

TRI-COUNTY AGING CONSORTIUM
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING

Minutes

November 18, 2019 3:30pm

Members Present: Blake Mulder, Chair Robin Naeyaert Bryan Crenshaw
Ken Mitchell, Vice-Chair Jeanne Pearl-Wright Chris Swope
Aaron Stephens

Members Absent: Joan Jackson Johnson Dwight Washington Jody Washington
Matt Bowen Patricia Spitzley

Staff: Marion Owen Sara Aikman Carl Buonodono
Kirsten Laing Joe Reeves Tammy Lemmer
Kate Long Tom Smith Casey Cooper

Guests: Joel Zachrich, Advisory Council Member

Item #1. Call to Order:

B. Mulder called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Item #2. Introductions:

Introductions were made by Board members TCOA Staff, and Guests.

Item #3. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion by C. Swope, supported by K. Mitchell to accept the Approval of the Agenda.

Motion carried.

Item #4. Minutes of October 2019 Meeting:

Motion by A. Stephens, supported by J. Pearl-Wright to accept the minutes for October 2019 Meeting. **Motion carried.**

Item #5. Public Comment:

Aaron Stephens announced his plans to step off the Board.

Item #6. Directors Report – Marion Owen:

- I. **State and Federal Updates:** The state budget is still not finalized although funding for programs for the Area Agencies on Aging such as TCOA was passed and approved by the Governor. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is unable to release funds for MI Choice until the budget office approves the increase and how it will be applied. TCOA receives funding from both AASA (Aging and Adult Services Agency) and the Medicaid funded MI Choice Program (Project Choices). It is difficult to plan ahead without knowing how the increase in both slots (participants) and funding will be allocated. Ongoing

communication continues between the AAA Association and MDHHS. TCOA increase the rates by \$.52 an hour for local in-home care providers to improve their ability to deal with the direct care worker shortage and recruit and retain their direct care staff. In some parts of the state AAA's are unable to find direct care workers to fill the needs of their participants. So far TCOA is fortunate that the shortage of direct care workers has not hit the crisis stage as it has in other areas of the state. In some regions, home care agencies are pulling out of the program and ending their contracts due to the low reimbursement rate. TCOA has always maintained positive partnerships with the many agencies delivering services to clients and some have been providers since the beginning of Project Choices.

There is no movement of the federal FY 2020 budget and the deadline is November 21. Although a shutdown seems unlikely TCOA is prepared for such an event. The Board passed the "TCOA Policy for Government Shutdown Contingency Plan" a few years back to deal with such emergencies. It is likely that there will be another continuing resolution passed.

- II. Ingham County Millage:** As reported last month the Human Services Committee of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners (BOC) has been supportive of the senior millage and decided to separate such a millage from the Health Plan/CMH millage. TCOA suggested the language, the services and the general cost of such services. Critical programs such as meals on wheels, in-home and personal care services, respite for caregivers, home repair/chore services, crisis services, wellness services such as classes like Matter of Balance and assistance to senior centers, legal and information and referral services will be included. Both Human Services and Finance Committees passed the resolution supporting the senior millage and the full BOC passed it unanimously this past Tuesday. It will be on the August 4, 2020 ballot. Copies of the resolution and millage language will be distributed to the Board.
- III. Partnership with MSU College of Medicine:** The MSU College of Medicine through a grant with the Michigan Health Endowment Fund is partnering with TCOA and another AAA in Flint to increase the medical school Resident's knowledge of non-medical services and supports available to older adults for the goal of raising their awareness of how they can integrate such services into the care they provide to older patients. The Residents are working with Sparrow Hospital, TCOA staff (primarily Barb Mannino, MSW) has been working with the lead MSU College of Medicine staff person Joan Ilardo, PhD, Director of Research Initiatives, to develop the curriculum, share expertise, coordinate visits to community based organizations including PACE, Burcham Hills Retirement , senior housing, Adult Day Care and two clients through Project Choices (TCOA). There were also panel presentations from local professionals dealing with older adults topics---dementia, health aging, legal and protective services and the aging network. The first phase is complete with another beginning in January. Feedback has been very positive. A compilation of some of the feedback will be distributed at the meeting.
- IV. Other:** The annual Dinner and Auction was held this past November 7 with many in attendance. A big thanks to Casey. She and Tammy will give the Board an update on the outcome. TCOA is working with Ingham County to replace the very old office cubicles we have. They are out dated and there is no longer any way to replace the electrical circuits and other parts. Joe Reeves will provide information on the new cubicles.

The AAA Association is continuing to work towards establishing a management services organization separate from the Association. This new entity will serve as a hub for contracting with regional and statewide organizations to provide services that are non-medical including transportation, in-home supports and meals on wheels. AAA's could coordinate these services for Health Plans. The Association is working with consultants who have extensive experience with forming organizations such as these.

Item #7. Planning Advocacy & Development:

- A. Dinner and Auction:** Casey gave preliminary numbers for the Dinner and Auction held on November 7th. This year raised approximately \$77,000. Last year's total was \$67,000. This was due to more sponsorships and an increase in attendance. Final numbers to be reported at next meeting.
- B. 4th Quarter Services Report:** K. Long presented the 4th Quarter Service Report (see report included in packet), pointing out on page 5 the Creating Confident Caregivers with a 96% participant completion. On page 7 the Evidence Based Program and the need for host sites and leaders.
- C. 2019 Older Michigander Needs and Solutions Assessment Data Party-**T. Lemmer reported that in the Spring of 2019, the AAA Association obtained a contract from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to conduct a needs assessment survey designed to understand the issues facing older adults in Michigan. This is the first such survey since 1987. TCOA staff participated in the identification of more than 200 questions in 9 topic areas. 600 people from across the state were contacted by telephone at rates proportional to the Regions' populations. Preliminary results were shared at Data Party on October 30 and are consistent with what we've seen anecdotally in our area: transportation, chore services, home repair, and caregiver issues ranked high. The full report is due on December 15.

Item #8. Finance:

- A. Financial Report September 2019:** J. Reeves reported on the new cubicles that will be installed after the first of the year. Ingham County has agreed to cover the cost, then add additional payments to our monthly rent payment to pay for the new cubicles. J. Reeves discussed with the Board the September preliminary financial reports (see exhibit 9.1-15). Motion by B. Crenshaw, supported by R. Naeyaert to accept the September preliminary financial reports. **Motion carried.**

Item #9. General Check Ledger Resolution:

- A. October:** Motion by C. Swope, supported by A. Stephens to accept the October Check Ledger Resolutions (exhibit 10.A). **Motion carried.**

Other Included Exhibits: None

Meeting was adjourned at 4:27 pm

NEXT MEETING: January 27th at 1:30

December meeting has been Cancelled