



**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	Ali Bennett, Volunteer and Outreach Specialist
Susan Cockerill	Raheema Muhammad	Carl Buonodono, Nutrition Director
Robyn Ford		Casey Cooper, Assistant Director
LaSandra Jones		Heather Febres-Cordero, Fundraising Specialist
Nancy Kapp	Members Excused*	Kate Long, Planning and Program Development Manager
Gloria Kovnot	Kelly Neve	Andrea Radel, Executive Director
Jessica Maas	Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani	
Lucy Maillette	Tom Nobach	
Susanne Mannino		
Steve McCartney		Members of the Public
Doreen Patino		Barb Davidson, Ingham 911
Ruth Pearson		Paula Yensen, MSAC
Raul Presas		
Tonya Randall		
Archi Tomczyk		
Anita Turner		
Jen Zatkan		

*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 1:04 PM.
- II. Welcome:** Introductions
- III. Approval of the Agenda for July 11, 2024:** **K. Bouchard- Wyant** motioned for approval. **A. Tomczyk** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from May 9, 2024:** **A. Tomczyk** motioned for approval. **A. Turner** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. Presentation: Smart 911, Barb Davidson, CMCP, ENP, Ingham County 911**

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VI. Public Comment and Correspondence:

- A. **D. Patino** shared that DNCAP has a program to help set up emergency plans. This includes assisting in the set-up of a Smart 911 account.
- B. **C. Cooper** shared that TCOA has new brochures and handouts for caregivers.

VII. Executive Director's Report:

- A. **A. Radel** gave an overview of the FY 2025 MDHHS budget highlighting key impacts and priorities for the AAA network. Of note was the \$3 million expansion for the LTC Ombudsman program, a significant achievement reflecting the AAA's advocacy efforts. However, concerns were raised about the absence of funding for AAA caregiver support, previously allocated at \$5 million, alongside the inclusion of a \$0.20/hour wage increase for direct care workers. Additionally, the DCW HELP Project was discussed, which focuses on addressing emergency assistance needs for DCWs statewide through a model developed with IMPART Alliance.

Updates were also shared on TCOA's website redesign efforts, the success of the recent golf outing, TCOA's MiGen credentialing, and strategic planning advancements. TCOA also hosted a meeting on June 25 with local senior centers. TCOA will continue to host these recurring meetings with area Senior Center Directors to enhance collaboration and relationship-building moving forward.

VIII. Old Business

- A. **36th Annual Charity Golf Outing: H. Febres-Cordero** gave an overview of the event. It was another great year at Forest Akers West.
- B. **June 5 Assistant Attorney General's Office Presentation: G. Kovnot** shared that we had an average of 13 people per site and a total of 13 different host sites. Gloria gave an overview of the AI/scam/fraud prevention presentation.

IX. New Business

- A. **Dinner and Auction: November 21, 2024: H. Febres-Cordero** shared that we will be having our Dinner and Auction fundraiser on November 21 at the Kellogg center.
- B. **ACLS Bureau Assessment: K. Long** shared findings from the 2023/2024 ACLS Bureau assessment. The assessment went very well and the Bureau had no findings.
- C. **50th Anniversary Celebration: C. Cooper** gave an update on the 50th Anniversary Celebration. This event will be held August 9th from 3-6 pm in the TCOA parking lot.

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TCOA will be receiving special tributes from consortium areas. This event will be drop-in style from 3-6 pm.

Council Reports

- A. **Social Security Administration: R. Ford** provided updates regarding security measures against scammers. It was emphasized that SSA communications will exclusively be conducted through mail and will never include Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in emails. Additionally, SSA recently made changes in disability occupations procedures, reducing the requested work history from 15 years to 5 years and removing food from in-kind support.
- B. **Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC): P. Yensen** gave an update on the happenings of MSAC. MSAC is advocating for increased funding for the Ombudsman, and they are currently in negotiation stages. There was discussion on the guardianship reform package, collaboratively developed with Representatives Angela Witwer and Sarah Anthony, although probate judges have expressed reluctance to support these reforms. Yensen emphasized the need for vocal guardians to voice their perspectives, as judges fear new restrictions could lead to a shortage of guardians. A special task force is actively collaborating with MSAC to strengthen their commitment and streamline ongoing discussions. Attendees were encouraged to contact local ombudsmen to gather feedback on issues related to guardianship. The next MSAC meeting is scheduled for September, with hopes that the governor will sign the proposal into law by December, supported by both Republican and Democratic committee members.
- C. **State Advisory Council (SAC): R. Ford** announced that Mike Pommel has resigned as the chair, and Shirley Tuggle will be assuming the role of chair going forward. The discussion centered on educating attendees about elder abuse and available programs. The next meeting is scheduled for July, with a joint meeting of the SAC and Commission on Services to the Aging planned for August. In July, the focus will be on reviewing bylaws and discussing membership. Ford mentioned that two additional representatives are needed for the area to enhance representation.
- D. **Nutrition Council: C. Buonodono** shared the current number of participants being served by the Nutrition Program at TCOA:
- Home Delivered Meals – 1,146 participants.
 - Carry Out Meals – 241 participants.
 - Congregate Dining – 412 participants.

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TCOA has received 250 Senior Project Fresh coupon books and has started distribution. TCOA distributes Project Fresh coupons for Ingham County.

Additionally, Buonodono informed attendees about the Nutrition Department's new Community Nutrition Program Manager, Jamie Bennett, who started on February 21st.

Transportation Advisory Boards

CATA: No update.

Eatran: No update.

Clinton Transit: **A. Tomczyk** shared that the millage is up for vote.

X. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 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 Zatkan

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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