

**TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING  
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING**

**Minutes**

January 27, 2025, 3:30 PM

**Members Present:**

Irene Cahill, Chair	Mark Meadows, Vice Chair	John Andrews
Ryan Kost	Thomas Morgan	Mark Mudry
Trini Pehlivanoglu	Bob Peña	Lucianna Solis
Chris Swope	Dwight Washington	

**Members Absent:**

Scott Hansen	Jeanne Pearl-Wright
--------------	---------------------

**Staff:**

Carl Buonodono	Casey Cooper	Heather Febres-Cordero
Kirsten Laing	Kate Long	Saray Moreno
Andrea Radel	Joe Reeves	

**Guests:**

Annette Gamez, ACLS Bureau	Ruth Pearson, Advisory Council (Eaton County)
----------------------------	---

**Item #1. Call to Order:**

**I. Cahill** called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

**Item #2. Introductions**

**Item #3. Approval of the January 27, 2025 Agenda:**

**B. Peña** motioned to accept and approve the January 27, 2025 agenda.

**M. Meadows** supported. **Motion carried.**

**Item #4. Minutes from the November 18, 2024 Meeting:**

**M. Meadows** motioned to accept and approve the November 18, 2024, minutes. **C. Swope** supported. **Motion carried.**

**Item #5. Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Item #6. Director's Report:**

**A. Radel** gave an update on Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Federal Funding, a Grant Funding Opportunity, shared an article from the MI Association of Counties, and provided a Veteran Directed Care (VDC) update.

FY2025 Federal Funding Update – A continuing resolution (CR) has been issued, extending funding at FY2024 levels through March 14, 2025. Unfortunately, the funding bill did not include the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). Although a bipartisan agreement for a five-year reauthorization was reached, it was excluded in the final bill. With USAging’s support, we are urging Congress to reauthorize the OAA to ensure ongoing funding for critical programs. USAging represents over 600 Area Agencies on Aging across the U.S., including 16 in Michigan.

Competitive Grant Funding Opportunity Update – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) released a Competitive Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) for the No Wrong Door Program to create a coordinated system for accessing Long-Term Supports and Services (LTSS). In December, it was announced that 18 applications were submitted statewide, with up to 20 awards available. TCOA has submitted an application, and awards will be announced on January 29, 2024.

Michigan Association of Counties Article on MI Choice Program – (Refer to article) 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 facility care. Throughout the same period, the program served 15,628 individuals across the state.

Veteran Directed Care (VDC) Update – The VDC program, developed by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Administration for Community Living (ACL) in 2008, offers Veterans with nursing home-level care needs the choice and control to direct their services and supports in the community. Eligible Veterans will be referred by the VA Battle Creek Health Center to TCOA for in-home services. We’ve completed the readiness review and are now engaging with the VA Health Center in Battle Creek, though no referrals have been received yet. We look forward to supporting aging Veterans wishing to stay in the community.

Discussion followed.

**Item #7. Election of Officers:**

**C. Cooper** shared that the current Chair Irene Cahill and Vice Chair Mark Meadows are willing to serve another term. Nominations were invited from the floor. None received.

**T. Morgan** motioned to approve I. Cahill for Chair. **D. Washington** seconded. Motion carried.

**T. Morgan** motioned to approve M. Meadows for Vice Chair. **T. Pehlivanoglu** seconded. Motion carried.

**Item #8. Conflict of Interest Forms:**

**C. Cooper** shared Conflict of Interest Forms with Board members. This is an annual request. It is a requirement to be transparent and recognize any conflicts for voting purposes.

**Item #9. Demographic Information Request:**

**K. Long** asked members to complete the annual demographic information request. The information is required to complete the Annual Implementation Plan and some funding requests.

**Item #10. Semi-Annual Report:**

**K. Long** shared statistics and information from the 2024 Semi-Annual Report.

**Item #11. 2025 TCOA Events:**

**H. Febres-Cordero** provided an annual Dinner and Auction update, reporting approximately \$60,000 net profit. Upcoming events include the annual Meals on Wheels Golf Outing on June 11, 2025 at Forest Akers West and the annual Dinner and Auction on November 20, 2025 at the Kellogg Center. The new 2025 Sponsorship and Funding Support Opportunities booklet will be shared as well.

Discussion followed.

**Item #12. Project Choices Report:**

**K. Laing** provided the report on Project Choices programs, including an overview of the programs. The total participants and the wait lists are as follows:

Case Coordination (including Ingham County Elder Services Millage) – 296 participants enrolled. The Case Coordination waitlist – 238.

Care Management – 98 participants.

MI Choice Waiver – 968 participants enrolled. The MI Choice Waiver waitlist – 271.

K. Laing also shared a summary of TCOA's Program Integrity Plan for FY2025 with data from FY2024 efforts on addressing Medicaid Fraud, Waste, and Abuse. TCOA recovered \$23,012.75 in funds from providers. This report also included the board's role in the compliance program.

Discussion followed.

**Item #13. Nutrition Report:**

**C. Buonodono** provided an update on the total participants in the Nutrition Program, as follows:

Home Delivered Meals – 1,026 participants. Eaton County currently has 69 individuals on the waiting list.

Carry Out Meals – 63 participants registered.

Congregate Dining – 159 participants registered.

**Item #14. Code of Ethics:**

**S. Moreno** shared the revised draft of the Board of Directors Code of Ethics policy. Following the adoption of this policy, Board members are asked to sign and return the acknowledgement page. **C. Swope** motioned to approve and adopt the Board of Directors Code of Ethics Policy. **T. Morgan** seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Item #15. Finance Report:**

**A. October 2024: J. Reeves** requested moving to the November financial reports. Permission granted.

**B. November 2024: J. Reeves** presented the November financial reports. A copy was provided in the board packet. **T. Morgan** motioned to approve the November financial reports. **C. Swope** seconded. Discussion followed. **Motion carried.**

**Item #16. Disbursement Report and Resolution:**

**A. J. Reeves** presented the November 2024 Disbursement Report and Register. A copy was provided in the board packet. **C. Swope** motioned to approve the November 2024 check ledger. **T. Morgan** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Discussion followed.

**B. J. Reeves** presented the December 2024 Disbursement Report and Register. A copy was provided in the board packet. **M. Meadows** motioned to approve the December 2024 check ledger. **T. Morgan** seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:18 PM**

**Next meeting: March 17, 2025, at 3:30 PM**