



TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, May 14, 2026, 1:00 PM

Members Present*	Members Absent*	Staff Present
Kathy Bouchard-Wyant	Susan Hoffman	Carl Buonodono, Nutrition Director
Robyn Ford, 1st Vice President	Raheema Muhammad	Casey Cooper, Assistant Director
Judith Gardi	Doreen Patino	Heather Febres-Cordero, Community Engagement and Development Specialist
LaSandra Jones, President		Christine Histed, Registered Dietitian/Evidence Based Programs Manager
Gloria Kovnot		Kate Long, Planning and Program Development Manager
Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani		Andrea Radel, Executive Director
Lucy Maillette	Members Excused*	
Larry Meyer	Kelly Neve, 2nd Vice President	Members of the Public
Ruth Pearson	Nancy Kapp	
Raul Presas	Tonya Randall	
Alyssa Tucker	Cheryl VanDeKerkhove	
	Deb Wiese	

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

- 1. Call to Order:** L. Jones called the meeting to order at **1:10PM**.
- 2. Welcome and Introductions**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda for May 14, 2026:** J. Gardi motioned for approval of the May 14, 2026 agenda. R. Pearson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 4. Approval of the Minutes from March 12, 2026:** J. Gardi motioned for approval of the March 12, 2026 minutes. L. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5. Executive Director's Report:** A. Radel shared an update on the proposed FY 2027 Federal Budget, FY 2027 State Budget, Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization, and the MDHHS State Plan on Aging.

FY 2027 Federal Budget Proposal – Potential Impact on TCOA

The proposed FY 2027 federal budget includes a 10% cut to non-defense discretionary

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(NDD) funding, which supports many programs for older adults, including those under the Older Americans Act (OAA). Specific OAA funding levels have not yet been released, creating uncertainty.

Several major programs are proposed for elimination or reduction:

- LIHEAP – elimination
- CSBG – elimination
- CDBG – elimination
- OAA Title V (SCSEP) – elimination
- CSFP – significant reduction (from ~\$551M to \$91M by FY 2028)

TCOA is not directly funded by these programs, but the proposed cuts could:

- Increase demand for TCOA services as other supports disappear
- Strain community partners and local service networks
- Reduce employment and economic supports for older adults
- Create uncertainty for OAA programs that have been flat-funded for years

Budget outcomes remain uncertain, and monitoring continues.

FY 2027 State of Michigan Budget Proposals

Michigan's FY 2027 budget is still under negotiation. The Governor released her executive proposal in February, and both the House and Senate are advancing their own versions. TCOA continues to monitor developments and engage in statewide advocacy.

Status of Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization

The Older Americans Act (OAA) remains pending for congressional reauthorization after its last authorization expired in FY 2024. Although a bipartisan reauthorization bill passed the Senate in 2024, final congressional action has not yet occurred.

The OAA is typically reauthorized every four to five years to establish federal aging policy priorities, authorize funding levels, and update program requirements for services supporting older adults and caregivers. Despite the delay, OAA-funded programs continue operating through annual appropriations, allowing services to continue without interruption.

For TCOA, the primary concerns remain long-term funding certainty and the potential for future changes to funding levels, reporting requirements, and service delivery expectations.

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TCOA continues to monitor federal developments and advocacy efforts closely.

MDHHS State Plan on Aging (FY 2027–2029)

MDHHS has released the draft State Plan on Aging for FY 2027–2029, open for public comment through May 21, 2026. Approval is expected at the June 2026 Commission on Services to the Aging meeting, with implementation beginning October 1, 2026.

The plan is available here: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/adults-and-seniors/acls/news-room/rpc-mi-state-plan-for-aging-for-fy27-29>

Comments may be submitted to Tammy Lemmer at LemmerT1@michigan.gov.

Discussion followed.

6. Presentation: Christine Histed, RD, TCOA Evidence-Based Health & Wellness Programs

C. Histed provided a definition of “evidence-based” and gave an overview of what evidence-based program include, as well as basic information for all programs. Upcoming workshops were also shared and are available on the TCOA website.

Discussion followed.

7. New Business

- a. **Amended Advisory Council Bylaws: C. Cooper** shared the amended bylaws with the Council following legal review. The floor was open for comments and suggestions. Approval will be requested in July.

Discussion followed.

- b. **Multi-Year Plan Recommendation for Approval: K. Long** provided an overview of the Multi-Year Plan, including public comments received, as well as next steps. **R. Pearson** made a motion to recommend the plan for approval to the TCOA Administrative Board. **K. Bouchard-Wyant** seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- c. **Meals on Wheels Charity Golf Outing, June 17: H. Febres-Cordero** reminded the Council of the Meals on Wheels Golf Outing on June 17th at Forest Akers West. There are two event sponsors this year; Jackson National Life and Consumers Energy. TCOA is seeking golfers and sponsorships through the end of May, as well as help gathering swag for golfer bags (quantity 150).

H. Febres-Cordero also provided a fundraising update that TCOA was selected to be a highlighted non-profit through ePIFanyNow. Recognition includes media exposure, a donation, and recognition at an annual event.

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Discussion followed.

8. Council Reports

- a. **Social Security Administration:** **R. Ford** shared that SSA is externally hiring for Claims Specialists nationwide on [USAjobs.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov), closing June 2.

SSA is now under an appointment-focused model, but an appointment is not required. National Calendar should launch by July for the ability to schedule appointments online. Appointments can be made through the local office or the toll-free number.

- b. **Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC):** **C. Cooper** provided a brief update on Older Michiganians Day. K. Long shared that one of the MSAC members was recognized as Older Adult of the Year at Older Michiganians Day.

- c. **State Advisory Council (SAC):** **C. Cooper** referenced the State Plan on Aging and will follow up with more information on how to provide comment.

- d. **Nutrition Council:** **C. Buonodono** shared that Nutrition councilmembers are working to collect more feedback throughout the year from participants. There are currently 1,237 participants enrolled in Home Delivered Meals, 554 participants enrolled in Carry Out Meals with 89 registered for once a week pick up, and 637 participants enrolled in Congregate Dining. May 1st marked the start of Senior Project Fresh. TCOA is the Lead Agency for Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham but can enroll anyone statewide.

- e. **CATA:** **C. Cooper** shared a report from D. Wiese including that planning is under way for fall service and the FY 27 budget. They are awaiting the arrival of 5 new Paratransit buses and a new Shopping Bus to increase the Shopping Bus service to more senior housing locations. Ridership (both fixed route and paratransit) continues to remain strong. The partnership with Clinton Transit providing rides for MSU employees from Clinton County is going well with transfers occurring at Lake Lansing and Bath Meijer.

Discussion followed.

9. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

G. Kovnot shared about Representative Angela Witwer's Healthy Aging Fair on June 6 at the Lansing Mall from 10AM-12PM. Also, on June 16th the Savvy Senior meeting will be at the Delta Township Library hosting Michael Stout from Michigan Waterways Steward.

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

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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)

VACANT (Agency)

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