ST. MARY’S COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2011
Governmental Center, Potomac Building, Room 14

Members Present: Joan Gelrud, Lori Jennings-Harris, Julie Randall, Pete Cucinotta, Amy Henderson, Roderick McClanahan, Dennis Nicholson, Dan Schaidt, Ella May Russell, Heike Lasoski, Donna Bennett, Donald Lewis, Lynn Fitrell and William Icenhower.

Members Excused: Kathy O’Brien, Lanny Lancaster, Charles Ridgell and Missy Alexander

DHS Representatives: Stephanie Figeroux, Office Manager, Department of Human Services

Also in attendance was Sue Sabo, Director of Human Resources.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joan Gelrud at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: May minutes were approved as written.

June minutes were approved with the following corrections:
Heike Lasoski and William Icenhower were excused absences. C. Brown reported the resignation of Julie Ohman, Mental Health Coordinator and Walter Biscoe, Prevention Coordinator.

New Appointments: Three new members were added to the Council; Donna Bennett, Don Lewis, and Lynn Fitrell.

Reminders: J. Gelrud asked members to be mindful of the rules of engagement and advised members to recuse themselves from voting if they have a real or perceived conflict of interest on any meeting topic.

Presentation: Phil Shire, Jeff Jackman and Jenn Ballard from the Department of Land Use and Growth Management were present to answer questions and provide information in reference to Chapter 12 of the County’s Comprehensive Plan.

The presentation addressed concerns on how the four core areas of transportation, housing, employment and behavioral health, can be implemented from a planning/development perspective. Jeff Jackman, Senior Planner stated that Lexington Park is a perfect place to see how Chapter 12 can become a part of the process. The Lexington Park Development District Master Plan consists of California, Great Mills and Lexington Park (down to Hermansville Road). The consultant, Chris Jakubiak from Jakubiak & Associates, Inc., has gathered information from the community and put it into a workable plan. The goal is total community involvement. The HSC stressed transportation and accessibility as major concerns and would like to see better transportation signage with regard to displayed routes, times and bus stops. The actual design of the bus was also mentioned because of similar image to other buses such as Enrichment for Life. Buy-in of the redevelopment from businesses will improve the unemployment rate and affordable housing continues to be a major concern, as well. Jackman cited the AICUZ as a limitation. The Air Insulation Compatibility Use Zone (AICUZ) regulates how many housing units and businesses are allowed within a certain radius of the Naval Air Station (Base). The Master Plan includes some reconstruction to the Base that will pull the fence back some. Jackman also extended an invitation to the board to come to the next Community Forum on August 10 at the Bay District Fire Department.

Budget/Program Updates
Department of Social Services – Ella May Russell
Emergency assistance will see a 30% cut this fiscal year. Hundreds have already applied for assistance from the Maryland Energy Assistance Program. Although those who qualify will receive assistance, it will not cover all their energy cost for the whole year.
St. Mary’s Hospital – Don Lewis
Pediatric Endocrinologists- Dr. Douglas Sobel, and Dr. Rosa Sherafat are two part-time visiting physicians from Georgetown University Hospital who are at St. Mary’s Hospital once per month. They see patients on the first Tuesday of each month and beginning in September, their offices will be at the new Outpatient Pavilion at St. Mary's Hospital.

New Adult Endocrinologist - Dr. Dorota Krajewski will begin seeing patients in mid-August in Leonardtown at the Belmont Building on Moakley Street. Dr. Krajewski will see patients four days a week in Leonardtown.

Urologist - Dr. Michael Brown began in January 2011. His office is at MedStar Physician Partners in the Blair Building at Breton Market Place in Leonardtown. He performs surgery and on-call Urology services at St. Mary's Hospital. Dr. Brown resides in St. Mary's County.

In March 2011, St. Mary's County resident and pioneer in LASIK surgery, Dr. Mark Whitten, Ophthalmologist, joined the Eye Physicians of St. Mary's at St. Mary's Medical Center in Charlotte Hall. Dr. Whitten has performed over 100,000 LASIK procedures during his career. In addition to performing LASIK procedures in Charlotte Hall, Dr. Whitten sees patients for general ophthalmology conditions and performs cataract surgery at St. Mary's Hospital.

St. Mary’s Health Department – Dr. William Icenhower
The new Director of Nursing is Libby Blair.

Ministers Alliance of St. Mary’s County – R. McClanahan
Planning for the WARM program is ongoing. In September there will be a food sampling at the Lexington Park Methodist Church. The Alliance was able to coordinate efforts with Lexington Park Elementary School and will be donating 30 back packs and school supplies. On August 6, First Missionary Baptist will be breaking ground on Pegg’s Road to start construction on their new church building.

Housing Authority – D. Nicholson
Department of Social Services and the Housing Authority are collaborating on the Family Unification Program. This federal grant will assist 50 families where the parent and child(ren) live separately because of various reasons. DSS will provide case management.

NAMI of Southern Maryland— A. Henderson
Two new classes are being offered; Family-to-Family and Basics. Both will be held in Leonardtown. The two hour classes are for six weeks. The classes are for individuals who have family members with serious mental illness.

Department on Aging – L. Jennings-Harris
The Senior Rides Program is supported by a recently awarded grant to assist with commuting seniors to appointments and social events. The department has contacted the Health Department for transportation coordination, when needed. Denise Charlot is the Senior Rides Grant Coordinator and can be reached at 301 475 4200, ext. 1050.

Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living—J. Randall
Changes were made that affected the age a person could be eligible for a Traumatic Brain Injury Medicare Waiver. The age was after 22, now its 17. SMCIL is looking for additional office space in Lexington Park. Currently the primary office is located in Mechanicsville.

Old Business
Election – J. Gelrud
According to the standardize by-laws, electing officers should occur in January. The chair (J.Gelrud) and the vice chair (E.Russell) positions are due for re-election. P. Cucinotta moved to sustain the current officers until January. At that time an election will be done. Motion accepted and seconded. The office of secretary is also required according to the by-laws. Julie Randall volunteered as long as staff support is still provided. A motion was made to accept J. Randall
as secretary until elections in January with the stipulation of having staff support. The motion was accepted and seconded.

**By-laws – J. Gelrud**
Because of time constraints, discussion on by-laws was tabled until next meeting.

**Next Meeting**
Sue Sabo, Director of Human Resources spoke about changes for the Department of Human Services. Because of decreasing grant funds and several current vacancies, the County is focusing on critical mandated areas, such as Mental Health, Local Management Board, Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention. Several concerns were voiced about the current state of the department. The Council’s main concerns were the level of service being affected, fulfilling requirements of the department’s charter, and refilling vacant positions. Ms. Sabo agreed to return next meeting for further discussion.

Cynthia Brown is working on setting a date for the Department of Public Works and Transportation to attend a meeting to discuss transportation concerns.

**Adjournment**
The Council meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephanie Figeroux.*