

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

Minutes

September 15, 2025, 3:30 PM

Members Present:

Irene Cahill, Chair
Jeanne Pearl-Wright
Dwight Washington

Scott Hansen
Bob Peña

Mark Mudry
Chris Swope

Members Absent:

Mark Meadows, Vice Chair
Thomas Morgan

John Andrews
Trini Pehlivanoglu

Ryan Kost
Lucianna Solis

Staff:

Carl Buonodono
Kate Long
Tom Smith

Casey Cooper
Andrea Radel

Heather Febres-Cordero
Joe Reeves

Guests:

Annette Gamez, ACLS Bureau,
Regional Aging Services
Representative
Norma, Alfreda Schmidt
Community Center

Lucy Maillette, Advisory
Council, Ingham County

Annette, Alfreda Schmidt
Community Center

Item #1. Call to Order:

I. Cahill called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.

Item #2. Introductions

Item #3. Approval of the September 15, 2025 Agenda:

C. Swope motioned to accept and approve the September 15, 2025 agenda.

B. Peña supported. **Motion carried.**

Item #4. Minutes from the August 18, 2025 Meeting:

B. Peña motioned to accept and approve the August 18, 2025 minutes. **S.**

Hansen supported. **Motion carried.**

Item #5. Public Comment: No public comment.

Item #6. Director's Report:

A. Radel shared information on the State Budget, as well as a strategic planning update.

FY 2026 Budget Update:

State budget negotiations remain stalled, with road funding delaying agreement. Our priority continues to be the MI Choice program, which provides vital home- and community-based alternatives to nursing home care.

Governor's Recommendation: \$571.5M

Senate-passed Budget: \$585.9M (highest support)

House-passed Budget: \$535.7M (lowest level, could limit access)

MI Choice remains our sole advocacy focus, and legislators are recognizing its value, though funding differences remain. We continue to emphasize cost-effectiveness, share participant stories, and engage legislators. Contingency planning with the State Unit on Aging and ACLS Bureau is underway in case of a government shutdown.

Strategic Planning Update:

The 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, approved in March, sets clear direction for the next five years—the first such plan in more than two decades. A Strategic Plan Dashboard is being developed to track progress, provide real-time updates, and present outcomes in a clear, visual format. Regular updates will be shared with the Board to ensure the plan serves as a living roadmap for impact.

Discussion followed.

Item #7. Finance Report:

A. July 2025: **J. Reeves** presented the July financial reports. A copy was provided in the board packet. **C. Swope** motion to accept the report. **B. Peña** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Item #8. Disbursement Report and Resolution:

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

Item #9. Budget Amendments and Resolutions:

J. Reeves presented the FY 2025 Budget Amendments and Resolutions. A copy was provided in the board packet. **B. Peña** motioned to approve the Amendments. **C. Swope** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Item #10. Proposed Budget and Resolutions:

A. J. Reeves presented the FY 2026 Proposed Budget and Resolutions. A copy was provided in the board packet. **C. Swope** motioned to approve the FY 2026 Proposed Budget. **B. Peña** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Item #11. 2026 Administrative Board Meeting Schedule:

C. Cooper presented the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule. A copy was provided in the board packet and will be shared via email.

Item #12. Resolutions for Funding of FY 2026 ACLS Bureau Grants:

T. Smith presented the FY 2026 ACLS Bureau Grants. A copy was provided

in the board packet. **B. Peña** motioned to approve the FY 2026 ACLS Bureau Grants. **C. Swope** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Item #13. Friends for Independence FY 2026 Allocation:

H. Febres-Cordero presented the FY 2026 Friends for Independence Allocations. **B. Peña** motioned to accept and approve the fund allocations. **C. Swope** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Item #14. 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. Flyers and information were shared. Donations for a live auction item were requested.

D. Washington also requested help recruiting volunteers for the event.

Discussion followed.

Item #15. Project Choices Report:

A. Radel provided the Project Choices report on behalf of K. Laing. The total participants and the wait lists are as follows:

Case Coordination (including Ingham County Elder Services Millage) – 257 participants enrolled. The Case Coordination waitlist – 131.

Care Management – 66 participants enrolled.

MI Choice Waiver – 980 participants enrolled. The MI Choice Waiver waitlist – 328.

Item #16. Nutrition Report:

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

Home Delivered Meals – 1,142 participants enrolled.

Carry Out Meals – 668 participants enrolled.

Congregate Dining – 744 participants enrolled.

C. Buonodono also provided a Senior Project Fresh update. Locally, there are still slots remaining by county; Clinton – 82 slots available, Eaton – 122 slots available, Ingham – 124 slots available.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:35 PM

Next meeting: November 17, 2025, at 3:30 PM