



TRI-COUNTY AGING CONSORTIUM ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday December 9, 2021, 1:00 P.M. via Microsoft Teams

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present
Ablan, Mary	Hoffman, Sue	Carl Buonodono
Beals, Laurie		Kate Long
Cockerill, Susan		Marion Owen
Fliss, Bud		Tammy Lemmer
Ford, Robyn		Tom Smith
Gutierrez, Joseph	Members Excused	
Heideman, Eileen	Stauffer, John	
Henry, Emma		Members of the Public
Kotval-Karamchandani, Zeenat		Nicole Boose, Rich's Residential and Home Care Options
Kovnot, Gloria		Heather Febres-Cordero, Hospice of Lansing
Lasater, Carla		
Lewis, Kirk		
Maas, Jessica		
Mask, Cheryl		
Neve, Kelly		
Pineda, Meghan		
Presas, Raul		
Sargent, Dawn		
Tomczyk, Archi		
Turner, Anita		
Wiese, Deb		

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at **1:04pm.**
- II. Welcome and Introductions:** Attendees were welcomed, and introductions made.
- III. Approval of the Agenda for December 9, 2021:** **A. Tomczyk** motioned for approval of the December 9 agenda. **Z. Kotval** seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from November 10, 2021:** **E. Heideman** motioned for approval of the November 10 minutes. **K. Neve** seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- V. Public Comment and Correspondence:**

T. Lemmer welcomed Nicole from Rich's Residential and Home Care Options as a guest.

5303 S. Cedar Street, Suite 1, Lansing, MI 48911-3800
 Telephone 517.887.1440 • Toll Free 1.800.405.9141
 Fax 517.887.8071 • www.tcoa.org





T. Lemmer also shared that changes in telephone technology are coming. Devices that use 3G network are going to be obsolete. More information will be shared as we get it. Currently, the best solution is to contact your own carrier and confirm whether or not you need to change devices and confirm what their timeline is. Discussion followed.

A. Tomczyk mentioned area codes in the St Johns area are now required even when dialing from within the area.

- VI. Executive Director's Report: M. Owen** shared that booster shots are becoming more important. Break through cases are increasing. TCOA received money from the State intended to increase vaccine access. Currently, TCOA is thinking about creating and sending postcards, and may even buy lists of contacts. The message will serve as a booster reminder with information on how to contact TCOA for help with transportation or setting up an appointment. The goal is to reach those who may be confused or hesitant, not just for the booster but vaccines in general. Discussion followed.

TCOA is still in discussions about the AARP sponsored Tax Assistance Program which is traditionally hosted at the TCOA office. Options are being discussed such as drop offs and/or virtual appointments.

TCOA is still waiting for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) relief money from the State. The funds are available through Fiscal Year 2025.

Millage money has been crucial for service delivery, especially for Meals on Wheels and home repair for keeping people safely in their homes.

Marion then wished the council a safe and happy holiday season with appreciation for everyone's time and support.

VII. Old Business

A. Agency Term Recommendations

T. Lemmer noted that there will be two agency seats vacant as of January due to term limits. **M. Pineda** entertained a motioned to approve Hospice of Lansing as an agency seat on the council. **A. Turner** made the motion. **C. Mask** seconded the motion. Motion passed. *(Editor's note: there should have been three vacancies announced -CATA, MSU School of Nursing, and McLaren).*

Discussed later in the meeting, **Z. Kotval-Karamchandani** will fill the second agency vacancy as the MSU School of Planning, Design and Construction.

VIII. New Business

- A. 4th Quarter TCOA Services Report: K. Long** shared service data from the TCOA fourth quarter that covered July-September 2021. Highlighted programs

5303 S. Cedar Street, Suite 1, Lansing, MI 48911-3800
Telephone 517.887.1440 • Toll Free 1.800.405.9141
Fax 517.887.8071 • www.tcoa.org





and service data throughout the report included information on legal services, Information & Assistance, and nutrition. K. Long then encouraged council members to review the report and send any questions or suggestions of items that are of interest for the FY 2022 report, including items that are not currently in the report.

- B. Request for Pictures:** T. Lemmer shared that the collage of council member photos in lieu of the traditional group shot will again be used in the Annual Report. Head shots were requested and are to be sent to Kate Long via email at longk@tcoa.org or connect with Tammy Lemmer 517-887-1382 for other options. Please send by the end of January.
- C. 2022 Presentation Topic Discussion:** T. Lemmer gave a background on the request for topics from members. The floor was then opened to members, noting Consumers Energy is scheduled for January.

The following topic ideas were discussed:

Medicaid Medicare Assistance Program

Consumers Energy, energy efficiency programs

Assistive technology with Kelly Blackwell of Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (or someone from DNCAP)

Hospice services (Hospice of Lansing is an incoming new member of the Advisory Council)

McLaren Hospital, new location updates

Tuesday Toolmen, home repair programs

Capital Area Community Services, public assistance programs

Community Mental Health, expansion of services under new legislation

Department of Health and Human Services, available programs and assistance legislative updates

Clare Luz from the IMPART Alliance and MSU Age Alive, on ageism

M. Owen shared that Dr Luz presented on Ageism to TCOA staff. She also noted that former Advisory Council member Linda Keilman received an award from Age Alive. E. Heideman suggested sending a letter of recognition and congratulation to Linda on behalf of the agency and Advisory Council. Discussion followed.

D. 2022 Sign-up for Administrative Board Meetings

T. Lemmer requested volunteers to attend the Administrative Board meetings in 2022. Meetings are typically on the 3rd Monday of every month at 3:30pm in-person at TCOA. A few meetings are on 4th Mondays due to holidays.

January: Cheryl Mask

February: Susan Cockerill

March: Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani

5303 S. Cedar Street, Suite 1, Lansing, MI 48911-3800

Telephone 517.887.1440 • Toll Free 1.800.405.9141

Fax 517.887.8071 • www.tcoa.org





April: TBD

May: Gloria

June: TBD

E. Appreciation for Departing Members

T. Lemmer offered words of appreciation and farewell to the following:

Nutrition Council representative Phyllis Monroe. The Nutrition Council will identify a new representative.

MSU term and agency representative Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani who was completing a term for Linda Keilman. Because of the difference in colleges/schools, Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani will be able to fill the open agency position under the MSU School of Planning, Design and Construction. **G. Kovnot** made a motion to approve the agency appointment. **A. Tomczyk** seconded. Motion carried.

A transportation representative from each county will continue to provide updates, though CATA's official term has ended.

McLaren agency term and representative Laurie Beals.

Clinton County resident Eileen Heideman.

Vacancies remain in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties and the City of Lansing.

X. Council Reports

A. Social Security Administration:

R. Ford shared that there is no solid date for reopening the lobbies. Critical needs that warrant an in-person appointment do happen, but it is rare. The new Medicare premium has been announced at \$170.10. R. Ford then reviewed some handouts that were shared with the council (MY SOCIAL SECURITY'S FOUR SUPER POWERS and Medicare 2021 and 2022 costs at a glance.) The Administration continues to promote online services, especially because a significant number of offices in lower Michigan are seeing a major increase in calls and appointment requests due to retirement numbers going up. Retirement estimates can be found online. R. Ford provided an overview of services on the web.

B. Michigan Senior Advocates Council:

T. Lemmer shared that the big topic of discussion is the ARPA money as mentioned by Marion. A letter will be sent on behalf of the Council as an appeal discussing the unmet needs that could be addressed with the funds. There has been some discussion on Auto No-Fault and continuing concerns. T. Lemmer and M. Owen noted that 4AM contracts with a lobbyist firm and they are interviewing four new firms to hopefully broaden the reach and influence.



B. State Advisory Council:

R. Ford was unable to attend the last meeting. Therefore, no report was provided.

D. Nutrition Council:

C. Buonodono announced that Meals on Wheels has transitioned home delivered meals back to once-a-week deliveries for most clients out of an abundance of caution.

A few congregate dining sites are open, but there are no plans for more to open at this time.

F. Transportation Advisory Boards

CATA/D. Wiese: Contact Craig Frazier, CATA Paratransit manager (517-394-1100) if a TCOA Advisory Council member within the CATA service area is interested in learning more about or applying for the Local Advisory Committee. D. Wiese then shared CATA data as it relates to ridership related to COVID.

COVID Testing: 96 rides, 108 tests

COVID Vaccinations: 1704 rides, 1989 vaccinations (Paratransit), 700+ rides/vaccinations (Fixed Route)

CATA has reissued the mask requirement for all CATA buildings/facilities.

Paratransit is now averaging over 800 calls per day (“normal” is 850 – 1,000) averaging 1100 rides per day (“normal” is 1500+).

October 2021 was the largest Paratransit ridership since March 2020.

Eatran/J. Gutierrez: Councilmember had to leave the meeting prior to reporting. Therefore, there is no update.

Clinton Transit/A. Tomczyk: Nothing to report, but there may be information to share next month about a possible new project.

IX. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

There were no announcements.

The meeting adjourned at 2:36pm.