



TRI-COUNTY AGING CONSORTIUM ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 12, 2023, 1:00 PM

Members Present*	Members Absent*	Staff Present
Susan Hoffman (President)	Emma Henry	Andrea Radel, Executive Director
Susan Cockerill	Phil Kozachik	Carl Buonodono, Nutrition Director
Heather Febres-Cordero	Mark Meadows	Casey Cooper, Community Engagement and Fundraising Director
Robyn Ford	Chelsea Rider	Kendra Voelz, Volunteer and Outreach Specialist
Gloria Kovnot		
Jessica Maas	Members Excused*	Members of the Public
Lucy Maillette	Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani	Geoffrey Johns, Salus Center: Lansing's LGBTQIA+ Community Center
Susanne Mannino	LaSandra Jones	
Raheema Muhammad		
Kelly Neve		
Tom Nobach		
Ruth Pearson		
Meghan Pineda		
Raul Presas		
Tanya Randall		
Barbara Smith		
Madelyn "Archi" Tomczyk		
Anita Turner		

*Please see Attachment 1 for the TCOA Advisory Council 2023 Membership List with member affiliations.

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by **S. Hoffman** at 1:00 pm.
- II. Welcome**
- III. Approval of the Agenda for October 12, 2023:** **M. Tomczyk** motioned for approval. **A. Febres-Cordero** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from September 14, 2023:** **M. Tomczyk** motioned for approval. **A. Turner** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. Public Comment and Correspondence:**

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On Thursday, October 26 TCOA and the Alzheimer's Association will be hosting an education program at TCOA titled *Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body* from 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST. Registration is required.

VI. Executive Director's Report: A. Radel reported that the Administration for Community Living (ACL) approved the 2024 – 2026 State Plan on Aging late last month. The State Plan on Aging was guided by information gathered through a robust needs assessment process as well as the local priorities established by Michigan's 16 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). The goals and objectives included in the Plan closely align with the regional multi-year plans across Michigan. The State Plan builds on and expands the reach of many of the regional priorities including:

- Increasing access to services.
- Expanding and strengthening partnerships to better serve older adults.
- Promoting participant directed person centered planning.
- Promoting optimal health and preserving independence.

On September 30th, President Biden signed a continuing resolution that will keep the federal government funded at FY 2023 levels through November 17th. ACLS has issued Statement of Grant Awards (SGAs) reflecting both federal and state funds through November 30th. We continue to monitor the federal budget situation and take guidance from ACLS accordingly.

The Regional Housing Partnership that is working to support the Housing Action Plan for Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties has been meeting to develop an action plan over the recent months. This partnership is being led by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and Capital Area Housing Partnership. There are several workgroups that have been established to focus on key areas, as follows:

- Financial Resources Workgroup: Focusing on development incentives, lending and investing.
- Existing Stock Workgroup: Focusing on rehabilitation and preservation of homes and rental units.
- New Development Workgroup: Focusing on construction and development, and labor and material needs.
- Equity, Empowerment, and Education Workgroup: Focusing on issues through an equity lens, including equitable development, labor practices, policies, housing options, and accessibility.
- Preventing and Ending Homelessness Workgroup: Focusing on transitional housing, affordable housing, and counseling services.

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TCOA staff have been involved in the planning meetings and will be participating in the Preventing and Ending Homelessness workgroup.

VII. Presentation: Geoffrey Johns, Salus Center: Lansing's LGBTQIA+ Community Center

G. Johns shared information about the Salus Center, Lansing's LGBTQIA+ Community Center and Resource Hub. Salus offers trainings on topics such as inclusivity, pronoun use, and methods to ensure that people are not unintentionally excluding anyone. Salus Center also has several community and support groups that meet regularly. Johns also shared that they are currently looking for new board members for Salus, and they are hoping to interest people who are from diverse backgrounds. Questions and a discussion followed Johns' presentation.

VIII. Old Business

- A. **C. Cooper** reminded the Advisory Council that the 38th Annual Dinner and Auction is coming up on Thursday, November 16 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Please RSVP with Cooper by **October 31**. Advisory Council members may receive up to two complimentary tickets to attend. Contact Kendra Voelz if interested in buying or selling cash prize raffle tickets for the event or to volunteer that evening. Participants do not need to be present to win. TCOA is still seeking sponsorships and items for the live and silent auction.

IX. New Business

- A. **C. Cooper** shared the nominations for the slate of officers for the 2024 Advisory Council year. This slate will be voted on during the November Advisory Council meeting. Casey thanked the Nominating Committee for their efforts. Nominees are:
- i. President: Gloria Kovnot
 - ii. First Vice President: Anita Turner
 - iii. Second Vice President: Madelyn "Archi" Tomczyk
 - iv. Corresponding Secretary: Tom Nobach

X. Council Reports

- A. **Social Security Administration: R. Ford** shared that the Social Security Administration is one of the departments that is exempted from being furloughed if there is a government shutdown. That means, even if there is no budget, the Social Security Administration will remain open.

Ford shared that the 2024 Cost-of-Living adjustment will be 3.2%.

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- B. **Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC): S. Hoffman** shared that MSAC met on September 27, 2023. Discussion topics included Guardianship reform and advocating to bolster the state ombudsman budget so more ombudsmen may be hired to meet the need.
- C. **State Advisory Council (SAC): R. Ford** shared that SAC also recently discussed ombudsmen and are going to present their research to the Commission on Services to the Aging for consideration of it being taken up by the Advocacy Committee. SAC will be meeting the following week to get an update from members on their projects.
- D. **Nutrition Council: C. Buonodono** shared the current number of people being served by each division within the Nutrition Program at TCOA:

Home Delivered Meals – 1,175 participants. No wait list.

Carry Out Meals – 103 participants. No wait list.

Congregate Dining – 739 participants. No wait list.

Senior Project Fresh has wrapped up for the season. All 250 coupon books have been distributed.

Senior Proxy Project is currently looking for a new part-time employee to take over for the two AmeriCorps employees whose terms recently ended. TCOA has been working with Capital Area Community Services for the last seven years to distribute the commodity boxes, but they are no longer going to be facilitating that program. TCOA is currently waiting to hear what agency will be administering this program.

E. **Transportation Advisory Boards**

CATA: C. Cooper gave an update including ride bookings, ridership levels, and new buses and minivans that will be in use soon. A new class of Operators will begin training on October 23, 2023. All CATA employees have been trained on the new radio system that is linked to the state. CATA is also working with Trapeze on an Optimization program for Paratransit which will advance flag “bad” rides for staff and group rides together for maximum optimization.

Eatran: C. Cooper then gave an update for Eatran. Eatran will have a new class of drivers beginning on October 16, 2023. A draft study report will be coming out in November. Finally, Eatran is examining a possible Connector between Charlotte and Delta Township.

Clinton Transit: A. Tomczyk reported that ridership is up.

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XI. Member's Time and/or Announcements:

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 PM.

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Attachment 1: TCOA Advisory Council 2023 Membership List

*13 Senior Representatives Appointed by local units of government and
Up to 13 Agency Representatives Appointed by Tri-County Aging Consortium Administrative Board*

Clinton County (2 Total)

Thomas Nobach
Madelyn “Archi” Tomczyk, *Second Vice President*

Eaton County (3 Total)

Susan Hoffman, *President*
Barbara Smith
Ruth Pearson

Ingham County (3 Total)

Susan Cockerill
Gloria Kovnot
Lucy Maillette

City of East Lansing (1 Total)

Mark Meadows

City of Lansing (4 Total)

Anita Turner
Raheema Muhammad
LaSandra Jones
Susanne Mannino

Community Mental Health Older Adult Services

Tonya Randall

Disability Network Capital Area

Phil Kozachik

Ingham/Eaton County DHS

Kelly Neve, *Corresponding Secretary*

Tri-County Nutrition Council

Barbara Smith (Eaton County)

Social Security Administration

Robyn Ford/Regina Robinson

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

Chelsea Rider

Wind Beneath Your Wings

Meghan Pineda

Maplewood AFC

Raul Presas

Michigan State University

School of Planning, Design and Construction
Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani, PhD

Legal Services of South-Central Michigan

Jessica Maas

Hospice of Lansing

Heather Febres-Cordero, *First Vice President*

Capital Area Housing Partnership

Emma Henry

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Attachment 1: TCOA Advisory Council 2023 Membership List, continued

Representatives (non-voting)

Michigan Senior Advocates Council

Mary Ablan

Susan Hoffman

Vacant

State Advisory Council

Robyn Ford

Vacant

Vacant

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