



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

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

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

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM.
2. **Introductions**
3. **Approval of the Agenda for November 14, 2024:** **K. Bouchard-Wyant** motioned for approval. **A. Tomczyk** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of the Minutes from October 10, 2024:** **A. Tomczyk** motioned for approval. **T. Nobach** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. **Public Comment and Correspondence:** No public comment or correspondence.

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6. Executive Director's Report: A. Radel shared updates on federal funding, a grant opportunity, and the Direct Care Worker (DCW) Help Project.

FY2025 Federal Funding Update – As reported last month, the Federal Government issued a continuing resolution (CR) through December 20, 2024 but we are hearing word that the CR will likely continue through March 2025. More information to follow at a later date.

Competitive Grant Funding Opportunity – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently released a Competitive Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) for the No Wrong Door Program. The purpose of the program is to create a coordinated system of providers for consumers to learn about and access Long-Term Supports and Services (LTSS) through person-centered options counseling (PCOC) and the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) and Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) program through Medicare counseling. There will be nine to twenty awards issued statewide ranging from \$10,000 to \$4,400,000. The Area Agencies on Aging throughout the state, including TCOA already provide these services that are currently funded by other sources. Beginning March 1, 2025 the grants, if awarded, will come through MDHHS. The application deadline is December 19, 2024. Awards will be announced on January 29, 2025. Additional information will be shared at a later date.

Update on DCW Help Project - As previously mentioned, the DCW HELP Fund was created with the aim of financially supporting direct care workers across Michigan when an urgent need arises. The fund will be administered by local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), in collaboration with the Area Agencies on Aging Association (4AM) and is designed to address critical barriers that impact direct care workers' ability to provide consistent and high-quality care such as transportation, medical care, and access to essential resources. This fund represents a cornerstone in our commitment to support the well-being and professional growth of direct care workers, who are essential in providing quality care to older adults and those with disabilities. A group of key AAA representatives has been working to develop tools which will assist AAAs in implementing a local fund, if one does not exist already.

Discussion followed.

7. Old Business

- a. **Dinner and Auction, November 21:** C. Cooper shared an overview of the event. Tickets sales are closed but raffle tickets are still available. Clickbid will be opening Tuesday, November 19 with a link for public use.

8. New Business

- a. **Election of Officers for 2025:** C. Cooper reminded the Council who the nominees are:

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- i. President: Kathy Bouchard-Wyant
- ii. First Vice President: Robyn Ford
- iii. Second Vice President: LaSandra Jones
- iv. Corresponding Secretary: Ruth Pearson

L. Maillette motioned for approval. **S. Hoffman** seconded the motion. Motion carried. The council welcomed its newest leadership.

- b. Farewell to Outgoing Advisory Council Members: C. Cooper** recognized those leaving: Jessica Maas, Stephen McCartney, Anita Turner, Archi Tomczyk, Susan Cockerill. Certificates were distributed.

9. Council Reports

- a. Social Security Administration: R. Ford** shared that Medicare premium information is out. No fact sheet is available yet but will be shared when released. Income-related Medicare Adjustment amounts are available.

The Social Security Administration offices are changing to appointment-based services. November and December are the transition period. Some services will be same day (i.e., unhoused, certain Social Security card replacements, survivors benefits, terminal illness and others case by case).

Discussion followed.

- b. Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC): S. Hoffman** shared that the Council discussed the Guardianship bills and shared recent substitutions. The Senate committee met this morning but there are no updates yet.

The Council also reviewed Senator Chang's Water Affordability bill.

Discussion on MI Choice difficulties faced in the network also took place, as well as discussions on the inequities of local millages.

Discussion followed.

- c. State Advisory Council (SAC): D. Maddox** shared that the Council discussed the federal budget and the No Wrong Door grant opportunity.

The Council's research topic this year will be Housing.

- d. Nutrition Council: C. Buonodono** shared that the waiting list in Eaton County persists, but people are slowly being added to the program based on priority. Carryout

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Meals saw 23 new enrollees in the new fiscal year and staff are in the process of re-enrolling participants for Congregate Dining.

e. Transportation Advisory Boards (CATA and Eatran, Clinton Transit):

CATA and Eatran: No report.

Clinton Transit: **A. Tomczyk** shared that the Clinton County transportation millage passed. There were free rides to the polls for election day, including a lot of early voting. New buses are on the road.

10. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

G. Kovnot shared a quote on volunteerism with a sneak peak on what's to come. Outreach Committee meeting December 12 at 1:00 PM.

Adjourned 2:07 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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