



TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 9, 2025, 1:00 PM

Members Present*	Members Absent*	Staff Present
Kathy Bouchard-Wyant, President	Raheema Muhammad	Casey Cooper, Assistant Director
Judith Gardi	Blake Mulder	Carl Buonodono, Nutrition Director
Susan Hoffman		Kate Long, Planning and Program Development Manager
LaSandra Jones		Kayla Nichols, Volunteer and Media Specialist
Nancy Kapp		Heather Febres-Cordero, Community Engagement and Development Specialist
Gloria Kovnot		
Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani		
Lucy Maillette	Members Excused*	Members of the Public
Susanne Mannino	Robyn Ford	Diana Maddox, SAC
Kelly Neve	Tom Nobach	Paula Yensen, MSAC
Doreen Patino		
Ruth Pearson		
Raul Presas		
Tonya Randall		
Cristi Setzer		

*Please see Attachment 1 for the TCOA Advisory Council 2025 Membership List with member affiliations.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM.
- 2. Welcome and Introductions:** Introductions were made. K. Bouchard-Wyant proposed that the group share a contact list. Notify Casey Cooper if you are opposed to sharing your information.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda for January 9, 2025:** R. Pearson motioned for approval. L. Maillette seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 4. Approval of the Minutes from November 14, 2024:** S. Hoffman motioned for approval. G. Kovnot seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5. Public Comment and Correspondence:** There was no public comment or correspondence.

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

FY2025 Federal Funding Update – The Federal Government has issued a continuing resolution (CR) extending through March 14, 2025, maintaining funding at the FY2024 levels. Unfortunately, we were disheartened to learn that the funding bill did not include the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). Although a bipartisan agreement was reached just days before the CR was issued, which included a five-year reauthorization of the OAA, this provision was ultimately excluded in the final effort to streamline the legislation.

With the continued support of USAging, we are actively urging Congress to reauthorize the OAA to ensure the continued funding and operation of critical programs supported by the Act. USAging, as the national association, represents and advocates for the network of Area Agencies on Aging.

Competitive Grant Funding Opportunity Update– As previously reported in November, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) released a Competitive Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) for the No Wrong Door Program. The objective of this initiative is to establish a coordinated system of providers, enabling consumers to access information about and services for Long-Term Supports and Services (LTSS).

During the December meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA), it was announced that 18 applications were submitted statewide. The GFO specifies that up to 20 awards will be granted. TCOA has submitted an application for consideration.

A special thank you to Gloria Kovnot and Kathy Bouchard-Wyant for providing letters of support to accompany TCOA's application. Awards will be announced on January 29, 2024.

Michigan Association of Counties Article on MI Choice Program – In the December edition of the Michigan Association of Counties publication, on page 18, an article authored by Dave LaLumia, the Executive Director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association (4AM), highlights the MI Choice Waiver Program. The MI Choice program provides vital assistance to Medicaid beneficiaries who have been assessed and meet the state's nursing facility level of care criteria.

This program supports individuals through a comprehensive range of person-centered, in-home services and supports, including help with activities of daily living, nursing services, home-delivered meals, home modifications, respite care, transportation, adult day care, and more.

For FY2023, the MI Choice program demonstrated significant cost savings, with an estimated \$539 million in savings compared to skilled nursing

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facility care. Throughout the same period, the program served 15,628 individuals across the state.

7. **Tri-County Office on Aging Programs and Services Overview:** **C. Cooper** shared a PowerPoint presentation providing agency history, overview of funding, a summary of services and programs, and upcoming events.

8. New Business

- a. **Conflict of Interest Forms:** **C. Cooper** shared Conflict of Interest Forms with council members. It is a requirement to be transparent and recognize any conflicts for voting purposes. The information also helps TCOA know who is connected to community organizations and may be able to serve as liaisons for further collaboration. The form can be mailed, emailed (photo of form or scanned copy), dropped off, etc. Contact Casey with questions.
- b. **Demographic Information Request:** **K. Long** asked Advisory Council members to complete the annual demographic information request. The information is required to complete the Annual Implementation Plan and some funding requests.
- c. **Semi Annual Report:** **K. Long** shared updates, statistics, and information from the 2024 Semi-Annual Report.

9. Council Reports

- a. **Social Security Administration:** No report.
- b. **Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC):** **S. Hoffman** explained the Council did not meet in December, but members have spent time notifying legislators about voting on the guardianship bill and water bill. However, the bills died in lame duck. Efforts will restart in 2025.
- c. **State Advisory Council (SAC):** **D. Maddox** shared that the Council has not met recently. However, committee work is being done for the next report on housing.
- d. **Nutrition Council:** **C. Buonodono** provided an update on the total participants in the Nutrition Program, as follows:

Home Delivered Meals – 1,044 participants. Eaton County currently has 83 individuals on the waiting list.

Carry Out Meals – 61 participants registered.

Congregate Dining – 159 participants registered.

Discussion followed.

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- e. **Transportation Advisory Boards: C. Cooper** explained there is no report this month. Efforts to secure a person to provide updates for each transit authority are ongoing.

10. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

H. Febres-Cordero offered a Thank You to those involved in Dinner and Auction. Febres-Cordero provided a summary of the night. Approximately \$60,000-65,000 were raised.

Upcoming events include the annual Golf Outing on June 11, 2025 at Forest Akers West and the annual Dinner and Auction on November 20, 2025 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.

L. Maillette asked for an update on the TCOA Strategic Plan.

G. Kovnot shared that Senator Anthony is hosting a Community Conversation at Lett's Community Center on January 24 from 9-10:30, in-person only.

The Advisory Council Outreach Subcommittee is meeting Thursday, February 13 at 1:00 PM. Contact Gloria if interested.

K. Bouchard Wyant shared that U of M Sparrow Health is hosting a luncheon on February 5 at the MAC. The first session is on heart health. These will be monthly with lunch provided.

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Attachment 1: TCOA Advisory Council 2025 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)

Judith Gardi
VACANT

Eaton County (3 Total)

Susan Hoffman
Ruth Pearson, *Corresponding Secretary*
Blake Mulder

Ingham County (3 Total)

Gloria Kovnot
Lucy Maillette
VACANT

City of East Lansing (1 Total)

Kathy Bouchard-Wyant, *President*

City of Lansing (4 Total)

LaSandra Jones, *Second Vice President*
Susanne Mannino
Raheema Muhammad
VACANT

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, *First Vice President*

Maplewood AFC

Raul Presas

Michigan State University

School of Planning, Design and Construction

Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani, PhD

Hospice of Lansing

Nancy Kapp

Capital Area Housing Partnership

Cristi Setzer

VACANT (Agency)

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Attachment 1: TCOA Advisory Council 2025 Membership List, continued

Representatives (non-voting)

Michigan Senior Advocates Council

Mary Ablan
Susan Hoffman
Paula Yensen

State Advisory Council

Robyn Ford
Diana Maddox
Vacant