

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

Minutes

July 20, 2026, 3:30 PM

Members Present:

Mark Meadows, Chair	Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Vice Chair	Irene Cahill
Scott Hansen	Mark Mudry	Bob Peña
Lucianna Solis	Chris Swope	

Members Absent:

John Andrews	Ryan Kost	Thomas Morgan
Trini Pehlivanoglu	Dwight Washington	

Staff:

Casey Cooper	Carl Buonodono	Kirsten Laing
Kate Long	Saray Moreno	Andrea Radel
Joe Reeves		

Guests:

Marne Daggett, Municipal Employee's Retirement System of Michigan (MERS) Regional Manager	Annette Gamez, ACLS Bureau Regional Aging Representative	LaSandra Jones, Advisory Council Representative
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Item #1. Call to Order:

M. Meadows called the meeting to order at 3:32PM.

Item #2. Introductions

Item #3. Approval of the July 20, 2026 Agenda:

B. Peña motioned to accept and approve the July 20, 2026 agenda. **J. Pearl-Wright** supported. **Motion carried.**

Item #4. Approval of the May 18, 2026 Minutes:

B. Peña motioned to accept the May 18, 2026 meeting minutes as amended. **J. Pearl-Wright** supported. **Motion carried.**

Item #5. Public Comment: No public comment.

Item #6. TCOA Pension Plan:

A. Resolution to Adopt Hybrid Retirement Plan Structure with Municipal Employee's Retirement System of Michigan (MERS): **S. Moreno** reviewed the initial presentation information that was initially presented at the March meeting along with the

corresponding motions. She then provided an additional overview of the current proposal, reviewed the documents included in the Board packet and introduced Marne Daggett to provide additional information and answer any questions.

The following additional items were provided in the Board packet:

- Tri-County Aging Consortium Administrative Board MERS Hybrid Pension Plan Follow-up Information
- Legal Opinion- MERS Pension Plan Proposed Change for New Hires
- MERS Annual Actuarial Valuation Report 12/31/25 Tri-County Aging Consortium

J. Pearl-Wright presented supplemental information at the meeting that she had prepared. This information was not included in the packet for review prior to the meeting.

Discussion followed.

There was no motion to accept and approve the Resolution to Adopt Hybrid Retirement Plan Structure with MERS. J. Pearl -Wright requested that MERS provide further information based on the material she presented. MERS will review the information provided and request a quote from the MERS Actuarial Team. This will be revisited at a later date.

Item #7. Director's Report:

A. Radel shared information on the Federal FY 2027 Budget, changes to Federal grantmaking rules, the Michigan FY 2027 State Budget, and an Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization update.

Federal FY2027 Budget Update

Congress continues work on the FY2027 federal budget. Current House appropriations bills maintain level funding for most core Older Americans Act (OAA) programs, including nutrition services, caregiver support, and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). However, proposed reductions or eliminations of several non-OAA programs—including LIHEAP, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), and the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)—remain under consideration and could increase demand for services provided by Area Agencies on Aging. The Senate has not yet completed its appropriations work, and Congress may need to enact a Continuing Resolution if final spending bills are not approved before October 1. TCOA will continue to monitor federal budget negotiations and assess potential impacts on agency programs, funding, and the older adults we serve.

Changes to Federal Grantmaking Rules

The federal government has proposed revisions to the rules governing how federal grants are awarded and administered. If finalized, the changes could increase administrative and reporting requirements for grant recipients, despite the already extensive oversight and compliance requirements currently in place. The proposal would also provide federal agencies with greater discretion over discretionary grant awards and renewals, creating additional uncertainty for competitive funding opportunities. Older Americans Act formula

funding is not expected to be directly affected. The public comment period closed on July 13th . TCOA will continue to monitor the rulemaking process, evaluate potential impacts, and participate in advocacy efforts as appropriate.

Michigan FY2027 State Budget Update

Governor Whitmer is expected to sign Michigan's FY2027 State Budget early this week. Initial review indicates a positive outcome for the aging network, with the MDHHS budget increasing approximately 2.3%, largely driven by Medicaid funding adjustments. The budget fully funds the MI Choice Waiver program, including the projected actuarial rate adjustment, and provides ongoing funding to sustain Direct Care Worker wage increases after federal funding expires. Overall, the budget maintains support for key home and community-based services that help older adults remain safely in their homes and communities. TCOA will continue to monitor implementation guidance, including final reimbursement rates and contract details, and evaluate any operational or financial impacts.

Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization Update

The Older Americans Act (OAA), which was last authorized through FY 2024, remains overdue for reauthorization. Last week, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a bipartisan reauthorization bill that includes several priorities supported by USAging, including greater flexibility for Area Agencies on Aging, permanent authorization of grab-and-go meals, and annual funding authorization increases of 4.62% each year for the next five years.

The bill now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration. While additional negotiations are expected, Senate passage marks an important step toward final reauthorization.

Item #8. Finance Report:

A. April 2026: J. Reeves requested the April report be bypassed and move to the May report.

B. May 2026: J. Reeves presented the May financial reports.

C. Swope motioned to accept and place on file the April and May financial reports. **J. Pearl-Wright** supported. **Motion carried.**

Item #9. Disbursement Report and Resolution:

A. May 2026: J. Reeves presented the May 2026 Disbursement Report and Register. A copy was provided in the board packet. **I. Cahill** motioned to approve the May 2026 check ledgers. **C. Swope** supported. **Motion carried.**

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

Item #10. Tri-County Aging Consortium Advisory Council Bylaws Amendment

A. Resolution for Tri-County Aging Consortium Advisory Council Bylaws Amendment: C. Cooper presented the proposed Resolution for Tri-County Aging Consortium Advisory Council Bylaws Amendment.

The following items were provided in the Board packet:

- Current Bylaws of the Advisory Council Amended April 2014
- Proposed Amended Bylaws of the Advisory Council July 2026
- Summary of Proposed Bylaw Changes
- State Unit on Aging Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Operating Standards

C. Cooper noted that the Proposed Amended Bylaws had undergone legal review with no recommended changes.

I. Cahill motioned to approve the Resolution for Tri-County Aging Consortium Advisory Council Bylaws Amendment. **J. Pearl-Wright** supported. **Motion carried.**

Item #11. 2026 Golf Outing Recap: **C. Cooper** provided a recap of the day, estimating \$50,000 in gross revenue. Save the Date for the 2027 Golf Outing: June 16, 2027 at Forest Akers West.

Additionally, TCOA has launched Raffle sales for Dinner and Auction. The Dinner and Auction will be on November 19, 2026 at Eagle Eye Banquet Center.

Item #12. ACLS Bureau Assessment: **K. Long** shared a summary of the outcome from the TCOA 2025/2026 ACLS Bureau Assessment. The assessment went very well, and TCOA received no findings.

Item #13. Semi-Annual Report: **K. Long** provided the TCOA semi-annual report that captures all TCOA programs and services regardless of fund source. This report covered October 2025-March 2026.

Item #14. Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Report:

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

Overall, 1,150 participants are currently enrolled in a TCOA HCBS programs.

Case Coordination (including Ingham County Elder Services Millage) – 237 participants enrolled. The Case Coordination waitlist – 59

Care Management – 49 participants enrolled.

MI Choice Waiver – 1,022 participants enrolled. The MI Choice Waiver waitlist – 358.

Veterans Directed Care – 9 participants enrolled.

K. Laing also mentioned there is an opening for an RN Supports Coordinator.

Compliance Report: K. Laing reminded the Board that compliance is an agency-wide responsibility. Kirsten then provided an overview of expectations, encouraging accountability of compliance.

Item #15. Nutrition Report:

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

Home Delivered Meals – 1,109 participants enrolled.

Carry Out Meals – 71 participants registered.

Congregate Dining – 658 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, but can assist with enrollment statewide. Each participant will receive a benefit card for \$25 for fresh produce and qualifying items at local Farmer's Markets. 299 individuals currently enrolled.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:18 PM

Next scheduled meeting: August 17, 2026, at 3:30 PM