



TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 12, 2026, 1:00 PM

Members Present*	Members Absent*	Staff Present
Judith Gardi	Robyn Ford, First Vice President	Carl Buonodono, Nutrition Director
Susan Hoffman	Larry Meyer	Casey Cooper, Assistant Director
Gloria Kovnot		Kate Long, Planning and Program Development Manager
Nancy Kapp		Andrea Radel, Executive Director
Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani		
Lucy Maillette		
Raheema Muhammad	Members Excused*	Members of the Public
Kelly Neve, Second Vice President	Kathy Bouchard-Wyant	Jeff Spangler, Disability Network Capital Area
Doreen Patino	LaSandra Jones, President	Diana Maddox, State Advisory Council
Ruth Pearson	Alyssa Tucker	
Raul Presas		
Tonya Randall		
Cheryl VanDeKerkhove		
Deb Wiese		

* Please see Attachment 1 for the TCOA Advisory Council 2026 Membership List with member affiliations.

1. **Call to Order:** K. Neve called the meeting to order at 1:03PM.
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Approval of the Agenda for March 12, 2026:** J. Gardi motioned for approval of the amended agenda. R. Pearson seconded. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of the Minutes from January 8, 2026:** J. Gardi motioned for approval of the amended agenda. R. Pearson seconded. Motion carried.
5. **Executive Director's Report:** A. Radel shared information on the federal budget, Governors budget, and any program impacts. Recent federal and state budget developments present both positive opportunities and potential challenges for the aging services network and programs administered by TCOA.

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Federal FY2026 Budget Update

At the federal level, the FY2026 budget has been approved and signed into law. However, the Aging and Community Living Services (ACLS) Bureau is still awaiting the official Notice of Award from the federal Administration for Community Living before final funding allocations can be confirmed and released. While this delay is creating some strain across the aging services network as organizations await funding confirmation, no service disruptions have occurred throughout this region.

FY2027 Governors Proposed Budget

At the state level, the Governor's proposed FY2027 budget includes a 6.8% increase for Home- and Community-Based Services through the MI Choice program. This proposed increase represents an important investment in helping individuals remain in their homes and communities and reflects the impact of continued statewide advocacy efforts.

However, the proposal does not include State General Fund support for the MI Options Program, which could affect the sustainability of Person-Centered Options Counseling services currently provided through TCOA. TCOA administers this program through the MI Options grant.

TCOA also administers the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) through the same grant and is waiting for direction from ACLS Bureau on whether this program will be impacted.

TCOA will continue to monitor federal funding announcements and state budget negotiations and will share updates as additional information becomes available.

6. **Presentation: Travel Training Program- Jeff Spangler, Disability Network Capital Area (DNCAP)** shared that DNCAP has expanded their Travel Training Program. The program helps individuals learn the local bus systems; CATA, Eatran, or Clinton Blue Bus. Classes are usually done in three sessions with sessions including instruction on riding the bus, more in-depth on riding the bus, then different ways to book rides. Transfer spots are also discussed. Contact Jeff for more information.

Discussion followed.

7. New Business

- a. **Volunteer Appreciation Open House, Friday April 24:** C. Cooper shared that the Volunteer Appreciation Open House will be held at TCOA on April 24 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM in the TCOA Community Rooms. The Advisory Council is welcome to attend!

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- b. **Older Michiganians Day, Wednesday May 13:** **K. Long** shared that OMD will be held on May 13 on the Capitol lawn. Advocacy priorities were shared. More details to come.
- c. **Multi-Year Plan Timeline:** **K. Long** reviewed the timeline and noted the MYP will be emailed in April and approval will be requested in May.

8. Council Reports

- a. **Social Security Administration:** No report.
- b. **Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC):** **S. Hoffman** reported that MSAC is learning about MI Choice and Silver Key Coalition requests and educating legislators on those issues, emphasizing the cost savings of the programs. The Guardianship bills are still being watched and legislators are being contacted.
- c. **State Advisory Council (SAC)**

Diana Maddox mentioned the State Plan on Aging is adding a goal around stigma as a priority.

Discussion followed.
- d. **Nutrition Council:** **C. Buonodono** shared that currently, home delivered meals supports 1,100 participants. Carry Out Meal participants is at 470 and Congregate Dining supports 515 participants.
- C. Buonodono also mentioned there are now three members serving on the Nutrition Council as representatives and he hopes to have one of them report at the next meeting.

Senior Project Fresh starts May 1.

Discussion followed.
- e. **CATA:** **D. Wiese** shared CATA is working on their FY27 budget. Trainings are being planned and new buses and minivans are on the road, with more on the way. Easter Holiday Service is planned. Paratransit ridership is up 4.8% from January 2025 to January 2026, and CATA total ridership is up .4% from January 2025 to January 2026. CATA delivered 904,351 total rides in January 2026. CATA is working with Clinton Transit on cross boundary rides into Ingham County. A new CATA website will be launching soon as well as a new CATA Spec-Tran application.

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9. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

G. Kovnot requested a speaker or representative on the council from a local hospital/health system. She also mentioned she has a Nurse Navigator through her primary care physician covered by Medicare. Discussion followed.

L. Maillette MSU Age Alive Education and Research Forum on Thursday, March 26 on Advancing Mobility Across Settings As We Age 9-2pm. More information will be shared.

C. VanDeKerkhove provided suggestion on hospital representation on Council.

S. Hoffman shared a personal story.

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

2026 Administrative Board Meeting Dates and AC Guests:

January 26: Lucy M.

March 16: Ruth P.

May 18: Zeenat K.

July 20: Gloria K.

September 21:

November 16:

Meeting adjourned at 2:12PM.

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Attachment 1: TCOA Advisory Council 2026 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
Jacqueline Wood

Ingham County (3 Total)

Gloria Kovnot
Lucy Maillette
Cheryl VanDeKerkhove

City of East Lansing (1 Total)

Kathy Bouchard-Wyant

City of Lansing (4 Total)

LaSandra Jones, *President*
Raheema Muhammad
VACANT (2)

Community Mental Health Older Adult Services

Tonya Randall

Disability Network Capital Area

Doreen Patino

Ingham/Eaton County DHS

Kelly Neve, *Second Vice President*

Tri-County Nutrition Council

VACANT

Social Security Administration

Robyn Ford, *First Vice President*

Maplewood AFC

Raul Presas, *Corresponding Secretary*

Michigan State University

School of Planning, Design and Construction

Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani, PhD

Hospice of Lansing

Nancy Kapp

MSU Kinship Care Resource Center

Alyssa Waters

Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA)

Deb Wiese

VACANT (Agency)

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VACANT (Agency)

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Attachment 1: TCOA Advisory Council 2026 Membership List, continued

Representatives (non-voting)

Michigan Senior Advocates Council

Mary Ablan
Susan Hoffman
Paula Yensen

State Advisory Council

Robyn Ford
Diana Maddox
VACANT