

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

Minutes

August 21, 2023, 3:30 pm

Members Present:

Patricia Spitzley, Chair
Noal Garcia
Jeanne Pearl-Wright
Luciana Solis

Irene Cahill, Vice Chair
Mark Mudry
Bob Pena
Chris Swope

John Andrews
Blake Mulder
Monica Schafer
Dwight Washington

Members Absent:

Ryan Kost

Staff:

Carl Buonodono
Andrea Radel
Kendra Voelz

Casey Cooper
Joe Reeves

Kirsten Laing
Thomas Smith

Guest:

Annette Gamez – Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (ACLS Bureau), Field Representative

Gordon Robinson – Michigan Financial Group

Item #1. Call to Order:

I. Cahill called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.

Item #2. Introductions:

Item #3. Approval of the Agenda:

M. Schafer, supported by D. Washington to accept and approve the agenda with revisions. **Motion carried.**

Item #4. Minutes of June 26, 2023 Meeting:

M. Schafer, supported by J. Pearl-Wright to accept the minutes for the June 26, 2023, meeting. **Motion carried.**

Item #5. Public Comment: No comment.

Item #6. Directors Report:

A. Radel shared that the Administration for Community Living (ACL) recently proposed updates to the regulations for most of its Older Americans Act (OAA) programs. The last substantial update to most OAA program regulations was in 1988. Updates are needed to align regulations to the current statute and reflect the needs of today's older adults. It aims to better support the national aging network that delivers OAA services and improve program implementation, with the ultimate goal of better serving older adults. The open comment period concluded on August 15th. A summary of the proposed changes was provided.

A. Radel shared that the state budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 includes the following allocations for older adult programs:

- \$5 million in one-time funding for establishing Caregiver Resource Centers within Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) around the state.
- \$1.0 million in one-time increase in funding for home-delivered meals.
- \$658,000 increase for Older Americans Act-funded home and community-based services.
- \$0.85 per hour increase for direct care workers (DCW) involved in publicly funded services. This is in addition to the \$2.35/hourly previously appropriated.

To clarify the recent confusion surrounding ARPA funding. Funds allocated to TCOA have already been awarded, so they will not be drawn back. TCOA is on target to spend ARPA funding by the deadline of September 30, 2024.

Housing needs continue to be a major issue for older adults, and the Statewide Housing Plan that was released in 2022 includes a priority area focused on older adult housing. The Michigan State Housing Authority (MSHDA) is accepting nominations for an Equity Advisory Committee to guide the plan's implementation. Note that individuals with lived experience related to housing instability are particularly important to the process. Nominations will be accepted through August 25, 2023.

Item #7. Michigan Financial Group:

G. Robinson provided a brief overview of the TCOA investments.

Item #8. MDHHS Collection Tool

J. Reeves reminded Board members to complete and submit their forms.

Item #9. ACLS Contract Renewals

T. Smith presented four resolutions:

1. Access Services Funding Fiscal Year 2024
2. In-Home Services Funding Fiscal Year 2024
3. Nutrition Services Funding Fiscal Year 2024
4. Community Services Funding Fiscal Year 2024

B. Mulder, supported by C. Swope, moved to approve all four resolutions.

Motion carried.

Item #10. Community Engagement and Planning Report:

C. Cooper provided a final update on the outcome of the June 13th Golf Outing. C. Cooper also explained how the planning committee has met and is brainstorming fundraising strategy going forward.

The six-week workshop Savvy Caregiver will have a new session beginning on September 13th at Sparrow Health Center. Information on all TCOA Evidence Programs will be distributed.

Item #11. Project Choices Report:

K. Laing provided an update on the total participants and wait lists for the Case Coordination/Senior Millage, Care Management and MI Choice. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has developed a timeline for Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). MI Choice will be the first Michigan Medicaid program to transition to this process.

Item #12. Nutrition Report:

C. Buonodono provided an update on the total participants for Home Delivered Meals and Congregate Dining followed by an update on Senior Project Fresh coupon distribution for Ingham County.

Item #14. Finance Report:

Financial Report June and July 2023: J. Reeves presented the June and July 2023 financial reports. B. Mulder, supported by C. Swope to accept the June and July 2023 financial reports. **Motion carried.**

Item #15. General Check Ledger Resolution:

June and July 2023 – C. Swope, supported by M. Schafer, moved to approve the June and July 2023 Check Ledgers. **Motion carried.**

Meeting Adjourned at 4:31pm
Next meeting September 18, 2023, at 3:30 pm