



TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 13, 2025, 1:00 PM

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

* 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 November 13, 2025 G. Kovnot** motioned for approval. **J. Gardi** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 4. Approval of the Minutes from October 9, 2025 R. Pearson** motioned for approval. **P. Munshaw** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5. Executive Director’s Report: A. Radel** provided an update on the Federal budget.

The federal government shutdown, now lasting over a month, continues to strain the aging network, which already operates under flat or stagnant funding that has not kept pace with inflation or growing demand. Although the FY 2026

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appropriations bills largely protect Older Americans Act programs, lack of congressional action and anticipated delays in funding distribution place local agencies under significant financial pressure.

Despite these challenges, TCOA continues service delivery without interruption, monitoring developments closely. Contingency plans are in place to prioritize essential services, such as Home Delivered Meals, if the shutdown persists. In response to SNAP benefit disruptions, TCOA is prepared to provide additional Carry Out Meals as funding allows, with updated information distributed to Advisory Council and Board members, senior centers, and via social media.

Discussion followed.

6. **Presentation: Ingham County Elder Services Millage, K. Smith** provided an overview of the services available through the millage, reviewed eligibility and shared information on how to connect with TCOA.

Discussion followed.

7. Old Business

- a. **Dinner and Auction, November 20: C. Cooper** shared information on the 40th annual Dinner and Auction to be held at the Kellogg Center on November 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Ticket sales are now closed. More information about the event and silent auction going live will be coming on Tuesday, November 18. The auction closes at 7PM on Thursday, November 20.

Discussion followed.

8. New Business

- a. **2026 Election of Officers: C. Cooper** thanked the outgoing officers and presented the 2026 slate:

President: LaSandra Jones

1st Vice President: Robyn Ford

2nd Vice President: Kelly Neve

Corresponding Secretary: Raul Presas

P. Munshaw motioned for approval. **J. Gardi** seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- b. **2026 Calendar Invites: C. Cooper** explained outlook calendar updates will be coming for 2026. The way the system is set up, the months without a meeting will be

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cancelled in outlook, leaving the remaining meeting dates on your calendar.

9. Council Reports

- a. Social Security Administration: R. Ford** shared that with a Continuing Resolution passing, all services at the Social Security Administration have been restored.

Discussion followed.

- b. Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC): S. Hoffman** shared the Council is continuing to monitor current priorities.

- c. State Advisory Council (SAC): D. Maddox** had no report. The Council is meeting next week.

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

Home Delivered Meals – 1,281 participants.

Carry Out Meals – 668 participants.

Congregate Dining – 744 participants.

Senior Project Fresh ended September 30. Enrollments by county included Clinton: 58, Eaton: 59, Ingham: 370. There are hopes to grow the program next year.

Transportation Advisory Boards:

Clinton Transit: No Report

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

- Limited service for Thanksgiving Day. 8 - 4 in the Spec-Tran designated area only. General public can utilize.
- Spartan Service concludes on Sunday, December 14 and resumes Monday, January 12, 2026.
- Planning for participation in the Silver Bells Parade and various area holiday parades.
- CATA staff again adopted a local elementary school to provide holiday gifts/clothing for students. This year, CATA has adopted 30 students from Averill Elementary.
- Continuing to offer free rides to food banks until the government shutdown concludes and SNAP benefits are reinstated.
- Offering free rides to warming centers when temperatures drop and the city issues a "Code Blue" status.

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- Ordering 6 new cutaway buses to replace 6 current Spec-Tran cutaway buses.
- The CATA Human Resources Department continues to provide food box delivery, once per month, from the Greater Lansing Food Bank to Cedar Place Apartments. CATA Operations provides a bus for delivery. Occurs the first Friday of each month.
- Working through various service scenarios following the defeat of the Delta Township Transportation millage. Once a decision is reached as to service levels into Delta, a public announcement will be made with changes anticipated to take effect Monday, January 12, 2026.
- Paratransit ridership for fiscal year 2025 showed an increase of nearly 16,000 rides over fiscal year 2024. While fixed route ridership for fiscal year 2025 has not been fully audited, a similar increase is expected.

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

- Continuing to see increased ridership on the Charlotte and Grand Ledge Connectors.
- Planning for local holiday events.
- Free rides to food banks until SNAP benefits are reinstated.
- Continually working on routes to increase efficiencies.
- Continuing to hire drivers and mechanics.

10. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

G. Kovnot shared the quarterly meeting for the Advisory Council Outreach Subcommittee is December 4 at 1PM and will held hybrid.

L. Jones thank you for the support at the recent neighborhood outreach event.

D. Patino shared about an upcoming special event:

Consumer Thanksgiving Event located at Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing, MI 48906

Tuesday – November 25th Time: 12 noon – 2:00 pm

RSVP required. Call Disability Network Capital Area 517-999-2760 speak with Shae.

Flyer to follow.

J. Gardi shared her experience with meal coordination in her township. Discussion followed.

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The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned 2:23PM.

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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*
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)

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