



**TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 11, 2024, 1:00 PM**

Members Present*	Members Absent*	Staff Present
Kathy Bouchard-Wyant	Susan Hoffman	Carl Buonodono, Nutrition Director
Robyn Ford		Casey Cooper, Assistant Director
LaSandra Jones		Kate Long, Planning and Program Development Manager
Nancy Kapp		Thomas Smith, Contract Manager
Gloria Kovnot	Members Excused*	
Jessica Maas	Susan Cockerill	
Lucy Maillette	Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani	
Susanne Mannino	Stephen McCartney	
Raheema Muhammad	Doreen Patino	
Kelly Neve	Raul Presas	Members of the Public
Tom Nobach		Diana Maddox, SAC
Ruth Pearson		Heather Picotte, AgeAlive
Tonya Randall		Cristi Setzer, CAHP for Jen Zatkan
Archi Tomczyk		
Anita Turner		

*Please see Attachment 1 for the TCOA Advisory Council 2024 Membership List with member affiliations.

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by **G. Kovnot** at 1:02 PM.
- II. Welcome:** Introductions
- III. Approval of the Agenda for August 8, 2024:** **K. Bouchard-Wyant** motioned for approval. **L. Maillette** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from July 11, 2024:** **A. Tomczyk** motioned for approval. **T. Nobach** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. Presentation:** Doreen Patino, Disability Network Capital Area, was not available but is planning to present at the September Advisory Council meeting.

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VI. Public Comment and Correspondence:

VII. Executive Director's Report: C. Cooper presented the Directors report on behalf of Andrea Radel.

The federal budget process for FY 2025 is now underway. After hearing of what the House Appropriations Committee was proposing, we received a welcome update coming out of the Senate HHS subcommittee late last week. The House was proposing some significant cuts to some Older American Act (OAA) programs including a \$37 million cut to Home Delivered Meals and Congregate Meals. While the USAging top OAA priorities did not receive the increases desired, we are still happy that the Senate did not propose any funding cuts to OAA programs, with most programs mirroring FY 2024 funding levels. OAA programs that were level funded:

- Title III C1 (Congregate) and Title III C2 (Home-Delivered Meals)
- Adult Protective Services
- Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)
- Title III D Evidence-Based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
- State Health Insurance Programs

There's still plenty of time for additional changes between now and October when FY 2025 begins. Our goal now is to continue to advocate for increased funding for OAA programs. With your Representatives and Senators being home this month on break, now is the time to engage them in person to remind them of why funding for OAA programs is critical! Level funding and cuts to nutrition programs, especially at a time when wait lists are becoming increasingly common due to growing demand would be detrimental to AAA's ability to get food to those who need it. These nutrition programs are so valuable because they go a long way in preventing hunger, social isolation, and therefore unnecessary nursing home placements and hospitalizations--the latter of which can be extremely costly to the Medicare and Medicaid programs on the back end.

Older Americans Act Reauthorization: The vote was 20-1 in favor of SB4776 which would reauthorize the OAA for FY2025 – 2029. The bill will not be brought up for a vote of the full Senate until there is agreement between the House and Senate on a final bill. Our advocacy focus now shifts to the House. USAging will be updating its advocacy toolkit for AAAs to use when reaching out to our House members. The USAging policy team fought off many potential threats throughout Senate consideration. We are grateful for their incredible work throughout this process.

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- VIII. Old Business: TCOA 50th Anniversary Celebration:** C. Cooper reminded the council that TCOA will be hosting the 50th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, August 9th. The public is welcome.
- IX. New Business: ACLS Annual Contract Renewal Committee:** T. Smith requested 3 volunteers from the Advisory Council to serve on a contract review committee. Kathy, Ruth, and Diana volunteered.

Council Reports

- A. Social Security Administration: R. Ford** Robin announced that the Social Security login process is undergoing changes to enhance security and streamline user access. To provide more detailed information, Robin shared the press release and informational links with the advisory council. Members were encouraged to review the information at their convenience for further details.
- B. Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC):** No report, MSAC did not meet.
- C. State Advisory Council (SAC):** Diana Maddox introduced herself and provided an overview of MSAC. MSAC serves as an advisory body to the state of Michigan, focusing on issues that affect older adults.
- D. Nutrition Council: C. Buonodono** shared the current number of participants being served by the Nutrition Program at TCOA:
Home Delivered Meals – 1,000 participants. Eaton County Waiting List: 71 individuals.
Carry Out Meals – 276 participants.
Congregate Dining – 419 participants.
Senior Project Fresh: Distributed 250 coupon packets
- A. Transportation Advisory Boards**
- CATA:** The Spartan service is scheduled to start on August 19. The organization is actively hiring and conducting new driver classes to support the service. Additionally, there is an ongoing exploration of options for incorporating electric buses into the fleet.
- Eatran:** Charlotte and Grand Ledge have experienced significant increases in ridership numbers. The organization is continuously hiring and training new drivers. There is ongoing collaboration with CATA to support these efforts.

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Clinton Transit: A. Tomczyk The service is now operating 6 days per week. The millage proposal has been approved.

- X. Member's Time and/or Announcements:** Heather Picotte from MSU Age Alive & Impart Alliance introduced herself.

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 PM.

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Attachment 1: TCOA Advisory Council 2024 Membership List

*13 Senior Representatives Appointed by local units of government and
Up to 13 Agency Representatives Appointed by Tri-County Aging Consortium Administrative Board*

Clinton County (2 Total)

Thomas Nobach, *Corresponding Secretary*
Madelyn “Archi” Tomczyk, *Second Vice President*

Eaton County (3 Total)

Susan Hoffman
Ruth Pearson
Vacant

Ingham County (3 Total)

Susan Cockerill
Gloria Kovnot, *President*
Lucy Maillette

City of East Lansing (1 Total)

Kathy Bouchard-Wyant

City of Lansing (4 Total)

LaSandra Jones
Susanne Mannino
Raheema Muhammad
Anita Turner, *First Vice President*

Community Mental Health Older Adult Services

Tonya Randall

Disability Network Capital Area

Doreen Patino

Ingham/Eaton County DHS

Kelly Neve

Tri-County Nutrition Council

Vacant

Social Security Administration

Robyn Ford

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

Steve McCartney

Maplewood AFC

Raul Presas

Michigan State University

School of Planning, Design and Construction

Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani, PhD

Legal Services of South-Central Michigan

Jessica Maas

Hospice of Lansing

Nancy Kapp

Capital Area Housing Partnership

Jen Zatkin

VACANT (Agency)

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Attachment 1: TCOA Advisory Council 2024 Membership List, continued

Representatives (non-voting)

Michigan Senior Advocates Council

Mary Ablan
Susan Hoffman
Paula Yensen

State Advisory Council

Robyn Ford
Diana Maddox
Vacant

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