

TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING  
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING

Minutes

August 18, 2025, 3:30 PM

**Members Present:**

Mark Meadows, Vice Chair  
Mark Mudry  
Chris Swope

John Andrews  
Jeanne Pearl-Wright  
Dwight Washington

Scott Hansen  
Bob Peña

**Members Absent:**

Irene Cahill, Chair  
Trini Pehlivanoglu

Ryan Kost  
Lucianna Solis

Thomas Morgan

**Staff:**

Carl Buonodono  
Heather Febres-Cordero  
Andrea Radel

Casey Cooper  
Kirsten Laing  
Joe Reeves

Heidi Dadow  
Kate Long

**Guests:**

Ruth Pearson, Advisory  
Council, Eaton County

Stacey Wines, CEO, Carewell  
Services (AAA Region 3B)

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

**M. Meadows** called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

**Item #2. Introductions**

**Item #3. Approval of the August 18, 2025 Agenda:**

**J. Pearl-Wright** motioned to accept and approve the August 18, 2025 agenda.  
**S. Hansen** supported. **Motion carried.**

**Item #4. Minutes from the July 21, 2025 Meeting:**

**J. Pearl-Wright** motioned to accept and approve the July 21, 2025 minutes. **B. Peña** supported. **Motion carried.**

**Item #5. Public Comment:**

Daniel Guerrero, Jr. of Lansing, 48906 provided public comment.  
Jamie Guerrero of Lansing, 48906 provided public comment.

**Item #6. Director’s Report:**

**A. Radel** shared information on a statewide advocacy campaign to educate on and preserve MI Choice Home and Community-Based Services, as well as a planning update.

Protect MI Choice / Preserve Home and Community-Based Services in Michigan

## The Threat

- On July 4, 2025, the Budget Reconciliation Act (H.R. 1) became law.
- It restricts state Medicaid funding mechanisms, forcing states to cut “optional” services.
- Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS)—including MI Choice—are the largest “optional” expense and now at risk.
- Cuts will lead to longer waiting lists, reduced access, and increased institutionalization, which is more expensive for the state.

## Why MI Choice Matters

### Cost Savings

- HCBS costs less than half of nursing home care.
- Based on recently updated data, saves \$900M+ annually for Michigan Medicaid.
- Serves 16,000+ people each year statewide.

### Human Impact

- Keeps older adults & people with disabilities living independently.
- Preserves community connections.
- Prevents trauma and loss of autonomy.

### Legal & Moral Obligation

- Olmstead v. L.C. mandates care in the least restrictive setting.
- Cutting MI Choice would violate this principle and force institutionalization.

## Our Response

### Statewide AAA Network Campaign

- Social Media Blitz – shareable stories & facts.
- Legislative Outreach – town halls, coffee hours, direct visits.
- Letter-Writing Campaign – public & stakeholder engagement.

### How You Can Help

- Watch for our campaign email – includes talking points, contacts, and shareable posts.
- Engage on social media – like, share, and comment to amplify the message.
- Join outreach efforts – help ensure legislators understand MI Choice is essential.

MI Choice is not “optional.” It is essential for Michigan’s future.

Protect independence. Preserve dignity. Save taxpayer dollars.

A. Radel also shared that TCOA staff presented the 2026 Annual Implementation Plan for approval to the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging on Friday, August 15. The Plan was approved.

Discussion followed.

## **Item #7. Dinner and Auction, November 20, 2025:**

**H. Febres-Cordero** shared information on the upcoming 40th Annual Dinner and Auction that will be held at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center on November 20, 2025 from 6-8PM. Raffle tickets are now available. Flyers and information were shared.

**D. Washington** shared information on a friendly competition between Board members to generate revenue and engagement.

Discussion followed.

**Item #8. 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) –263 participants enrolled. The Case Coordination waitlist – 137.

Care Management – 73 participants enrolled.

MI Choice Waiver – 983 participants enrolled. The MI Choice Waiver waitlist – 328.

**Item #9. NCQA Update: H. Dadow** provided an overview of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) accreditation process and why this accreditation is important. TCOA first became accredited for Case Management of Long-Term Supports and Services (LTSS) for the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver in 2019 and have successfully completed 2 renewals since, including most recently in March 2025. TCOA has received a 3-year accreditation status for each of the three surveys completed and received a score of 100% on the most recent renewal survey.

**Item #10. Nutrition Report:**

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

Home Delivered Meals – 1,169 participants enrolled.

Carry Out Meals – 653 participants enrolled.

Congregate Dining – 713 participants enrolled.

C. Buonodono also provided a Senior Project Fresh update. Brochures and flyers were made available including information on participant enrollment, participating farmers markets, and participating community partners. As of August 8, 2025, there are 300 markets with over 5,000 participants statewide. Locally, there are still slots remaining by county; Clinton – 82 slots available, Eaton – 122 slots available, Ingham – 124 slots available.

**Item #11. Finance Report:**

**A. June 2025: J. Reeves** presented the June financial reports. A copy was provided in the board packet.

**Item #12. Disbursement Report and Resolution:**

**A. J. Reeves** presented the July 2025 Disbursement Report and Register. A copy was provided in the board packet. **C. Swope** motioned to approve the July 2025 check ledgers. **B. Peña** seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 PM**

**Next meeting: September 15, 2025, at 3:30 PM**