

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

Minutes

May 18, 2026, 3:30 PM

Members Present:

Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Vice
Chair

Trini Pehlivanoglu
Chris Swope

Scott Hansen

Bob Peña
Dwight Washington

Mark Mudry

Lucianna Solis

Members Absent:

John Andrews
Thomas Morgan

Irene Cahill

Mark Meadows, Chair

Staff:

Casey Cooper
Andrea Radel

Kirsten Laing
Joe Reeves

Kate Long

Guests:

Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani, PhD, Advisory Council, MSU School
of Planning, Design and Construction

Item #1. Call to Order:

J. Pearl-Wright called the meeting to order at 3:31PM.

Item #2. Introductions

Item #3. Approval of the May 18, 2026 Agenda:

M. Mudry motioned to accept and approve the May 18, 2026 agenda. **B. Peña** supported.
Motion carried.

Item #4. Approval of the March 16, 2026 Minutes:

D. Washington motioned to accept the March 16, 2026 meeting minutes. **B. Peña**
supported. **Motion carried.**

Item #5. Public Comment: No public comment.

Item #6. Director's Report:

A. Radel shared information on 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 (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. 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.

Item #7. Finance Report:

- A. February 2026: J. Reeves** requested the February report be bypassed and move to the March report.
- B. March 2026: J. Reeves** presented the March financial reports.
- C. Swope** motioned to accept and place on file the February and March financial reports. **B. Peña** supported. **Motion carried.**

Item #8. Disbursement Report and Resolution:

- A. March 2026: J. Reeves** presented the March 2026 Disbursement Report and Register. A copy was provided in the board packet. **B. Peña** motioned to approve the March 2026 check ledgers. **C. Swope** supported. **Motion carried.**
- B. April 2026: J. Reeves** presented the April 2026 Disbursement Report and Register. A copy was provided in the board packet. **B. Peña** motioned to approve the April 2026 check ledgers. **S. Hansen** supported. **Motion carried.**

Item #9. Multi-Year Plan Request for Approval:

- K. Long** presented the Multi-Year Plan and public comments received. Approval of the Plan was requested. **D. Washington** motioned to approve the 2027-2029 Multi-Year Plan. **B. Peña** supported. **Motion carried.**

Discussion followed.

Item #10. Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) Pension Plan Follow Up:

On behalf of S. Moreno, **A. Radel** provided follow-up from the March Board meeting and referred to the informational document provided in the board packet. Marne Daggett, Regional Manager at Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) of Michigan, will be present at the July 2026 meeting for discussion and questions. No action was requested at the meeting.

Discussion followed.

Item #11. Public Transparency Plan:

- C. Cooper** presented the Public Transparency Plan that was drafted as part of the Strategic Planning process. This will be reviewed annually, once approved. **C. Swope** motioned to approve the Public Transparency Plan. **M. Mudry** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Item #12. Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Report:

- K. Laing** provided the HCBS report. The total participants and the wait lists are as follows:

- Overall, 1,158 participants are currently enrolled in a TCOA HCBS program.
- Case Coordination (including Ingham County Elder Services Millage) – 240 participants enrolled. The Case Coordination waitlist – 67
- Care Management – 58 participants enrolled.
- MI Choice Waiver – 1,014 participants enrolled. The MI Choice Waiver waitlist – 356.
- Veterans Directed Care – 6 participants enrolled.

Compliance Report: K. Laing reminded Board Members that she serves as the TCOA Compliance Officer. K. Laing then reviewed regulatory risk identification processes, including monitoring external risks required under the MI Choice contract and addressing internal reports of potential fraud, waste, or abuse involving Medicaid funds, beneficiaries, or providers.

Discussion followed.

Item #13. Nutrition Report:

On behalf of C. Buonodono, **A. Radel** provided an update on the total participants served in the Nutrition Program, as follows:

Home Delivered Meals –1,237 participants enrolled.

Carry Out Meals –554 participants enrolled (89 weekly pick up).

Congregate Dining –637 participants enrolled.

Additionally, Senior Project Fresh began May 1 and continues through October 31. TCOA is the Lead Agency for Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. Each participant will receive a benefit card for \$25 for fresh produce and qualifying items at local Farmer's Markets.

Discussion followed.

Additional Discussion:

J. Pearl-Wright recognized TCOA as a chosen non-profit for ePIFanyNow. C. Swope and J. Pearl-Wright were thanked for attending.

B. Peña shared that Cristo Rey Church is hosting a Fiesta May 22-24.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:05 PM

Next scheduled meeting: July 20, 2026, at 3:30 PM