



**TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, March 14, 2024, 1:00 PM**

<b>Members Present*</b>	<b>Members Absent*</b>	<b>Staff Present</b>
Kathy Bouchard-Wyant	Susanne Mannino	Carl Buonodono, Nutrition Director
Susan Cockerill	Steve McCartney	Casey Cooper, Assistant Director
Robyn Ford	Susan Hoffman	Kate Long, Planning and Program Development Manager
LaSandra Jones	Tonya Randall	Kendra Voelz, Volunteer and Outreach Specialist
Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani	<b>Members Excused*</b>	KC Austern, Options Counselor
Gloria Kovnot	Raheema Muhammad	
Phil Kozachik	Ruth Pearson	<b>Members of the Public</b>
Jessica Maas	Raul Presas	Alex Ford, Peckham
Lucy Maillette	Barb Smith	Sue Murawksy, Tualta
Kelly Neve		
Thomas Nobach		
Archi Tomczyk		
Jen Zatin		

\*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 12:59 PM.
- II. Welcome**
- III. Approval of the Agenda for March 14, 2024:** **A. Tomczyk** motioned for approval. **T. Nobach** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from January 11, 2024:** **L. Maillette** motioned for approval. **A. Tomczyk** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. Public Comment and Correspondence:** **G. Kovnot** shared information about a recent US Senate hearing concerning funding for senior centers. **C. Cooper** emphasized

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TCOA's support for and partnership with local senior centers and distinguished the primary roles between Area Agencies on Aging and Senior Centers. TCOA will share any federal funding updates, as well as any potential local funding sources for senior centers as information becomes available.

- VI. Executive Director's Report: C. Cooper presented on behalf of Andrea Radel.** The federal government is still operating under a continuing resolution (CR.) This keeps the government funded at FY 2023 levels through March 22, 2024.

On February 6, 2024, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) released the final Older Americans Act (OAA) regulations. The new regulations took effect on March 15, 2024, but regulated entities have until October 1, 2025, to comply.

Older Americans Month takes place during the month of May. The theme for 2024 is "Powered by Connection." In January, 4AM's advocacy group met and chose the advocacy issues to highlight during Older Michiganians Day on May 1. These include supporting family and informal caregivers, MI Choice, and long-term care ombudsman.

Casey Cooper shared that she is now in the Assistant Director role at TCOA and looks forward to continuing her work with the Advisory Council in this new capacity.

- VII. Presentation: Trualta Overview with Sue Murawsky and KC Austern**

KC Austern and Sue Murawsky shared an informational overview presentation about Trualta, a free, online caregiver resource. Questions and discussion followed.

- VIII. Old Business**

- A. Conflict of Interest Form: C. Cooper** thanked the council for submitting their forms and will follow up with those still needing to return them.

- IX. New Business**

- A. Demographic Information Request: Kate Long**

**K. Long** explained that TCOA is looking toward the 2025 Annual Implementation Plan and asked Advisory Council members to complete the annual demographic information

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request. The information is shared as a whole, never by the individual. Long asked for the survey to be completed by March 31.

**B. Advocacy Update: Kate Long**

**K. Long** updated the council on 4AM's advocacy priorities.

**C. Meals on Wheels Charity Golf Outing: June 11, Heather Febres-Cordero**

**H. Febres-Cordero** introduced herself to the council as the new Fundraising Specialist and shared that the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meals on Wheels Charity Golf Outing will be on Tuesday, June 11 at Forest Akers West. The event will begin with a shotgun start at 9:00 AM. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. Instead of a silent auction via Clickbid, a Love FORE Lansing Basket filled with goodies will be on-site at golf. Golfers and others on-site that day are encouraged to buy as many tickets as they would like to be entered into the drawing to win the basket.

**D. Volunteer Appreciation Open House: April 26, Kendra Voelz**

**K. Voelz** shared that the Volunteer Appreciation Open House will be held at TCOA on Friday, April 26 from 2:00 – 5:00 PM. The Advisory Council is welcome to attend!

**X. Council Reports**

**A. Social Security Administration: R. Ford** shared a Cost of Living update document from the Social Security Administration.

**B. Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC): C. Cooper** shared that a new MSAC member for TCOA's region is in progress. That appointment will fill TCOA's three slots on MSAC.

**C. State Advisory Council (SAC): R. Ford** shared that SAC last met on February 15, 2024. Recruitment has changed, and there are still open seats on the council. There are now timeframes for when new people can join; the deadlines are October and April meetings.

**D. Nutrition Council: C. Buonodono** shared the current number of participants being served by the Nutrition Program at TCOA:

Home Delivered Meals – 1,109 participants.

Carry Out Meals – 137 participants.

Congregate Dining – 353 participants.

Buonodono also shared that the Nutrition Department has a new Community Nutrition Manager who began on February 21, Jamie Bennett.

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#### E. Transportation Advisory Boards

**CATA:** C. Cooper provided the CATA update. Highlights include new paratransit small buses and minivans that will arrive in late spring or early summer; CATA is awaiting delivery of new fixed route buses (40-foot and 60-foot buses); and a class of 12 new Operators is beginning Monday, March 18. CATA's contractor, Transdev, will be fully staffed with CDL and non-CDL drivers by the end of March.

**Eatran:** C. Cooper provided the Eatran update. There is currently an ongoing driver class; ridership is increasing; and the new Charlotte to Delta Township Connector has been a huge success.

**Clinton Transit:** A. Tomczyk shared that the transit has been busy and they continue to do well.

#### XI. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

Casey welcomed two new Advisory Council members: Nancy Kapp, representing Hospice of Lansing, and Kathy Bouchard-Wyant, representing East Lansing.

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 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*

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### **Clinton County (2 Total)**

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

### **Eaton County (3 Total)**

Susan Hoffman  
Ruth Pearson  
Barbara Smith

### **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**

Phil Kozachik

### **Ingham/Eaton County DHS**

Kelly Neve

### **Tri-County Nutrition Council**

Barbara Smith (Eaton County)

### **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 Zarkin/Emma Henry

**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

Vacant

#### **State Advisory Council**

Robyn Ford

Vacant

Vacant

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