

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Aging meeting held on Thursday, April 23, 2009, Harriet Hunter Center, Camp Springs, Maryland 20748.

Committee Members Present:

Leslie Adams
Bettyjean Bailey Schmiedigen
Mary H. Budd
Carla W. Carter
Judith G. Cato
Camille M. Crawford
Albert Dickson
Patricia C. Fletcher
Spencer Howard
Robert A. James, Jr.
James R. Lyles, Sr.
Ethel L. Mitchell Rock
Christal Parker Batey
Karren J. Pope-Onwukwe
Dorothy Powell-Allen
Betty S. Richardson
Byron Richardson

Committee Members Absent:

Trina D. Brown
Shirley D. Tyner-Pratt
Jeanette E. Higginbotham (Excused)
Brenda Harris (Excused)
Ela Holmes (Excused)
Ethel L. Mitchell
Karen Pope-Onwukwe (Excused)

Department of Family Services Staff:

Theresa Grant, Administration on Aging
Joann Carnathan, Administration on Aging
Eugenia Mercer, Department of Family Services

Congressman Hoyer's Office:

Daryl Pennington

Vice Chair, Christal Parker Batey called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40 a.m.

It was properly motioned and seconded that the minutes from the March 26, 2009 meeting be accepted.

THE AGING REPORT:

- Special thanks to Christal, Karren, Patricia and Judy for attending Helen Barnes retirement party. Helen served as the psycho geriatric nurse for the Elder Abuse Project. Helen retired after devoting 19 years of service to the County Government.
- The County Executive and Lt. Governor were in the Harriett Hunter Center on April 23, 2009 attending a meeting to discuss Veteran affairs.

- The Department of Family Services has received Stimulus money for the Senior Nutrition and Senior Employment Program.
- The Department of Family Services is also submitting an application for stimulus money to support the Elder Abuse Project.
- Representative of the Administration on Aging are meeting today (April 23, 2009) with officials from the various senior housing facilities to bridge the gap to accessing information on services and programs for seniors and improve the delivery of quality senior housing and support services.
- The Department of Family Services is offering a letter of support to the Community College Sage Program to support their proposal to bring an Encore Career Expo for Boomers and Beyond. Hopefully this will provide opportunities to continue our efforts to assist older adults that a seeking employment and to educate employers on the value of the older worker.
- Theresa Grant will be attending a ground breaking ceremony for the new Beltsville - Laurel Senior Activity Center that will be on the grounds of the Laurel Beltsville Hospital.
- Theresa Grant conducted a site visit of the new Gloria Britt Senior Center located in the newly renovated North Brentwood Baptist Church. This property was secured by M-NCPPC. This center should be open next month. The Town of North Brentwood is pleased with this new partnership.
- M-NCPPC is renovating the Camp Springs Senior Center.
- The Department of Family Services is moving forward with 3 new indicatives: Money Follows the Person, Nursing Home Diversion (received an extension to June 2010), and MAP (Just secured estimates for the renovations for the co-located offices (DFS, DSS, Health Department, and Disabilities).
- The Department of Family Services will be participating in Christmas is April on Saturday, April 25, 2009. The program assists senior citizens in need with home repairs and improvements. Theresa Grant and Deborah McBroom will be volunteering from the Administration on Aging.
- Theresa Grant will be attending an open house for a new senior housing building in Hyattsville (located behind the Public Playhouse).
- The Department of Family Services is developing a plan is get seniors ready for the switch to digital television. Dr. Floyd Johnson in the Administration on Aging serves as the point of contact.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Partnership between Aging Advisory Committee, Elder Law Attorneys and the Department of Family Services to conduct a Free Legal Clinic for seniors on May 1, 2009.

- The following Aging Advisory Staff will provide assistance at the sites indicated below:
 1. Berwyn Heights Senior Center – Bettyjean Schmiedigen and Karren Pope-Onwukwe
 2. Bowie Multi-Purpose Senior Center – Camille Crawford, Dorothy Powell-Allen, and Spencer Howard
 3. Brandywine Senior Nutrition Center – Judy Cato
 4. Camp Springs Senior Center – James Lyles, Patricia Fletcher, and Byron Richardson
 5. Evelyn Cole Senior Center – Carla Carter
 6. Langley Park Senior Center – Ernestine Shaw (for Brenda Harris)
 7. New Carrollton Senior Nutrition Center – Jeanette Higginbotham and Ela Holmes
 8. Phelps Senior Center – Leslie Adams

- Give away bags were made by the Administration on Aging staff to give to clients that attend the Free Legal Clinic. The bags were disseminated to the Aging Advisory Committee members that will be providing assistance at the sites indicated above. The give away bags include the following information:
 1. Thank you letter from the Maryland State Bar Association (signed by Karren Pope-Onwukwe, Chair, Elder Law Section Council, Maryland State Bar Association)
 2. Advance Directives: Legal Documents To Assure Your Health Care Decision Are Honored (Provided as a community service by: Hospice of the Chesapeake)
 3. Five Wishes - My Wish For:
 - The person I want to make care decisions for me when I can't;
 - The kind of medical treatment I want or don't want;
 - How comfortable I want to be;
 - How I want people to treat me; and
 - What I want my loved ones to know. (Provided by the Maryland Department on Aging)
 4. Low Cost Legal Help for Seniors: The Sixty Plus Legal Program Brochure (Provided by the Legal Aid Bureau)
 5. Maryland Senior Legal Helpline Brochure (Provided by the Legal Aid Bureau)
 6. Prince George's County, Department of Family Services, Administration on Aging Brochure

NEW BUSINESS:

- Camille Crawford and Jeanette Higginbotham attended a United Seniors meeting this month. A photocopy of the power point presentation that they viewed during the meeting will be provided to committee members at the next meeting.
- Camille Crawford provided an update on the status of the grant proposal that she is currently preparing for the Prince George's Community College SAGE Program. The grant is through the Met Life Foundation Civic Ventures. It is offered to community colleges "to provide Encore Career Training for older workers. The MetLife Foundation/Civic Ventures Community College Encore Career Project is targeted to open doors for boomers who encore careers, combining continued income, personal fulfillment and social impact. Grants of up to \$25,000 each will be awarded to up to 10 innovative community colleges (nationwide) that are creating new ways for adults 50+ to transition to encore careers in education, environment, health care and social services and all sectors facing critical labor shortages." The target in Prince George's County is for entry level job skills for individuals who truly need a job. The SAGE Program is proposing training in several sectors for up to 100 people over age 60, followed by a Boomer Job Expo. It may not get anywhere since it is not exactly in line with their defined career paths - education, environment, health care and social services.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Friday, May 1, 2009 –Senior Law Day – Sponsored by the Aging Advisory Committee, Elder Law Attorneys and the Department of Family Services
- Saturday, May 2, 2009 – Maryland State Bar Association Leadership Academy EXPO, 10 am to 2 pm at the University of Maryland
- May 8, 2009 – Centennial Celebration for Prince George's County residents age 100 and above sponsored by Park & Planning
- May 12, 2009 – Governor's Leadership Awards
- May 15, 2009 – 37th Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Camelot by Martin's, 13905 Central Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
- May 19, 2009 – Aging and Mental Health Joint Lunch/Meeting in observation of Older American's Month and Mental Health Month
- May 21, 2009 – Adult Services Summit
- May 27, 2009 – Health& Fitness Day at the Sports and Learning Center

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11: 30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING
Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 9:30 am
Executive Conference Room
Harriet Hunter Center
6420 Allentown Road
Camp Springs, MD 20748

Submitted by: Joann Carnathan, Administration on Aging on April 30, 2009