# Commission on Aging Minutes

Monday, August 24, 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 1:07p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

A. Establish Quroum

PRESENT:

- Shalonda Nelson (online)
- Kei Jenkins (online)
- Rowena Bossio
- Christine Morgan
- Triverr Gray (online)
- Dawnn Hahn
- Kimberley Hansing
- Omonigho Olumese & guest
- Department of Aging & Human Services (DAHS) Director, Lori Jennings-Harris

ABSENT:

- Sara Oliver
- Barbara O'Neal
- Aurora Hidalgo

GUESTS:

- John Norris, Director of Public Works & Transportation
- Jessica Richards, Regional Transit Coordinator, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

B. Approval of Minutes **Commission on Aging Minutes - Jul 27 2026 - draft.pdf**

I move to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2026 Commission on Aging Meeting.

Moved by: Christine Morgan; seconded by: Dawn Hahn

**Motion Carries**

**3. PRESENTATION - John Norris, Director of Public Works & Transportation**

A. In response to concerns brought forward at the last COA meeting, John Norris provided a

desk guide (attached) for ADA (American Disability Act) and SSTAP (Statewide Specialized Transportation Assistance Program) which included a link for riders to obtain certification. Q&A followed the presentation.

**4. TRI-COUNTY COA MEETING**

A. There was a discussion about the Tri-County meeting; based on previous meeting attendance, we estimate that 20-25 people are expected to attend

B. The COA discussed regional chocolates or local items for attendee gifts. Dawnn Hahn took an action to provide information at the next meeting on recommendations for locally made chocolates.

C. The date for the Tri-County meeting was discussed as June 10, 2027 from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Triverr Gray motioned to approve the date/time; Shalonda Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

**5. SENIOR FOCUS AREA**

A. Senior Housing - Omonigho Olumese raised a question about options for elderly homeless in our area. Lori Jennings-Harris reported that there is a process in place starting with MAP (under DAHS), the Housing Authority, and various independent living connections.

B. Aging in Place - Related to health issues, Rowena Bossio reported that the Chronic Disease team (part of St Mary's Healthy Partnership) provided information on sickle cell which may affect many seniors.

C. Senior Transportation

**6. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUCEMENTS**

A. Farmers Feeding St Mary's**: Saturday, September 19, 2026 9a - 1p at the U-Haul Parking Lot, Lexington Park**

B. Healthy St. Mary's Partnership (HSMP) Annual Meeting: **Thursday, September 24, 2026 8:30a - 2:30p** at the USMSM SMART Building

C. Community Health & Wellness Fair: **Friday, October 9, 2026** 9:00am – 3:30pm at the University of MD, 44219 Airport Road, California MD

D. Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) Act was discussed and brought forward as goals this board would like to stay aware of, and in alignment with. The LRM Act of April 14, 2026 has four epic goals: build a longevity ecosystem; promote economic opportunity; prepare residents to afford longevity; and optimize health, wellness, and mobility.

E. There was a brief discussion regarding the introduction of a Spanish version of the DAHS website along with a design of a DAHS App for senior centers' activities/programs. To accomplish these efforts, would involve the coordination with the IT Department; at this time, the discussion was tabled.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

A. DAHS Area Plan Survey Results from April 2026 - Lori Jennings-Harris distributed DAHS Area Plan Survey results from April 2026. COA members will take a look at the results before the next meeting for topics to possibly bring forward to be addressed at the Tri-County meeting.

B. Monthly speakers/presentations for September, October, and November 2026 - Lori Jennings-Harris suggested DAHS Division Managers are available if there are areas of concern. The topic of Home & Community-Based Services was raised as a candidate and Lori Jennings-Harris will see about scheduling this for our September meeting.

C. Attendance – Diane Gleissner's email sent June 24, 2026 - Diane Gleissner is the liaison for all commissions. Rowena Bossio took action to email Diane regarding dismissal of a board member for lack of attendance which will create a vacancy.

D. COA Framework - St Mary's County COA framework is different from Calvert & Charles counties in that other boards are made up of volunteers and ex officio (voting members) whereas St Mary's COA is only volunteers. The board discussed this and wanted to pursue if further by comparing bylaws.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

A. **Monday, September 28, 2026 at 1:00pm** at the Garvey Senior Activity Center, 23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown MD 20650.

**9. ADJOURNMENT - Kimberly Hansing motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dawnn Hahn seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.**