



**TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, September 11, 2025, 1:00 PM**

<b>Members Present*</b>	<b>Members Absent*</b>	<b>Staff Present</b>
Kathy Bouchard-Wyant, President	Judith Gardi	Carl Buonodono, Nutrition Director
Robyn Ford	Susan Hoffman	Casey Cooper, Assistant Director
LaSandra Jones	Susanne Mannino	Heather Febres-Cordero, Community Engagement and Development
Gloria Kovnot	Doreen Patino	Kate Long, Planning and Program Development Manager
Raheema Muhammad	Tonya Randall	Andrea Radel, Executive Director
Pat Munshaw		Tom Smith, Contract Manager
Ruth Pearson		
Raul Presas	<b>Members Excused*</b>	<b>Members of the Public</b>
Cristi Setzer	Nancy Kapp	Diana Maddox, SAC
Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani	Deb Wiese	
Lucy Maillette		
Larry Meyer		
Kelly Neve		
Alyssa Tucker		

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

- 1. Call to Order: K. Bouchard-Wyant** called the meeting to order at **1:00 PM**.
- 2. Welcome and Introductions**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda for September 11, 2025: R. Pearson** motioned for approval. **K. Neve** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 4. Approval of the Minutes from August 14, 2025: G. Kovnot** motioned for approval. **P. Munshaw** seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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**5. Executive Director's Report: A. Radel** provided a State Budget update, as well as a Strategic Planning update.

House Budget Proposal (HB 4706):

On August 26, the House passed its \$54.6B general fund budget, which is \$5B less than the Governor's proposal and \$6B less than the Senate's. Most state departments face reductions to fund a \$3B roads plan and tax cuts. Notable impacts include:

- Medicaid cut by \$3.7B
- \$215.8M reduction to agencies employing Direct Care Workers (agency overhead only)
- Public Health cut by \$92.5M; Human Services cut by \$1B
- MI Choice waiver program reduced by \$24.7M; no funding for \$14.4M risk pool

Negotiations with the Senate and Governor are ongoing, with road funding as the primary obstacle.

Strategic Planning Update:

The 2025–2030 Strategic Plan was approved in March 2025. Developed with staff, stakeholders, and consultant input, this is the organization's first formal plan in over 20 years. Work is underway to create a Strategic Plan Dashboard to track progress, provide real-time updates, and visually monitor outcomes. Updates will be shared regularly to ensure the plan serves as a living roadmap for organizational goals.

Discussion followed.

**6. Presentation: Brandon Taylor** with the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, who is on the Michigan Assistive Technology Team, provided an overview of the statewide program and demonstrated some of the products. Short-term loans are available through the Lending Library to test items. The program then connects individuals with a permanent item. Grant dollars allow them to purchase items up to a limit.

Discussion followed.

**7. Old Business**

- a. **Annual Implementation Plan Update: K. Long** shared that the 2026 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) was approved by the Michigan

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Commission on Services to the Aging on August 15th with no special conditions. The approval letter was shared with the TCOA Administrative Board Chair. A copy of the letter is available for review if anyone is interested. The AIP and its contents will take effect October 1, 2025.

- b. **Dinner and Auction, November 20:** **H. Febres-Cordero** shared the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Dinner and Auction will be held at the Kellogg Center on November 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM with a theme of Harvest Circle including a Live and Silent Auction, Games, and Raffle. Flyers were shared. Sponsors and auction items are still welcome. Volunteer opportunities are also available. Contact Heather for more information or questions. [febres-corderoh@tcoa.org](mailto:febres-corderoh@tcoa.org)

Discussion followed.

## 8. New Business

- a. **2026 Advisory Council Meeting Dates:** **C. Cooper** announced the meeting dates were provided and will be shared following the meeting.
- b. **Nominating Committee for 2026 Election of Officers:** **C. Cooper** shared that TCOA is requesting at least three volunteers to assist with the nomination process for 2026 slate of officers. **C. Cooper** provided an overview of the process. **Ruth Pearson**, **Lucy Maillette**, **Kathy Bouchard-Wyant**, and **Gloria Kovnot** volunteered.
- c. **Recommendation for Funding of FY 2026 ACLS Bureau Grants:** **T. Smith** reviewed the proposed funding levels.

Community Services: **P. Munshaw** motioned to approve the resolution as stated. **R. Pearson** seconded. Motion carried.

Access Services: **P. Munshaw** motioned to approve the resolution as stated. **L. Maillette** seconded. Motion carried.

Nutrition Services: **P. Munshaw** motioned to approve the resolution as stated. **L. Maillette** seconded. Motion carried.

In-Home Services: **P. Munshaw** motioned to approve the resolution as stated. **L. Jones** seconded. Motion carried.

Respite Services: **P. Munshaw** motioned to approve the resolution as stated. **K. Neve** seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion followed.

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## 9. Council Reports

- a. Social Security Administration: R. Ford** reminded the Council of an Executive Order stopping paper checks from being issued. This will be enforced as of September 30 with no exception for initial claims. Handout provided.

Discussion followed.

- b. Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC):** No meeting, no report.
- c. State Advisory Council (SAC):** D. Maddox shared that she wrote a letter of support for MI Choice and expressed thanks to TCOA staff for AIP efforts.

- d. Nutrition Council: C. Buonodono** shared the current number of participants being served by the Nutrition Program at TCOA:

Home Delivered Meals – 1,142 participants.

Carry Out Meals – 668 participants.

Congregate Dining – 744 participants.

Senior Project Fresh still has benefits available in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham.

- e. Transportation Advisory Boards**

**Clinton Transit:** No Report

**CATA:** As provided by **D. Wiese:**

- Spartan service in full swing. Ridership has increased tremendously.
- New electric 40-foot bus has arrived with a second on the way. A large media event is being planned to introduce the bus.
- Awaiting delivery of 3 electric ADA large vans for use in rural service.
- Moving forward with a Comprehensive Operational Analysis to determine future service.
- FY 2026 has been approved and goes into effect October 1, 2025. Planning for potential budget shortfalls for FY 2027.
- Negotiations with CATA ATU going well. Contractor (Transdev) has settled their contract with ATU.
- CATA HR is hosting walk-in interviews every Wednesday to fill driver, mechanic, and customer service positions. Initial response has been very positive.
- Participated in several back-to-school events including Shop-A-Palooza for MSU students at Eastwood Town Center.

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Provided transportation to and from the MSU Union for the event.

**EATRAN:** As provided by **D. Wiese:**

- Continue to see increases in the Charlotte and Grand Ledge Connectors.
- Ridership, overall, has increased as schools have started.
- Working with CATA on run efficiencies.
- On-going job fairs to increase driver numbers.
- Continue to coordinate with CATA on cross-country trips.

#### 10. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

**G. Kovnot** shared her positive review of the new website for [tcoa.org](http://tcoa.org). Savvy Senior Group is meeting Tuesday, September 16 with guest speaker Bob Meyers, Director of Education at the Historic Society of Michigan at 10AM and the Delta Township Library.

**L. Maillette** announced that AgeAlive is losing funding beyond September 30. They are looking for other partnerships to sustain programming. Discussion followed.

**K. Neve** shared new flyers for APS programs. Handouts provided.

**C. Cooper** asked that Council members consider completing the survey for Brandon's presentation. An online link will be shared. C. Cooper also announced that Open Enrollment starts October 15 with our State Health Insurance Assistance Program.

**K. Long** shared information about the TCOA Needs Assessment and asked the Council to help share information in the community. Flyers shared.

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2025 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 PM.

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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*

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### **Clinton County (2 Total)**

Judith Gardi  
Larry Meyer

### **Eaton County (3 Total)**

Susan Hoffman  
Ruth Pearson, *Corresponding Secretary*  
VACANT

### **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

### **MSU Kinship Care Resource Center**

Alyssa Waters

### **Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA)**

Deb Wiese

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