



**TRI-COUNTY AGING CONSORTIUM  
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING**

**Minutes**

*March 19, 2018 3:30pm*

**Members Present:** Blake Mulder, Chair    Ken Mitchell-Vice-Chair    Bryan Crenshaw  
 Jeanne Pearl-Wright    Dwight Washington    Howard Spence  
 Robin Naeyaert    Aaron Stephens    Joan Jackson Johnson

**Members Absent:** Peter Spadafore    Kara Hope    Chris Swope  
 Brian T. Jackson

**Staff:** Marion Owen    Sara Aikman    Carl Buonodono  
 Joe Reeves    Robin Webb    Kirsten Laing  
 Tammy Lemmer    Tom Smith

**Guests:** Sherri King – Field Rep, Aging and Adult Services Agency, MDHHS  
 Dawn Sargent- Advisory Council Member  
 Nathan Baldemann - Rehmann

1. **Call to Order:** B. Mulder called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
2. **Introductions:** Board members welcomed.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** A. Stephens moved to approve the agenda. K. Mitchell seconded. Motion carried.
4. **Minutes of February 26, 2018:** K. Mitchell moved to approve the minutes. B. Crenshaw seconded. Motion carried.
5. **Public Comment:** N/A

**I. Directors Report- Budgets/Finance Update:** This week will hopefully result in settling the FY 2018 federal budget which has been on a continuing resolution since last fall. How the funds for Older Americans Act programs will end up is still unknown and we are hearing that there could be reductions of 5% for non-military, non-discretionary programs. There is particular



**6. Directors Report(continued) Budgets/Finance Updates:** concern for the SHIP services referred to as MMAP in Michigan which is the Medicare and Medicaid Assistance Program where staff and volunteers assist older adults with navigating through the complicated Medicare and Medicaid systems. This includes support to persons choosing their Medicare part D prescription coverage options. There is a House proposal to eliminate SHIP and the Senate proposed to fund it at a lower level. The Administration is also proposing elimination even though this is an extremely popular and helpful program. Last year over 1,700 people were served through this program in the tri-county area and there is no other service available like this. Senior organizations are advocating to restore the funding for MMAP. Also slated for elimination is the senior employment program which offers employment training to low income persons age 55 and over, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program which in Michigan funds the Home Heating Tax Credit, a very popular benefit and the emergency assistance funds to prevent heat shut-offs, which local programs operate including CACS, VOA and MDHHS. However, the Senate has restored some of the funding for these programs within their recommendations.

The state legislature has started taking public testimony on the FY 2019 budget. The governor has unveiled his proposed budget which includes flat funding for AASA (Aging and Adult Services Agency) program including home delivered meals and in-home services. However, the Silver Key Coalition has been testifying at hearings dealing with senior programs. The Coalition consist of the Area Agencies on Aging, AARP and other organizations and has been instrumental in securing increased funding to eliminate wait lists in past years and the Governor has promoted Michigan as a “No Wait State”. The Coalition is advocating for a \$3 million increase in state funded in-home services. The MiChoice program (here referred to as Project Choices) provides Medicaid Home and Community Based Services to very frail persons who are functionally eligible for a nursing home, will receive a \$& million increase under the Governors’ budget. We have received the first response to the adjusted claims we submitted for past year for Project Choices. MSA (Medical Services Administration) allowed less than half of our claims and we are resubmitting with additional supporting verification for review.

The auditing firm of Rehmann and Robson will be providing an overview of the FY 2017 TCOA Audit. Copies of the audit will be distributed at the meeting.

**II TCOA Parking Lot:** We have been having problems with staff from other buildings and programs parking in the lot next to our building and this has caused problems for older adults who are visiting us for services, especially the tax assistance program. We have politely asked people to move as this is a parking lot designated for TCOA and have received rather rude responses. Actually, some continue to park here even though we have put notices on their cars. We do not allow our staff to park here at all during tax assistance season and other times when there is a high need for many parking spots for older adults and persons with disabilities, unless

**6. Directors Report (continued) TCOA Parking Lot:** they have a doctor recommendation or handicapped decal. It is distressing to see a person using a walker or wheelchair trudging through the snow because there are no parking spaces and they have to park far away. It is both dangerous for them and frustrating for us. We do allow staff to park here if they are scheduled to work before 7:00 a.m. (such as the kitchen staff) and to park temporarily if they are coming and going to client appointments. There is a sign which states TCOA Parking Only. We discussed this at the last Advisory Council meeting and it was suggested to write all of the program directors in the building stating what is occurring. We are planning to do this and will involve the Facilities Manager as well. He has been very supportive and has tried to assist us. We will report on this next month.

### **III. Upcoming Events:**

- \*Volunteer Appreciation Open House, April 20, 4-7 pm at TCOA
- \*Run for the Ages 5K, at Hawk Island, May 19 at 9:00 am for runners, walkers, walker users and wheelchair users
- \*30<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Outing at Forest Akers West, June 12, 8:00 am
- \*Older Michigianians Day at the Capitol, May 16, 10:00 am
- \*33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner and Auction, at Eagle Eye, November 8, 5:30 pm

**7. Audit Presentation:** Nate Baldermann, Principal from Rehmann presented the FY 2017 Financial Audit. B. Crenshaw moved to receive the audit to file. J. Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried.

**8. 2018 Programmatic Assessment Update:** T. Smith gave an update on the programmatic assessments that are currently taking place for the month of March.

**9. Grant Update:** T. Lemmer gave an update on the recent grant awards. Ingham County and Tri County People Fund have awarded TCOA grants for Crisis Services and shelf stable meals. TCOA is also receiving money from MSU College of Human Medicine on a project promoting evidence-based programs. A request to Mason Area Community Fund for Chronic Pain PATH is pending. T. Lemmer will be submitting applications to Jackson National Life Community Foundation for Crisis Services, and Michigan State Medical Society for evidence-based programs. A capacity building request to the Capital Region community foundation was declined. There were a regular contributor to TCOA with funds from the Vandervoort Family foundation but they changed their funding priorities and are no longer providing partnerships with Michigan disability rights coalition and RSVP-Lansing to expand "Living Well in the Community" workshops was also declined. Capital Region Community Foundation and Disability Network Capital Area grant requests have been declined.



**10. Finance:**

**A. Financial Reports-January:** J. Reeves presented the January Financial Reports. B. Crenshaw moved to accept the January Financial reports. A. Stephens seconded. Motion carried.

**11. General Check Ledger Resolution:**

**A. February:** B. Crenshaw moved to approve the February General Check Ledger. R. Naeyaert seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting was Adjourned at 4:35pm