

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, MI 48813

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS/HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023, 9:00 A.M.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, COUNTY COURTHOUSE, CHARLOTTE

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Agenda Additions and Changes.
4. Approval of March 6, 2023 Minutes.
5. Limited Public Comment.
6. Tri-County Office on Aging Semi-Annual Report – Casey Cooper.
7. Juvenile Justice Millage Proposal Update.
8. Miscellaneous.
9. Limited Public Comment.

A quorum of the Board of Commissioners may be present at this meeting.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Tim Barnes, Blake Mulder, Mark Mudry, Joseph Brehler, Brian Lautzenheiser, Barbara Rogers, and Jeanne Pearl-Wright

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott and Jacob Toomey; Eaton County Health & Rehabilitation Services (ECHRS) Administrator Martha Richard and Controller/Administrator Connie Sobie.

The March 6, 2023 regular meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Lautzenheiser.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Mulder moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner to approve the February 6, 2023 minutes, as presented. Commissioner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Martha Richard was present to discuss the operation of the Health and Rehabilitation Services operations and financial activities.

Ms. Richard noted that in 2007, the facility requested a millage (.1248) for construction only to add 42 beds to the existing 100 beds due to increasing needs of the community. Outside of this small millage for construction, the Facility has not received any financial support for operations from the County. Today, Eaton County Health & Rehabilitation Services (ECHRS) is one of the remaining 34 County Medical Care Facilities in Michigan that serve citizens in all of Michigan's 83 counties, regardless of ability to pay for care.

It is anticipated that depending on the timing of the receipt of the above outstanding receivables and current cash balance, that the facility will once again need a "temporary" loan. The County covered \$975,852 for a month and the facility "repaid" the full amount in October when outstanding receivables were received.

Ms. Richard noted the several areas, as indicated in the presented report, have negatively affected the facility's cash flow and overall ability to operate without additional financial assistance.

She stated that each year the daily reimbursement rate is set based upon costs from two years prior. There are no adjustments for inflation, so in times of inflation all facilities struggle to keep

up with current costs using reimbursement rates from two years prior. COVID has widened the gap even further, as the industry is realizing inflationary costs between 15-35%, which is why some nursing homes are closing.

The facility has seen a significant increase in the percent of Medicaid residents being served over the previous 3 years (60 to 80%). Medicaid is the payer of last resort and the gap between the cost of the facility to provide care and what Medicaid reimburses continues to widen, currently roughly between \$100 to \$200 per day, depending on the individual resident's needs.

The response to COVID-19 in nursing homes and healthcare in general, has caused a staffing shortage. Last year, the facility reduced its available beds (rooms) by 30 due to staffing not due to lack of need. Without sufficient staffing, appropriate care cannot be provided. The facility holds a five star rating overall and in staffing ratios to patients.

The patients and residents currently served are clinically complex, resulting in additional care needs.

The facility is not alone in this struggle to survive the lingering effects of COVID. In November, a letter was sent to Governor Whitmer representing 200 nursing homes in the State of Michigan. The letter discussed the significant shortfall of Medicaid reimbursement and shared that many nursing homes were struggling to make payroll.

While the Governor did advance QAS/QMI payments to help with cash flow, this was just a temporary fix. Unfortunately, QAS/QMI payments were not deferred to the end of the year and have come due, as referenced in the Financial Results (attached). The State has agreed to increase the interim rate from 2.5% to 4.5% retro-active to January 1st; however, this will take up to 60 days to receive approval from CMS and process. Once processed, ECHRS will receive a retro bulk adjustment which will assist with cash flow.

Regardless of the Medicaid reimbursement issue and the potential for a "new" Medicaid reimbursement system, the facility will need financial support to continue to provide services to Eaton County's most vulnerable citizens. The facility has invested significant financial contributions into its operations and building over decades without support from outside sources for operations.

ECHRS services are needed within our community, now and even more so in the future.

Ms. Richard requested the question of an operating millage be posed to the citizens of Eaton County. Discussion held.

Chairperson Lautzenheiser stated the Tri-County Office Consortium Advisory Council Appointment has a vacancy and will be posted.

There was no miscellaneous items.

Limited Public Comment: Resident Rachel Cuschieri-Murray of Advocates for Mental Health of MI Youth, spoke regarding mental illness and the difficulties obtaining support and specialized services for children and adolescents who need a higher level of care.

Chairperson Lautzenheiser adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be held on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte MI 48813.

Brian Lautzenheiser, Chairperson



Tri-County Office on Aging Semi-Annual Report May 2023

General TCOA update: We thank the County for your ongoing support over the years.

In November 2022, Andrea Radel, former TCOA Human Resources Director, assumed the role of Executive Director upon Marion Owen's retirement.

TCOA continues to coordinate the Friendly Reassurance Program, with volunteers providing once weekly "check in and chat" phone calls to TCOA clients to help reduce social isolation.

TCOA continues to monitor the need for access to the Covid-19 vaccine and KN-95 facemasks while continuing to address needs such as housing instability and assistance in identifying available public benefits. Staff also provided scheduling support to older adults seeking tax preparation assistance through the AARP Tax Aide Foundation, and served as a Host Site for appointments as was done prior to the pandemic.

Three leadership staff from TCOA attended the USAging Conference policy brief in April 2023 in Washington DC to prepare for the discontinuation of COVID-19 relief funding and gain the tools to advocate for appropriate funding levels for older adult services.

In April 2023, TCOA was a recipient of 2,000 medication disposal bags from Eaton RESA in partnership with the Substance Awareness and Prevention Coalition in Ingham county. These will be made available to participants across the Agency to assist with safe disposal, which is a benefit in particular for those unable to leave the home as the bags are able to be discarded directly at home.

As one of 16 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) who are in part funded by the Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (ACLS Bureau), TCOA must operate under an annual plan approved by the State Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) to ensure compliance with the Older Americans Act and the Older Michiganians Act. There have been no major changes or additions for the 2024 planning cycle and existing efforts continue through the approved 2023-2025 Multi-Year Plan with the 2024 Summary available online at www.tcoa.org/documents. Two Public Hearings have been scheduled on May 2 via Microsoft Teams and May 3 at TCOA to gather input and comments on the proposed plan before it is submitted to the TCOA Advisory Council, Administrative Board, and the local units of government for approval. The Commission on Aging will review the submitted plan for final approval in August or September.

The three counties that make up TCOA's service area have seen an estimated 12% increase in the 60 and older population (2016-2020 American Community Surveys). As of 2020, older adults represented 22% of the total tri-county population, and older adults represent 25% of Eaton County's population. In light of the continued growth of the older adult population across our service area, TCOA's Consortium Dues proposals to all members reflected a request for a 3% increase for the 2024 fiscal year. We appreciate the County's ongoing support and consideration.

Advisory Council Vacancies: TCOA's Advisory Council has 1 vacancy for a senior who resides in Eaton County. Terms are three years long with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The TCOA Advisory Council acts in an advisory capacity to the Consortium Board. At least one-half of the

council consists of senior citizens, appointed by their respective units of government. The remaining members represent community agencies appointed by the Consortium Board. This composition offers the perspectives of both seniors and service providers on aging issues. Meetings are held at 1:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month at TCOA and include an online option for joining. Thank you to Sue Hoffman, current President, and Barbara Smith who represent Eaton County.

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Long-Term Care Collaborative (LTCC): TCOA is a partner with the ADRC-Capital Area Partnership offering both Information & Assistance/ Referral (I&A/R) and Options Counseling to the community. The LTCC was established in 1999 as a work group within the ADRC focused on improving the long-term care network through sharing of information, education presentations and supporting new initiatives effecting long term care. The LTCC met in November, January, and March. Each meeting invited a speaker from a different organization to share their work, experiences and barriers faced related to long term care planning and the current housing crisis. Guest speakers include representatives from a local shelter, hospital discharge planners and Nursing Facility Transitions workers. The LTCC continues to gather information to better understand how homelessness and other housing issues are experienced in our communities in order to identify future projects for the group. Meetings will continue to be held virtually every other month on the third Thursday at 1:30 PM.

TCOA served 300 individuals from Eaton County through I & A/R calls between October 2022 and March 2023, 15% of the total 2,000+ individuals served. TCOA also contracts with Capital Area Community Services for additional I & A/R support in the tri-county area. In the six months of TCOA's fiscal year, CACS assisted over 1,993 tri-county residents with 789 from Eaton County, representing 40% of callers.

TCOA's two Community Resource Navigators (CRNs) connect underserved communities with existing resources and assist clients in overcoming barriers to health and social services while addressing social determinants of health. The CRNs served over 40 people from October to March, with 7 from Eaton County.

Nutrition:

TCOA served 42,215 meals to 313 Eaton County participants through the Home Delivered Meals program between October 2022 and March 2023. The return to daily hot meal delivery as well as the interaction with the volunteers, has been well received by participants. Some participants continue to receive weekly deliveries to accommodate their schedules. Social interaction is supplemented with friendly reassurance calls to participants who want them.

Collaboration continues with Eaton RESA as the volunteer continues to work in the office once a week for two hours. The Eaton County Meals on Wheels gift giving program in collaboration with the Charlotte Baptist Church was a great success. Gifts and holiday cards delivered by MOW volunteers were appreciated by program participants. Emergency shelf stable meal boxes distributed were utilized by participants during the inclement weather experienced during the winter season.

The TCOA Senior Dining Site at the Delta Township Enrichment Center (Delta 39ers) continues to offer dine in service as well as carry out meals, three days per week. Effective April 10, 2023, individually wrapped meals will change to cafeteria-style dining. Beginning May 1, 2023, carry-out meals will only be available through the Eaton County Meals on Wheels office in Charlotte. TCOA has served more than 1,240 meals to 33 Eaton County residents through the Congregate Senior Dining program.

Health Promotion/Disease Prevention: TCOA has partnered with several Area Agencies on Aging to provide online workshops to help participants self-manage their health condition(s). TCOA has also started to offer in person workshops throughout the service area again. From October 2022 to March 2023, TCOA completed the following online workshops: 3 Diabetes PATH, 2 Powerful Tools for Caregivers, and 1 Matter of Balance. In addition to the online workshops, TCOA completed one in person Matter of Balance in Eaton County. A total of 23 Eaton County residents enrolled in an evidence-based health and wellness workshop listed above.

Medicare & Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP): The MMAP program assisted 912 beneficiaries from October 2022 to March 2023 with 160 of them from Eaton County. That is an increase of 68% from last year during the same time period for Eaton County residents served. The program focuses on Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Insurance, Long Term Care Insurance, waste, fraud and abuse prevention, and Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.

Project Choices: TCOA served over 300 people from Eaton County between October and March through MI Choice Medicaid Waiver, Care Management and Case Coordination (over 1,300 PSA wide) with an additional 86 residents waiting for these in-home services and support. Region wide, the Medicaid Waiver and Case Coordination wait lists persist with a total of 374 people waiting as of March 28, 2023 (400 last year, 6.5% percent decrease). Case Coordination is offered, when possible, to individuals on the Waiver wait list. Case Coordination may offer homemaker services, personal care, and respite to enable older adults to remain in their homes. TCOA continues to advocate for sufficient and balanced funding to address these unmet needs.

Volunteer Opportunities: The need for volunteers agency-wide, particularly Meals on Wheels delivery drivers, is ongoing. The needs vary by area and may change over time, with opportunities for both regular volunteers (i.e., delivery every Tuesday) and for flexible “on call” volunteers to fill in as substitutes. TCOA continues to offer a remote volunteer experience with the Friendly Reassurance Program as noted above. Anyone interested in volunteering to deliver meals may call the Eaton County Meals on Wheels office at 517-541-2330. Information on additional volunteer opportunities at TCOA are available by contacting volunteer@tcoa.org, at 517-887-1487, or visiting www.tcoa.org/volunteer.

Events for 2023

Statewide Senior Action Week: May 15-19

Older Michigianians Day Hybrid/Livestream Advocacy event, Wednesday May 17, 11:00 am-12:30 pm

35th Annual Meals on Wheels Golf Outing – Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at Forest Akers West, Lansing.

38th Annual Dinner and Auction- Thursday, November 16, 2023 at the Kellogg Center, East Lansing.