

**MEETING MINUTES  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING  
MONDAY March 25, 2013**

**Call to Order** – Time of day – 1:12 p.m. The meeting is a recorded meeting

**Roll Call – PRESENT**

**COA Members:** Gail Murdock, David Ryan, Cindy Williams, Janet Kellam and Bettie Broadhurst

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

**Guests:** Maurice DiPoli, State Department of Aging and Sonja Mahoney, Charles County Area Council on Aging

**ABSENT:** Agnes Butler, Elfreda Mathis, Deborah Johnstone

**Presentation of Minutes From Previous Meeting**

- Motion to approve the minutes with changes was made by Mr. Murdock and seconded by Ms. Williams; all in favor and the motion carried.

**Presentation of Officers**

- Mr. Ryan stated the Secretary position which was held by Ms. Menear is uncertain. If Ms. Menear has not resigned, the Commission does not have a quorum and would need to ratify what we do today at the next meeting. Mr. Ryan stated the County Administrator has not received a formal letter accepting her resignation. The position cannot be filled until it is vacant. The Commission can vote to remove Ms. Menear from position with a two-thirds vote.

**Review Committee list**

- In reviewing the approved Committee list, Mr. Ryan raised question about the status of three committees: Health Fair Committee, Senior Forum Committee and Site Visit Committee which were voted to be combined into one Committee. The Commission subsequently voted to eliminate the three Committees. Mr. Ryan asked if the intent was to combine the three committees into one and have the Department of Aging handle the scheduling of the activities for these committees. It was the general consensus among the Commission that was the intent. Motion to approve the Committee list was made by Mr. Murdock and seconded by Ms. Williams; all in favor and the motion carried.

**Review committee member list**

- The following committees and associated volunteers are as follows:
  - Annual Report Committee            David Ryan
  - Nomination Committee                David Ryan
  - State Liaison Committee               Gail Murdock
  - Garvey Renovation Committee        David Ryan
  - County Commissioner Committee      David Ryan
  - Outreach Committee                  Bettie Broadhurst & Norma Pipkin
  - Senior Forum Committee                Gail Murdock, Norma Pipkin, Bettie Broadhurst, Deborah Johnstone, Cindy Williams
  - Senior Agenda Comm.                  David Ryan

**Discuss Demeanor**

- Mr. Ryan discussed the importance of Roberts Rules of Order and how it related to the structure of the meetings. Mr. Ryan stated he would like everyone to be mindful and respectful when someone is addressing a topic. Mr. Ryan stated speaking over one another makes it difficult to decipher who is speaking if the need arises to listen to the recording.

**Clarify COA purpose**

- Mr. Ryan wanted to address the purpose of the COA and get a general understanding with the Members. Mr. Ryan paraphrased the purpose of the Commission on Aging from the Bylaws as not to serve the Department of Aging, but to oversee and review the operations of the Department of Aging,

report on achieving the goals on the Area Plan as well as the general performance of the Department, work with the Director of the Department of Aging to achieve the goals of the elderly population and to advise and assist in the administration and general performance of the Department. The COA is an independent commission but working with the Department. It was a general consensus among the members that the purpose of the COA is as described above.

### **Committee Reports**

Annual Report Committee -	No report
Nomination Committee -	No report
State Liaison Committee -	Mr. Murdock emailed a list of bills currently being considered in the Maryland State Senate. Out of 1740 bills being considered, only picked out ones that financially effected seniors
Garvey Renovation Committee -	Mr. Ryan spoke to Ms. Myers and has a tentative meeting set to discuss the Garvey re-building. Would like to invite Ms. Harris, Ms. Allen and Ms. Mather to discuss size of the building
County Comm. Committee -	No report
Outreach Committee -	No report
Senior Forum Committee -	Mr. Murdock discussed having a Senior Forum with the Commissioners toward the end of September at the MD Higher Education Center
Senior Agenda Committee -	Presentation by Mr. DiPoli

### **Discussion of Old Business –**

- No old business was discussed

### **Discussion of New Business -**

- Senior Agenda – Guests - Mr. Dipoli, Maryland State Commission on Aging and Sonja Mahoney, Charles County Area Commission on Aging
- Mr. DiPoli, presented “A Community for a Lifetime”, adopted from the Montgomery County Office on Aging, spoke about the importance of seniors in our community and stressed the need and importance of including the senior population for all areas of growth. Mr. DiPoli stated making a commitment to seniors included having a policy against ageism, stereotyping and discrimination. Seniors are at age 60, not 65. Mr. Dipoli stated that Seniors are influential economically, intellectually, culturally and socially. Mr. DiPoli stated all of these attributes are very valuable to the community
  - Mr. DiPoli stated that commitment to older adults includes: planning related to the older adults population in the community and should include consideration for diversity, inclusiveness and consultation and recommendation from the local Area Council on Aging prior to any changes being implemented with at least sixty days for review and comment
  - Mr. DiPoli stressed transportation options should be provided for greater mobility of seniors to help reduce the restrictions related to time, place and distance of travel. Seniors are dependent on volunteers to help drive them to appointments
  - Mr. DiPoli stated affordable housing regardless of race will be available without discrimination and should be endorsed by the Commissioners. It is more economical to age in home than in a facility thus saving money
  - Mr. DiPoli stated upon any expansion or new construction in the County, would like to have the Senior population taken into consideration. This would include parking, sidewalks, walkable communities etc.
  - The county will assist and encourage supportive communities such as senior villages and co-op housing
  - In order to provide affordable housing, both public and private partnerships must be a viable option
  - Socialization is dependent upon recreation programs and should be accessible and available to Seniors in the community, especially in the rural areas where there may be no Senior Center
  - Socialization through recreation centers ensures healthier living, wellness and interaction with persons of all ages
  - Mr. DiPoli reiterated that communication is a key part in distribution of information and church organizations are a source to get information out and into the community along with volunteers within the community

- Become familiar with Maryland Access Point (MAP). MAP is a service that refers individuals to resources that may be not be available through the Department
- Ms. Mahoney introduced the Senior Summit which is going to be held in October/November of this year. May be looking for partnership with St. Mary's even though this will be hosted by Charles. The information is too important not to invite surrounding counties. This summit will address important issues to seniors
- Mr. DiPoli extended an invite to all Commission members to attend their meetings which are held the second Tuesday of every month starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Richard R. Clark Senior Center, LaPlata, MD. Meetings will not be held in July and August.

#### **Director's Report**

- Law Enforcement Appreciation Day will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Attended the Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ) press conference with the Lt. Governor Brown at St. Mary's MedStar. HEZ is a grant which will help with their community health center located in Great Mills. There will be transportation from the center, to pharmacies and grocery stores etc.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Site visit to Chesapeake Shores on April 22nd

#### **RSVP Time Sheets**

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

#### **Next Meeting**

April 22 Chesapeake Shores in Great Mills. If you would like to meet and ride with someone, please meet at the Great Mills Pool at 12:45

**Adjournment** - 2:35 p.m.