Commission on Aging Minutes

Monday, September 28, 2026 at 1:00 PM

23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Rowena Bossio called the meeting to order at 1:04p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

2.1 Establish Quorum

PRESENT

- Shalonda Nelson (online)
- Kei Jenkins (online)
- Rowena Bossio
- Barbara O'Neal
- Triverr Gray (online)
- Dawnn Hahn (online)
- Kimberly Hansing
- Omonigho Olumese (online)
- Department of Aging & Human Services (DAHS) Director, Lori Jennings-Harris
- DAHS, Coordinator, Mercedez Jones

ABSENT

- Sara Oliver
- Christine Morgan
- Aurora Hidalgo

VISITORS

- Chuck Borges, Maryland State Senate candidate
- Courtney Veneziani, Chesapeake Shares

2.2 Approval of Minutes from August 24, 2026 Commission on Aging Meeting.

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Move to approve minutes from August 24, 2026 Commission on Aging Meeting.

Moved by: Dawn Hahn; seconded by: Kimberly Hansing

Motion Carries

3. PRESENTATION

9.1 In an effort to get the word out, Barbara O'Neal presented Alice's Landing MD which is a new Southern Maryland based nonprofit working to provide a place for women and children facing homelessness or fleeing domestic violence. **https://www.aliceslandingmd.org**

4. Tri-County COA Meeting - Thursday, June 10, 2027

9.2 It is estimated there will be 30 people in attendance based on previous meetings. The COA discussed regional chocolates or local items for attendee gifts. Dawnn Hahn took an action to look at chocolates.

COA members looked at the results from DAHS Area Plan Survey results from April 2026 for potential topics to bring forward to be addressed at the Tri-County meeting. The top three issues facing older adults today came in with LIVING IN YOUR OWN HOME OR COMMUNITY as a number 1 concern. Followed by ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE & FINANCIAL SECURITY/MONEY TO LIVE ON in that order. Keys to Senior Independence & Financial Planning were added to the list of topics being considered to address these issues.

5. SENIOR FOCUS AREA

5.1 Senior Housing - Nothing new was reported.

5.2 Aging in Place - Rowena Bossio attended a session at the Loffler Senior Center - Handbook on Aging and reported it as worthwhile to attend if offered again.

5.3 Senior Transportation - The next Transportation Advisory Committee meeting is October 15.

6. NEW BUSINESS

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

6.2 Hospice was discussed as a future presentation topic. DAHS will invite them to present at our November meeting.

6.3 Public hearing to consider public testimony on the draft St. Mary's 2050 plan. Tuesday, October 6, 2026 6:30 p.m. in the CSMC Meeting Room of the Chesapeake Building – 41770 Baldridge St., Leonardtown MD 20650.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 The Healthy St. Mary's Partnership (HSMP) Annual meeting on 24 September 2026 announced several new action teams including Social Transformation Action Team. For more information, check out **https://healthystmarys.com**

7.2 Lori Jennings-Harris reported the DAHS Area Plan aligns with the Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) Act goals and it is publicly available. The LRM four epic goals are: build a longevity ecosystem; promote economic opportunity; prepare residents to afford longevity; and optimize health, wellness & mobility.

8. NEXT MEETING

8.1 **Monday, October 26, 2026 at 1:00pm** at the Garvey Senior Activity Center, 23630 Hayden

Farm Lane, Leonardtown MD 20650

9. ADJOURNMENT

9.3 Kimberly Hansing motioned to adjourn the meeting. Barbara O'Neal seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.