



TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, May 8, 2025, 1:00 PM, following a Public Hearing

Members Present*	Members Absent*	Staff Present
Kathy Bouchard-Wyant, President	Raul Presas	Carl Buonodono, Nutrition Director
Judith Gardi		Casey Cooper, Assistant Director
LaSandra Jones		Heather Febres-Cordero,
Gloria Kovnot		Kate Long, Planning and Program Development Manager
Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani		Andrea Radel, Executive Director
Lucy Maillette		Amy Robb, Services Coordinator
Raheema Muhammad		
Blake Mulder	Members Excused*	Members of the Public
Pat Munshaw	Robyn Ford	Annette Gamez, ACLS Regional Aging Rep.
Doreen Patino	Susan Hoffman	Diana Maddox, SAC
Ruth Pearson	Nancy Kapp	Elizabeth Pate, Member of Public
Tonya Randall	Susanne Mannino	Marcia Pate, Member of Public
Cristi Setzer	Larry Meyer	Russ Pate, Member of Public
	Kelly Neve	Brianna Ryder, Disability Network Capital Area speaker
		Deb Wiese, CATA

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

- 1. Call to Order: K. Bouchard-Wyant** call the meeting to order at 1:20PM.
- 2. Welcome and Introductions**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda for May 8, 2025: J. Gardi** motioned for approval of the May 8, 2025 agenda. **L. Maillette** seconded. Motion carried.
- 4. Approval of the Minutes from March 13, 2025: J. Gardi** motioned for approval of the March 13, 2025 minutes. **D. Patino** seconded. Motion carried.
- 5. Public Comment and Correspondence:** No public comment or correspondence.
- 6. Executive Director’s Report: A. Radel** shared federal updates and advocacy opportunities.

In late March and early April, we became aware of significant structural changes underway at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including a planned reduction of 10,000 employees and extensive organizational restructuring. These developments are

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expected to have far-reaching implications for the delivery and administration of aging-related services.

Key Changes at the Federal Level - A major shift includes the dismantling of the Administration for Community Living (ACL), which has overseen programs under the Older Americans Act (OAA) since 2012. Under the current plan, ACL's responsibilities would be redistributed to other federal agencies, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Following the passage of the Continuing Resolution on March 14, 2025, the Federal Notices of Awards have been delayed as a result of the changes at ACL. As of now, we have only received federal funds through the end of March, and we do not anticipate further notices for several more weeks. Meanwhile, all available State funds have been allocated through June 30, 2025.

Draft FY2026 HHS Budget and Implications for the Aging Network - In mid-April, the draft FY2026 HHS budget was leaked, revealing a plan to dismantle the OAA's unified structure, distributing its programs across multiple agencies. Specifically:

- Nutrition programs would move to ACF
- All other OAA-funded services would shift to CMS

This proposal disrupts the integrated model established by the OAA (since 1965), which supports a cohesive national network of over 600 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), tribal organizations, state units, and local service providers. The effectiveness and efficiency of OAA programs stem from this integrated, locally controlled model, which allows AAAs to deliver flexible, person-centered services based on community needs.

Breaking up this structure threatens to undermine services such as:

- Meals on Wheels
- Medical transportation
- In-home care
- Elder abuse prevention
- And many other critical supports that enable older adults and caregivers to live safely and independently.

Additionally, the draft budget proposes eliminating several cornerstone programs, including:

- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (Medicare Counseling)
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- Adult Protective Services

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Medicaid Advocacy: A Critical Lifeline - Simultaneously, there is growing concern about proposed cuts to Medicaid, which remains the only insurance coverage for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) like the MI Choice Waiver Program. Medicaid is also crucial in supplementing Medicare, helping cover premiums, co-pays, and services not covered under Medicare—including long-term care.

Key statistics:

- FY2024 total MI Choice participants: 16,324
- FY2025 average MI Choice daily cost: \$114.58
- FY2025 average nursing facility daily cost: \$268.41

(Source: MDHHS & Michigan.gov, data as of January and September 2025)

These numbers underscore the cost-efficiency and essential nature of Medicaid-funded home-based care.

Call to Action - Advisory Council, Administrative Board members and service providers are urged to join us in this fight to advocate strongly for the preservation and protection of the OAA and Medicaid. Please reach out to your state and federal legislators—via phone, email, or in person—and emphasize that over 11 million older adults and caregivers rely on these programs to remain safely in their homes and communities.

Our team is ready to support you with resources and guidance for effective outreach. Look for an email from Kate Long, following the meeting.

Despite these challenges, I want to reassure you that our Aging Network remains resilient, adaptive, and steadfast in our mission. We have served our communities for over 50 years, and we are fully committed to continuing that legacy—no matter what lies ahead.

7. **Presentation: Living Well in the Community, Disability Network Capital Area:**

Brianna Ryder shared about the evidence-based workshop for seniors and individuals with disabilities, Living Well in the Community. This workshop has been expanded to fit everyone. It is an 8-week workshop at 1 hour per session. Topics covered include goal setting, connecting with resources, self-advocacy, etc.

Discussion followed.

8. **Old Business**

- a. **37th Annual Charity Golf Outing: H. Febres-Cordero** reminded the council that the 37th Annual Meals on Wheels Charity Golf Outing will take place at Forest Akers West on Tuesday, June 11, 2025. We are looking for golfers and

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sponsors to join us. Please share event information with the community. Details: www.tcoa.org/tcoa-events TCOA is also looking for swag bag item donations (qty 150). Contact Heather if you have a lead.

Save the date! November 20, 2025 is the 40th Annual Dinner and Auction.

Discussion followed.

- b. **Older Michiganians Day: K. Long** shared that an estimated 500 people attended in-person on the lawn of the State Capitol on May 7 for Older Michiganians Day, with many more on the Livestream event from locations across the state. Legislators and advocates from the aging network shared remarks, including testimonies from two TCOA participants. Thousands of letters were submitted to legislators from constituents across the state supporting the 2025 Platform items. Thank you to those that were able to support efforts or join us.

9. New Business

- a. **2026 Annual Implementation Plan Recommendation: K. Long** provided an overview of the Annual Implementation Plan, including any updates from the public hearing and comments received, as well as next steps. **K. Bouchard-Wyant** made a motion to recommend the plan for approval to the TCOA Administrative Board. **L. Jones** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

10. Council Reports

- a. **Social Security Administration:** No report.
- b. **Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC):** No report.
- c. **State Advisory Council (SAC): D. Maddox** shared that SAC members attended OMD. No other updates at this time.
- d. **Nutrition Council: C. Buonodono** shared that there are currently 1,094 home-delivered meals participants. Eaton County continues to have a wait list with 23 people waiting, but that is decreasing. There are 395 Carry Out Meal participants and 681 Congregate Dining participants. Information on Senior Project fresh was shared. The program is transitioning to an electronic distribution program which has delayed implementation to on or after June 1. TCOA was the lead agency in Ingham County but is now a community partner. There is also a Nutrition Council representative needed. Applications are being accepted at tcoa.org/volunteer.

Discussion followed.

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e. Transportation Advisory Boards

CATA/Eatran: D. Wiese gave an update on the CATA Vehicle Accessibility Plan. D. Wiese shared a CATA fleet update. There will be a Job Fair May 22 to recruit drivers, and CATA is working on the 2026 budget.

Eatran ridership is increasing and they continue to work closely with CATA to ensure residents can cross county lines. Job Fairs will be hosted this summer for drivers. Community collaboration continues.

Discussion followed.

11. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

L. Jones shared thoughts and feeling about depletion of funding and speaking up.

C. Cooper shared Bridge Michigan interview on Nutrition programming.

L. Maillette suggested a more automated advocacy system.

K. Bouchard-Wyant shared about ageism.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44PM.

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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
Larry Meyer

Eaton County (3 Total)

Susan Hoffman
Ruth Pearson, *Corresponding Secretary*
Blake Mulder

Ingham County (3 Total)

Gloria Kovnot
Lucy Maillette
Pat Munshaw

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

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