



**TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 10, 2024, 1:00 PM**

Members Present*	Members Absent*	Staff Present
Gloria Kovnot- President	Nancy Kapp	Casey Cooper, Assistant Director
Kathy Bouchard-Wyant	Raheema Muhammad	Carl Buonodono, Nutrition Director
Susan Cockerill	Doreen Patino	Kate Long, Planning and Program Development Manager
Robyn Ford		Heather Febres-Cordero, Community Engagement and Development Specialist
Susan Hoffman		
LaSandra Jones	Members Excused*	
Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani	Stephen McCartney	
Jessica Maas	Archi Tomczyk	
Lucy Maillette		Members of the Public
Susanne Mannino		Diana Maddox, SAC
Kelly Neve		Paula Yensen, MSAC
Tom Nobach		
Ruth Pearson		
Raul Presas		
Tonya Randall		
Cristi Setzer		
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 by **G. Kovnot** at 1:02 PM.
2. **Welcome:** Introductions
3. **Approval of the Agenda for October 10, 2024:** **T. Nobach** motioned for approval. **L. Maillette** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of the Minutes from September 12, 2024:** **K. Bouchard-Wyant** motioned for approval. **A. Turner** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. **Public Comment and Correspondence**
C. Cooper shared that on Sunday, October 13, there is the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's. TCOA has a booth.

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A. Turner shared that on Sunday, October 13, there is the 48th Greater Lansing CROP Hunger Walk.

6. **Executive Director's Report: C. Cooper** shared on behalf of Andrea Radel.

FY2025 Federal Funding Update – the Federal Government issued a continuing resolution (CR) through December 20, 2024. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) stated that the FY 2025 Notice of Awards (NOA) would be based on the following:

1. Appropriation amounts.
2. Updated population information when applying the inter-state funding formula (IFF).

The CR will be based on the FY 2024 appropriated amounts. More information to follow at a later date.

FY 2025 MI Choice Rate Update – Last month, it was reported that the State's actuaries (Milliman) were initially proposing a composite rate increase of 6.4% for the MI Choice Waiver program for FY2025. Following the extensive feedback provided by the AAA's and other non AAA Waiver Agents statewide, the composite rates have been adjusted to reflect an increase of 7.1% over FY2024. Following the initial rate release, the Area Agencies on Aging Association (4AM) Executive Director and leadership met with Scott Wamsley, ACLS Bureau Director and Meghan Groen, Medicaid Director to express concern with the rates and the rate development process. The 4AM team described some of the MI Choice pain points and that addressing those will be an important priority for 4AM this year. The ACLS Bureau Director expressed support for working with the AAAs to resolve the issues identified.

Discussion followed.

7. **Old Business**

- a. **Dinner and Auction, November 21: H. Febres-Cordero** shared an overview of the event. Tickets online, sponsorships available, and raffle tickets available. Extending discounted pricing to Advisory Council members at \$40/ticket or \$75/two. Casey will follow up with information on how to purchase a ticket(s) at the discounted price.

8. **New Business**

- a. **2025 Meeting Schedule: C. Cooper** shared the meeting schedule with the Council, noting the only difference from last year is that the October meeting is tentative.
- b. **2025 Slate of Officers: G. Kovnot** thanked those nominated, and the nominating committee. She also spoke about potentially keeping the Outreach Committee as a permanent committee. More discussion is needed. Gloria shared

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additional ideas for the Council.

Discussion followed.

9. Council Reports

- a. **Social Security Administration: R. Ford** shared a handout titled “2025 Social Security Changes” and reviewed some of the changes outlined. She also discussed changes in how Social Security Income is computed.
- b. **Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC): P. Yensen** shared that the Council met at the end of September. Celebrations were had regarding the Ombudsman increase. Thank You’s were signed and delivered to Rep. Whitwer and Sen. Anthony. The Council has also been working on Guardianship bill advocacy. Substitutes are being worked on and reviewed. The group is hoping probate judges will come on board and a middle ground can be found.

Discussion followed.

- c. **State Advisory Council (SAC): D. Maddox** shared there was no meeting and no report.
- d. **Nutrition Council:** C. Buonodono provided participant counts by service:
 - Home Delivered Meals - 1,000
 - Carryout Meals – 336
 - Congregate Dining – 433

The Nutrition program also wrapped up Senior Project Fresh, receiving and distributing 300 coupon books.

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

C. Cooper read from a report received.

CATA purchased the old Greyhound building in downtown Lansing for new CATA offices. Awaiting inspection, etc. Goal is early 2025 for occupancy for offices going there. Tranter facility to remain for the majority of CATA operations.

Contactless payment options begin Monday, October 14 on all services.

Microtransit slated for mid-November launch.

RFP in process to obtain a company to re-design/manage the CATA website.

Ridership continues to grow. Paratransit services are over 100% of pre-pandemic levels. Route 3 which feeds the Charlotte and Grand Ledge Connectors has seen tremendous growth.

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Free rides on all services, now until election day, for anyone going to register to vote or to vote early.

Waiting on delivery of new cutaway buses, minivans, and large buses.

New class of 8 operators began on Monday, September 30.

Beginning the process of working on the federally mandated triennial audit.

Eatran saw continued ridership growth – particularly with the Charlotte and Grand Ledge Connectors.

Working with Amazon to provide shuttles for employees to access EATRAN and CATA services to and from the Amazon warehouse.

Hiring efforts are going well.

Coordinating with CATA to provide “one seat” rides for clients who need to cross county borders for appointments.

No Clinton Transit update.

10. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

L. Jones shared about her passion for outreach and advocacy, and her support for community conversations.

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 2:21PM.

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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 Zatkin

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