

Washtenaw County Commission on Aging

December 1, 2023 | 9am – 11am | Remote Via Zoom

Sign up: <https://www.washtenaw.org/3402/Commission-on-Aging>

Join by Zoom:

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/89975904963?pwd=WkRqVFQ0UG5WeTZwRmRNb3dHbFQzQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 7590 4963 | **Passcode:** 447132 | **Join by Phone:** 1-312-626-6799

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order: 9:01am
- II. Roll Call

Present: Ballard, Larson, Reynolds, Thompson, Green, Reynolds, Thompson, Green, Herzig, Heckendorn, McKinney

Absent: Cooper, Somerville

Quorum present

Public Present: 5

- III. Public Participation: n/a
- IV. Approval of Minutes – November 3, 2023

Motion moved: Gress; Supported: McKinney 9:04am

- V. Discussion Items
 - a. Annual Report Adoption

Motion moved to Adopt reviewed Changes: Reynolds, Supported: Gress. Passed

Larson: Everyone received draft email, to use to send report to your county commissioner. A way to advocate is to keep communicating the needs of older adults in our county. Discuss contents of report with commissioners and share with the community. Tasked Communication subcommittee for a strategy plan on distribution.

McKinney: Commissioners should see it prior to the public.

Larson: Will ask A. Hall to send to BOC members prior to presentation at meeting.

- b. Presentations presentation available on [website](#)

- i. Lori's Hands: Maddi Riemenschneider, LMSW, Metro Detroit Chapter Manager
maddi@lorishands.org

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e9f2c70c/o_CrSOXNgkST2VU0vWJbWw?u=http://www.lorishands.org/

The Commission's purpose is to define the needs of and advocate on behalf of Washtenaw County seniors 60 years of age and older to promote equitable well-being and quality of life opportunities and outcomes. This will include providing recommendations to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and relevant stakeholders on the prudent spending of public funds related to senior services.

Presentations that the Commission may hear at future meetings: How to use the Opportunity Index Tool, Socialization, Highlights of Past Learning, End of Life Planning

Mission: to develop mutual beneficial partnerships with community members with chronic illness and college students. Started on East Coast in 2009 and came to Michigan in 2022. 2 college students visit 1 member in the community once a week. Mutually beneficial as students get to practice and learn skills and community members receive assistance and companionship. 55 clients to date in Washtenaw County with a waitlist of 57. Started with Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan, and Washtenaw Community College. Hope to branch out to more schools in U of M through recruitment and meetings with professors.

Questions:

McKinney: requested that Lori's Hands participate in June Town Hall.

Reynolds: Asked about staffing, funding, whether financial support is needed, growth.

Riemenschneider: Said she is sole staff member in Michigan. 6 throughout the country. Funding is predominantly grants, along with donations. Having a lot of exciting conversations about growth. Looking for ways to expand with means available.

Reynolds: Do you get referrals or how do you get clients?

Riemenschneider: After presenting to community partners, community partners make referrals, and through word of mouth.

Herzig: Concept is wonderful. Do students have consultations/group interaction to learn from each other?

Riemenschneider: Yes, there is collaboration between the 2 students. Experience can be part of course work.

Thompson: Could you expand on tasks and interactions? What happens to clients after students graduate?

Riemenschneider: Enrolled client identifies top goals. Goals include: 1. Increase social support (top for almost all older adults). 2. Improve physical activity (walks, exercise) 3. Improve home environment (vacuuming, wiping counters) 4. Improving nutrition (reviewing pantry for expired foods, grocery shopping) 5. Resource navigation.

Students commit to at least one semester and stay on with the client. After student graduation, clients will stay on long-term. Each new semester, a new student gets assigned. It does contribute to the waitlist as we wait for students, but once enrolled, always enrolled.

Clark: How frequent are visits?

Riemenschneider: The commitment is 1 hour a week. Sometimes there is a schedule change due to student breaks.

c. 5-minute break

d. Subcommittee Updates

i. Communications—Thompson, Larson, Heckendorn, Green, Cooper

Worked on annual report. Tasked to make adjustments and resend.

ii. ARPA – Reynolds, Thompson, Larson, Heckendorn, Green

Reynolds: Grateful for update on distribution of additional ARPA funds.

Gress: Correction, November vote was first approval. Final approval December 6th. Expected to pass.

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ARPA subcommittee tasked with: Compile a list of those that received funding.

iii. **Potential Millage** – Gress, Herzig, McKinney, Ballard, Cooper

No meeting in November due to holiday.

iv. **Moving Forward**– Gress, Herzig, McKinney, Ballard, Reynolds

No meeting in November due to holiday.

v. **Safety Townhall** – McKinney, Heckendorn, Gress, Reynolds

June 14th 1 pm at Chelsea community center confirmed. Recruiting resource groups.

VI. **Report from the Board of Commissioners (Upcoming Meetings)**

a. **County Fund Mapping Project**

Larson: Commissioner Somerville absent, but report on county general fund spending on older adults has been sent to Clark to send to the CoA.

Smith: Did report include spending on senior nutrition programs, in addition to AAA1B money?

Larson: Only info on general fund money. Committee will need to follow up.

b. **Open Seats (1 in District 8, 1 at Large) – Applications are closed.**

VII. **Report from the Chair**

Larson: Will be meeting with Senior Center Directors group, and Northfield Township and Ypsilanti Senior Centers. Setting date to present our annual report to commissioners

New Business

a. **2024 Meeting Calendar**

McKinney: Motion to continue meeting 1st Friday of the month, skipping January and July.

Gress: support. Passed.

VIII. **Setting Next Meeting**

2/2/2024 at 9am. Election of officers for 2024 year, Larson will no longer be chair, as her term has ended. after said election. Thompson does not want to run again as secretary.

IX. **Adjournment** : 10:41 am

Washtenaw County Commission on Aging meetings are recorded and are available at
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLR9rFHLfXEKHiQa3DQzHLSmdjlcF00Jtb>

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