



Commission on Aging Minutes

Monday, July 27, 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 1:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

- A. Establish Quorum

PRESENT

- Shalonda Nelson (online)
- Barbara O'Neal
- Kei Jenkins (on-line)
- Aurora Hidalgo
- Rowena Bossio
- Christine Morgan
- Dawnn Hahn
- Kimberly Hansing
- Omonigho Olumese (online)
- Department of Aging & Human Services (DAHS) staff members present: Mercedes Jones, Coordinator & Lori Jennings-Harris

ABSENT

- Sara Oliver
- Triverr Gray

GUESTS

- Jessica Richards, Regional Transit Coordinator Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
- Kellie Boulware, SHA District 5 Manager
- Kimberly Tran, SHA Engineer
- Sean Varsolona, SHA Regional Planner
- Frank Allen, local bicyclist
- Christina Allen, local bicyclist
- Courtney Veneziani, Chesapeake Shores

- B. Approval of Minutes
Move to approve minutes of June 15, 2026.
Moved by: Dawn Hahn; seconded by: Shalonda Nelson

Motion Carries

3. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Maryland State Highway Representatives
Sean Varsolona presented options in response to our request: How can we make a difference with the local senior challenges of "active transportation" in St. Mary's County?
1. Fund 79 is for Bicycle and Pedestrian Accessibility Funds
<https://www.roads.maryland.gov/mdotsha/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=707>
All requests are to be from a local jurisdiction, Leonardtown or the county. The town or the county would have to fund or secure the right of way outside of the SHA right of ways and they have to be willing to maintain the sidewalk after construction is complete.
 2. Maryland Current Priority Letters (County & Tri-County)
<https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=234>
Maryland Current Priority Letters (County & Tri-County)
<https://www.roads.maryland.gov/mdotsha/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=693>
 3. Information regarding grants was discussed and followed by questions and answers with Sean Varsolona, Kimberly Tran and Kellie Boulware

4. Tri-County COA Meeting - Rowena Bossio shared a draft agenda and outline of steps leading up to the meeting.

5. BUDGET

- A. The budget is tabled to focus on the Tri-County COA meeting. The COA has a \$3,000 budget which will be used to host the Tri County Commission on Aging Annual meeting in 2027.
- B. There was discussion pertaining to scheduling and funding gift bags for the seniors participating in Home Delivered Meals. It was decided to table the gift bags until after the Tri-County meeting next year.

6. SENIOR FOCUS AREA

- A. Senior Housing
- B. Aging in Place
- C. Senior Transportation

Three concerns were brought up about STS:

1. Declining ADA designation causing seniors to miss dialysis appointments.
2. Being told a location is too far.
3. No shows.
4. Rowena Bossio intends to follow up and report at the next meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. For the next meeting, DAHS took action to provide data from the DAHS 2027-2030 Area Plan survey which closed in April 2026.
- B. Healthy St. Mary's Partnership (HSMP) Annual Meeting: **24 September 2026** (Thursday) at the USMSM SMART Building. Registration: <https://healthystmarys.com/annual2026/>
- C. 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.
- D. Department of Aging & Human Services – Volunteer Expo, **1 August 2026 (Saturday)**, 9:00am – 1:00pm; Bay District Fire Department, Braddock Hall (46900 S. Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park).
- E. 2026 Annual Report due **January 2027**.
- F. Commissioner's Public Forum: **28 July 2026 at 6:30pm – Chesapeake Building**

8. NEXT MEETING

- A. **24 AUGUST 2026 at 1:00pm** at the Garvey Senior Activity Center, 23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown MD 20650.

9. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 2:39 with the absence of quorum.