



**TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2024, 1:00 PM**

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

*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 1:01 PM.
- II. Welcome:** Introductions
- III. Approval of the Agenda for September 12, 2024:** **R. Pearson** motioned for approval. **A. Turner** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from August 8, 2024:** **R. Pearson** motioned for approval. **K. Bouchard-Wyant** seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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V. **Presentation:** Doreen Patino, Disability Network Capital Area.

VI. **Public Comment and Correspondence:**

VII. **Executive Director's Report:**

A. Radel gave an update on the Virtual Connections project. TCOA has been working with MSU School of Social Work on a joint project funded by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. The grant period runs from January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. The project is aimed at providing training, through volunteer coaches, to older adults on basic smart phone operations including using telehealth. The project scope includes offering training at Congregate Dining Sites (group) and in the homes of Home Delivered Meals participants (1-on-1). The most recent training series just concluded at Colonial Woods senior apartment complex. The training and post training assessment is designed by MSU School of Social Work. There were 13 participants and 6-8 participants in the telehealth sessions. At the conclusion of the series, feedback was sought by MSU School of Social Work which will help guide future trainings. The next sessions are being planned for Letts Community Center, Williamston Area Senior Center and Stockbridge Senior Center. We are actively working on recruiting volunteer coaches for this project. A flyer was shared with Board Members.

A. Radel then reported on FY 2025 MI Choice Rates – The State's actuaries (Milliman) proposed a composite rate increase of 6.4% for the MI Choice Waiver program. The AAA's and other Waiver Agents contend that the rate increase should be greater to avoid running in a deficit. The Area Agencies on Aging Association (4AM) engaged with an independent actuary, Wakely, to evaluate Milliman and MDHHS rate development process and provide their own opinion based on the same survey data that Milliman used. In a letter sent to MDHHS and Milliman dated August 29, 2024, Wakely recommends before finalizing the rates that the State should continue evaluating the rate setting methodology and improve transparency in the rate development process by providing supporting analysis. A response to the letter has not been received to date.

VIII. **Old Business:**

A. Annual Implementation Plan Update: The 2025 Annual Implementation Plan was approved on August 16. The Plan will take effect on October 1, 2024.

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- B. Dinner & Auction: The Dinner & Auction will be held November 21, 2024 at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center. Raffle tickets will be available and are sold 1/\$5 or 5/\$20.

IX. New Business:

- A. Nominating Committee for 2025: Andrea Radel presented on behalf of Casey Cooper. TCOA is requesting three volunteers to assist with the nomination process for 2025 slate of officers. LaSandra and Gloria volunteered.
- B. Annual Contractor Programmatic Assessment: T. Smith shared that after completing the assessment, all contractors were found to be in compliance.
- C. Approval of Resolutions for Funding of FY 2025 ACLS Bureau Grants: Tom reviewed recommend funding levels. **K. Bouchard-Wyant** motioned to approve the resolutions as stated. **L. Jones** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Council Reports

- D. **Social Security Administration: R. Ford** shared about reporting responsibilities for clients utilizing Social Security.
- E. **Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC):** No report, MSAC did not meet.
- F. **State Advisory Council (SAC):** Diana Maddox reported that the new Chair of SAC is Shirley Tuggle. The council is looking at writing projects on subjects that affect seniors.
- G. **Nutrition Council: C. Buonodono** shared the current number of participants being served by the Nutrition Program at TCOA:
Home Delivered Meals – 950 participants.
Carry Out Meals – 295 participants.
Congregate Dining – 403 participants.
Senior Project Fresh: Received 350 books. Still have a few available.
- A. **Transportation Advisory Boards**
CATA: No update.
Eatran: No update.
Clinton Transit: A. Tomczyk shared that Clinton Transit now accepts Michigan Wallet, where riders can electronically transfer money into
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their Clinton Transit account. Agencies can also assist riders by putting money into rider accounts.

- X. Member's Time and/or Announcements:** Gloria shared an article she wrote and had published about how TCOA supported the community during the pandemic.

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 PM.

Attachment 1: TCOA Advisory Council 2024 Membership List

13 Senior Representatives Appointed by local units of government and

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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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