



TRI-COUNTY AGING CONSORTIUM ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 9, 2023, 1:00 PM

Members Present*	Members Absent*	Staff Present
Susan Cockerill	Susan Hoffman	Andrea Radel, Executive Director
Robyn Ford		Carl Buonodono, Nutrition Director
Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani		Casey Cooper, Community Engagement and Fundraising Director
Gloria Kovnot		Kate Long, Planning and Program Development Manager
LaSandra Jones	Members Excused*	Karen Smith, Special Projects Coordinator
Emma Henry	Phil Kozachik	Kendra Voelz, Volunteer and Outreach Specialist
Jessica Maas	Lucy Maillette	
Mark Meadows	Raheema Muhammad	Members of the Public
Kelly Neve	Susanne Mannino	Julia Rudd, Williamston Senior Center
Tom Nobach	Barb Smith	
Ruth Pearson		
Meghan Pineda		
Raul Presas		
Tanya Randall		
Madelyn "Archi" Tomczyk		
Anita Turner		
Jen Zatkan		

*Please see Attachment 1 for the TCOA Advisory Council 2023 Membership List with member affiliations.

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by **A. Tomczyk** at 1:02 pm.
- II. Welcome**
- III. Approval of the Agenda for November 9, 2023:** **T. Nobach** motioned for approval. **G. Kovnot** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from October 12, 2023:** **R. Pearson** motioned for approval. **T. Nobach** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. Public Comment and Correspondence:** No public comment or correspondence.

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- VI. Executive Director's Report: A. Radel** reported that the federal government is still operating under a continuing resolution (CR.) This keeps the government funded at FY 2023 levels through November 17.

At their October meeting, the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) approved the one-time allocation of \$5 million to AAAs to establish Caregiver Resource Centers (CRCs) statewide. TCOA will receive approximately \$196,000. For now, we plan to work on one-time activities to enhance already existing caregiver supportive services/resources and develop more robust marketing to reach more caregivers.

The AAA's applaud Governor Whitmer's designation of November as Family Caregiver Month in Michigan. In Michigan, the number of families and informal caregivers is an important public policy priority as the Michigan population ages and the direct care workforce continues to shrink.

In June 2023, it was reported that MSU School of Social Work was submitting an application for funding through Michigan Health Endowment Fund, Healthy Aging Initiative grant. The application was approved and will be funded for the period January 2024 – June 2025. The primary focus of the project will be to improve the health and quality of life for older adults and caregivers living in rural areas across Michigan.

On November 7th and 8th, TCOA staff and a few Administrative Board members attended the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (4AM) Annual Conference. It was a great two days filled with updates and information on supporting caregivers, Michigan's Long Term Care Ombudsman program, guardianship, housing, and more.

VII. Presentation: Karen Smith, TCOA Special Projects Coordinator

K. Smith shared an informational overview presentation about the Ingham County Elder Services Millage. Questions and discussion followed the presentation.

VIII. Old Business

- A. **C. Cooper** reminded everyone that TCOA's 38th Annual Dinner and Auction is one week away on November 16th at the Kellogg Center.

IX. New Business

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A. **A. Tomczyk** reminded the council of the nominations for the slate of officers for the 2024 Advisory Council year. Nominees are:

- i. President: Gloria Kovnot
- ii. First Vice President: Anita Turner
- iii. Second Vice President: Madelyn “Archi” Tomczyk
- iv. Corresponding Secretary: Tom Nobach

T. Nobach motioned for approval. **M. Pineda** seconded the motion. Motion carried. The council welcomed its newest leadership.

B. **C. Cooper** reminded the council that the December meeting is cancelled and presented the 2024 schedule for both the Advisory Council and the Administrative Board.

L. Jones motioned for approval of the schedule. **T. Nobach** seconded the motion. Motion carried.

X. Council Reports

A. **Social Security Administration: R. Ford** shared that video service delivery went live on November 6, 2023. When people contact the Social Security Administration, they now have the option to connect through video. (In-person interviews also remain an option.) This does not take the place of appointments that are mandatorily face-to-face. Ford also shared information on mobile check-in for appointments: clients must be at the office to scan the QR code to notify that they are there for their appointment, but they do not need to wait in the lobby to be called in.

B. **Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC):** No report.

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

D. **Nutrition Council: C. Buonodono** shared the current number of people being served by each division within the Nutrition Program at TCOA:

Home Delivered Meals – 1,190 participants. No wait list.

Carry Out Meals – 103 participants. No wait list.

Congregate Dining – 739 participants. No wait list.

With the sustained increase in the cost of providing services to participants, TCOA Nutrition Staff have worked together to make some

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expense-reducing changes that will have little to no impact on participants.

E. **Transportation Advisory Boards**

CATA: C. Cooper read the CATA update with statistics on ride bookings and ridership levels. There is ongoing training to make bus routes more efficient. CATA staff will attend and are sponsoring the Dinner and Auction. The new buses and vans are now on the road.

Eatran: C. Cooper read the Eatran update. Driver numbers are up after a job fair in Charlotte in November. They are continuing to investigate a connector route between Charlotte and Delta Township. Eatran is also working on a survey across the county for rider needs and feedback.

Clinton Transit: A. Tomczyk shared that over the past month, Clinton Transit has been hosting listening sessions at locations such as Walmart. These sessions also took place on buses.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 PM.

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Attachment 1: TCOA Advisory Council 2023 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
Madelyn “Archi” Tomczyk, *Second Vice President*

Eaton County (3 Total)

Susan Hoffman, *President*
Barbara Smith
Ruth Pearson

Ingham County (3 Total)

Susan Cockerill
Gloria Kovnot
Lucy Maillette

City of East Lansing (1 Total)

Mark Meadows

City of Lansing (4 Total)

Anita Turner
Raheema Muhammad
LaSandra Jones
Susanne Mannino

Community Mental Health Older Adult Services

Tonya Randall

Disability Network Capital Area

Phil Kozachik

Ingham/Eaton County DHS

Kelly Neve, *Corresponding Secretary*

Tri-County Nutrition Council

Barbara Smith (Eaton County)

Social Security Administration

Robyn Ford/Regina Robinson

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

Chelsea Rider

Wind Beneath Your Wings

Meghan Pineda

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

Heather Febres-Cordero, *First Vice President*

Capital Area Housing Partnership

Emma Henry/Jen Zatkun

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Attachment 1: TCOA Advisory Council 2023 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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