

Washtenaw County Commission on Aging

October 3, 2025 | 9am – 11am | Remote Via Zoom

Join by Zoom:

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/85172952645?pwd=WCsITXxdYVpx8PaHaeha4JHQXptQ6G.1>

Meeting ID: 851 7295 2645 Passcode: 219086 Phone: 1-312-626-6799

[Commission on Aging | Washtenaw County, MI - Official Website](#)

Open Seat District 9: Apply Here - [Boards, Committees and Commissions Application](#)

Minutes

I. Call to Order

- a. Quorum established. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

- a. Present at meeting: Marie Gress, Elizabeth Thompson, Jennifer Green, Alison Foreman, Margaret Reynolds, Phyllis Herzig, Bruce Astrien, Janan Saba Landsiedel, Madyn Litten, Deana Smith, Juliet Ballard, Annie Somerville
- b. New panelist, Janan Saba Landsiedel from CHART. Part of Health & Social Innovation team and leads the Healthy Aging Collaborative for WHI. Janan is replacing Deanna Smith, who is transitioning off COA panel.

III. Public Participation

- a. Chris Brown, Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels – finding out things at the same speed as the rest of the public. Does not anticipate funding issues with short-term shutdown.
- b. Anna Packrel, Director of Dexter Senior Center (sent written Q prior to meeting) – is there an update on hiring the Director of Aging?

IV. Commission Response to Public Participation

- a. Initial interviews for the Director of Aging position have concluded and the hiring committee is moving on to the 2nd interview stage.

V. Approval of Minutes – September 5, 2025

- a. Motion to approve by Herzig, seconded by Thompson. Motion passed.

VI. Discussion Items

- a. [Presentation by AgeWays Nonprofit Senior Services – 2025 Unmet Needs Survey](#)
 - i. Presented several slides of detailed statistics related to questions about health, transportation, safety and insights for Washtenaw County compared to the rest of Region 1-B respondents. Slides provided to COA members and can be made available to the public.
 - ii. Survey conducted by Mitchell Research in June 2025 via phone and internet link. AgeWays made several efforts to communicate the legitimacy of the survey. AgeWays has a data science intern helping create comparisons to previous Unmet Needs Survey (2019).

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.

- iii. An outline of Q&A is provided as an attachment to these minutes.
 - 1. Commissioners were interested in a deeper understanding of the data. Several commissioners asked questions related to viewing the information against the respondent demographics (income level, zip code, etc.). AgeWays noted that the data shared is a preliminary overview and is currently being compared against the previous survey (2019) data. More detailed information will be requested from the research firm who conducted the survey.
 - 2. Commissioners were also interested in lawn care and snow removal being one of the top unmet needs, and are hopeful the new Office on Aging will be able to elevate this issue.
- iv. Discussion took place regarding the consolidation of important data sources. WCOA administrative staff can compile a live, working document with links to various sources of information as they are shared with COA members. This document will be included with regular e-mail updates.

b. [Subcommittee Discussion](#)

i. [Communications – Gress, Litten](#)

- 1. Jim from Dementia Friendly Services has an event coming up
- 2. Senior Living Week (Madyn) – many presentations, trainings, open houses, health screenings, etc. available throughout the county.

ii. [Future Planning – Herzig, Astrien, Reynolds](#)

- 1. Subcommittee of future planning is still on hold. Wanted to mention important to keep an eye on the near-poverty population

iii. [Townhall –McKinney, Litten, Foreman, Astrien](#)

- 1. On-hold until budgets are finalized and things are less uncertain

iv. [Millage Workgroup – Larson, Astrien, Green, Foreman, Thompson, Ballard](#)

- 1. None

VII. [Report from the Board of Commissioners \(Somerville\) \(Upcoming Meetings\)](#)

- a. Commissioners are exploring opportunities to push financial resources out more quickly
- b. State budget finalized. Senior nutrition is struggling, foresees organizations having to fill in gaps because of rising cost of food
- c. Q: When are opportunities for applying for senior millage funding available?
A: Once Director is hired, goal is to have RFPs out by January tentatively

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d. Q: What can the WCOA do to sustain the SCIP program?

A: WCOA can make recommendations about how much to fund the SCIP program and the process to use those funds effectively.

VIII. **Report from the Chair**

a. None

IX. **New Business**

a. Home Share program is back through the Washtenaw Housing Alliance

X. **Setting Next Meeting**

a. November 7, 2025

XI. **Adjournment**

a. Motion to adjourn by Thompson, seconded by McKinney. Motion passed.

b. Meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Washtenaw County Commission on Aging meetings are recorded and are available at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLR9rFHLfXEKHiQa3DQzHLSmdjIcf00Jtb>

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