



**TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 9, 2024, 1:00 PM**

Members Present*	Members Absent*	Staff Present
Kathy Bouchard-Wyant	Susan Hoffman	Carl Buonodono, Nutrition Director
Susan Cockerill	Susanne Mannino	Casey Cooper, Assistant Director
LaSandra Jones		Heather Febres-Cordero, Fundraising Specialist
Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani		Kate Long, Planning and Program Development Manager
Gloria Kovnot		Andrea Radel, Executive Director
Lucy Maillette		
Kelly Neve	Members Excused*	Members of the Public
Thomas Nobach	Robyn Ford	Alex Ford, Peckham
Doreen Patino	Jessica Maas	
Ruth Pearson	Steve McCartney	
Raul Presas	Raheema Muhammad	
Tonya Randall		
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 1:14 PM.
- II. Welcome**
- III. Approval of the Agenda for May 9, 2024:** **G. Kovnot** motioned for approval with an addition under New Business: Annual Implementation Plan Recommendation for Approval. **A. Turner** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from March 14, 2024:** **A. Tomczyk** motioned for approval. **L. Maillette** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. Public Comment and Correspondence:** **R. Pearson** asked for recommendations of places to donate used medical equipment. Doreen Patino shared that DNCAP has a loan closet.

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VI. Executive Director's Report: Andrea Radel

The ACLS Bureau is still waiting for the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to issue the remaining FY2024 federal funds following the passing of the budget in late March.

The Legislature is working on the MDHHS budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The AAA network continues to advocate and reinforce our budget priorities:

- a. Adequately staff the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program by adding 33 new positions at a cost of \$3 million.
- b. Permanent funding to support family and informal caregivers at a cost of \$5 million.
- c. Improve access to MI Choice by increasing the asset limit and adding spend down flexibility.

The AAA network provided testimony to align with these priorities at a recent budget hearing.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the ACL developed Veteran Directed Care (VDC) in 2008 to provide Veterans with nursing home level of care needs the opportunity to have choice and control over their services and supports in the community. TCOA is in the process of completing a readiness review in preparation for offering this program.

May is Older Americans Month, a time to recognize older Americans' contributions, highlight aging trends and reaffirm commitments to serving the older adults in our communities.

VII. Old Business

A. 36th Annual Meals on Wheels Charity Golf Outing: Heather Febres-Cordero

The Planning Committee is still accepting sponsors, swag bag items, and golfers for the June 11 Golf Outing. Heather encouraged the Council to "like" the TCOA Facebook page and to watch the Fox47 Morning Blend show to learn more about TCOA and the Golf Outing.

B. Older Michiganians Day/Senior Action Week: Kate Long

OMD was held on May 1 and was a great day on the lawn at the Capitol. We saw over 300 people and several more on the livestream, as well as thousands of letters in support of platform items. 350 letters came from TCOA's region.

C. June 5 Attorney General's Office Presentation: Gloria Kovnot

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On June 5, Michigan Assistant Attorney General Kristen Stinedurf will be onsite at TCOA during an all-staff meeting to talk about scams and fraud awareness and what people can do to protect themselves. This presentation will be broadcast via Zoom to host sites that have been identified by Advisory Council members. Gloria went through the list of sites and thanked the members of the Council who are volunteering to be on-site at those host sites needing technical support. This is the first “launch” of the TCOA Speakers Bureau.

VIII. New Business

A. Semi Annual Report: Kate Long

K. Long summarized highlights from the TCOA semi-annual report that captures all TCOA programs and services regardless of fund source. This report covers October 2023-March 2024 and compares data from the previous year during the same time period.

B. FY 2025 Annual Implementation Plan Recommendation for Approval: Kate Long

A. Tomczyk motioned for approval. **A. Turner** seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IX. Council Reports

A. Social Security Administration: No report. (R. Ford not present.)

B. Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC): C. Cooper shared that Paula Yensen is TCOA’s newest MSAC member and we will welcome her at the July meeting.

C. State Advisory Council (SAC): No report.

D. Nutrition Council: Carl Buonodono

Barb Smith has ended her role with the Nutrition Council and TCOA is seeking a new representative. Carl shared the current number of participants being served by the Nutrition Program at TCOA:

Home Delivered Meals – 1,045

Carry Out Meals – 186

Congregate Dining – 387

Senior Project Fresh coupon distribution will begin in June. TCOA is the lead agency for Ingham County. These are \$5 coupons that seniors qualify for based on age and income and may be used like cash at local participating Farmers’ Markets.

E. Transportation Advisory Boards

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CATA: No report.

Eatran: No report.

Clinton Transit: A. Tomczyk shared that the new Transit Plan has been released and is available on their website. It covers historical development and projects where Clinton Transit is headed for the future. Highlights include the addition of 8am-6pm Saturday rides with Sundays also being considered; M-F \$.25 rides within the Cities of Dewitt and St. Johns between 10:30am-1:30pm; Ridership has now surpassed pre-covid levels; They are pursuing a Dewitt-St. Johns connector route; And, they are exploring on-demand micro-transit services similar to Uber and Lyft.

X. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

G. Kovnot shared that on May 18, Representative Angela Witwer is hosting a Healthy Aging Fair at the Lansing Mall. TCOA and several other agencies will be there to offer resources and information.

D. Patino shared about DNCAPS's Ramp it Up campaign on May 15 at Adado Riverfront Park.

R. Pearson will attend the May 20 TCOA Administrative Board Meeting to represent the Advisory Council.

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 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 Office on Aging 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
Vacant
Vacant

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