 44219 Airport Road, California MD
- C. Future topics for discussion include a survey from the three senior centers on what users would like to see. Mercedez Jones will forward questions from previous surveys to the members. Lori Jennings-Harris will brief the Division Managers as a heads up.
- D. We discussed letters of recommendation to the Commissioners from the COA as well as the possibility of a liaison between the Commissioners and boards.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. We discussed the presentations from the June 11, 2026 Tri-County meeting: Blue Zones, Nutrition, Estate planning and Caregivers.
- B. Kimberly Hansing noted that the Blue Zones presentation lacked depth, particularly regarding the core tenets of community, and natural movement. We specifically discussed the challenge of "active transportation" in St. Mary's County; while walking is a primary driver of longevity in Blue Zones, our infrastructure remains heavily focused on automobile travel. An example of this is the less than ½ mile section north of North of Leonardtown Center on Point Lookout Road between the iStorage to Taco Bell. This section goes over Macintosh Run and it has a high potential for pedestrian, bicycle and buggy accidents. Kimberly asked if this could be a topic for our Tri-County meeting agenda or something that the COA is interested in separately. Kimberly will ask Frank Allen (community advocate) and Shane Sarver Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner for the State Highway Administration to come to our next meeting to present or discuss where we are relative to active transportation challenges and what can be done to make a difference.

7. NEXT MEETING - 27 July 2026 at 1:00pm at the Garvey Senior Activity Center, 23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown MD 20650.

8. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm; Aurora Hidalgo motioned to adjourn; Dawnn Hahn seconded; motion carried.