

Washtenaw County Commission on Aging

Friday May 1, 2026 | 9am – 11am | Remote Via Zoom

Join by Zoom (public link):

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/81219944476?pwd=amNuUgGk6Zs3VBxw1RzF7DyOMYvD8K.1>

Meeting ID: 812 1994 4476 | Passcode: 007121 | Phone: 1-312-626-6799

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

Open Seats: District 7, District 9 - Apply Here: [Boards, Committees and Commissions Application](#)

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Public Participation
- IV. Commission Response to Public Participation
- V. Approval of Minutes – April 3, 2026
- VI. Discussion Items
 - a. Presentation: Justine Bykoski – Guide to Comparing Assisted Living Residences
 - b. Older Persons Millage Planning & Review Committee Update
(Astrein, Thompson, McKinney)
 - c. Community Outreach Plan
 - d. Subcommittee Reports/Discussion
 1. Communications – Gress, Litten, Green
 2. Future Planning – Astrein, Reynolds
 3. Townhall – McKinney, Litten, Foreman, Astrein
 4. Millage – Larson, Astrein, Green, Foreman, Ballard
- VII. Report from the Director of the Office of Aging Services (Effler)
- VIII. Report from the Board of Commissioners (Somerville) ([Upcoming BOC Meetings](#))
- IX. Report from the Chair (Larson)
- X. New Business
- XI. Setting Next Meeting – June 5, 2026
- XII. Adjournment

Potential future presentations: Introductory Guide to Comparing Assisted Living Residences in Michigan, State of Michigan 2027-2029 Plan on Aging, MI Options, Legal Services of South-Central Michigan, MI Choice Medicaid Waiver, Michigan League for Public Policy, AgeWays Services/Supports/Resources Update, Washtenaw Resiliency Office Report on Climate Resiliency and Older Adults

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

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLR9rFHLfXEKHiQa3DQzHLSmdjlcF00Jtb>

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.

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Minutes

- I. **Call to Order**
 - a. Quorum established, meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m.
- II. **Roll Call**
 - a. Present: Juliet Ballard (D1), Marta Larson (D2), Margaret Reynolds (D4), Elizabeth Thompson (D5), Jennifer Green (D6), Bruce Astrein (D8), Madyn Litten (at-large), Brenda McKinney (at-large), Annie Somerville (County Commissioner)
- III. **Public Participation**
 - a. Barbara Niess May from Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels: The organization continues to see an increased need for support and services and is looking into adding another route to meet demand.
- IV. **Commission Response to Public Participation**
 - a. Commissioners thanked Barbara for her work and acknowledged the growth of need in their districts.
- V. **Approval of Minutes – March 6, 2026**
 - a. Motion to approve by Reynolds, seconded by Thompson. Motion passes.
- VI. **Discussion Items**
 - a. **Presentation: Hoarding Task Force of Washtenaw County**
 - i. Speakers: Laurie Lutomski, Community Resource Coordinator for the Charter Township of Ypsilanti & Pete Held, Development Services Inspector for the City of Ann Arbor.
 - ii. The task force was established in 2005 and is a voluntary collaborative effort of several organizations that operate under a harm reduction model, with goals to preserve housing and build small steps that lead toward safer, healthier environments.

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- iii. Speakers defined the differences between excessive clutter and hoarding disorder. They detailed the specifics of behaviors related to hoarding disorder, and the various stressors caused by this disorder.
- iv. Commissioners asked about how the task force addresses the mental health aspects of each case, the capacity of the task force to provide ongoing support and case management for each client, and how to use language to address concerns directly when a situation is encountered. Commissioners also emphasized that this disorder can present regardless of socioeconomic status. Finally, Commissioner Somerville shared thoughts on how millage funds may be used to support the task force, despite the task force not being a formal entity.

b. Older Persons Millage Planning & Review Committee Update

- i. No updates

c. Community Outreach Plan

- i. Communications committee plans to review a PowerPoint from years ago that could be used to give community presentations about the Commission on Aging.

d. Subcommittee Reports/Discussion

1. Communications – Gress, Litten, Green

- a. See 'Community Outreach Plan' agenda item

2. Future Planning – Herzig, Astrein, Reynolds

- a. Plan to work with Shannon Effler (Director of Aging Services) on the AARP Age-Friendly Communities application.

3. Townhall – McKinney, Litten, Foreman, Astrein

- a. None

4. Millage – Larson, Astrein, Green, Foreman, Ballard

- a. None

VII. Report from the Director of the Office of Aging Services (Effler)

- a. Larson read report provided by Effler, who was not present for this meeting.
- b. Report included updates on strategic planning, Office of Aging Services staffing model, various site visits and meeting highlights as Effler continues onboarding in the county.
- c. Invites all to attend the State of the County Address on April 13, 2026.

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- d. Still in discussions with the County regarding Open Meetings Act requirements to meet in-person.

VIII. Report from the Board of Commissioners (Somerville) ([Upcoming BOC Meetings](#))

- a. None

IX. Report from the Chair

- a. Promoted two upcoming senior fairs
 - i. Spring Into Wellness Fair on 4/25 (Larson and Effler will be panelists)
 - ii. Ann Arbor Senior Expo on 5/18
- b. Asked for Commissioners feedback related to in-person meetings.
Commissioners believe meaningful disability access is a requirement for location. Recent Michigan Attorney General wrote an opinion to allow virtual access.
- c. Ashley Hall is doing an audit of compensation for meetings and will give each member an individual report.

X. New Business

- a. Herzig resigned due to moving out of her district. (District 7 seat is open). Motion to accept resignation with regret by Madyn, supported by Reynolds. Motion passes.

XI. Setting Next Meeting

- a. Friday, May 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

XII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Potential future presentations: Introductory Guide to Comparing Assisted Living Residences in Michigan, State of Michigan 2027-2029 Plan on Aging, MI Options/Medicare/Medicaid/Social Security Update, Legal Services of South-Central Michigan, MI Choice Medicaid Waiver, AgeWays Multi-Year Plan ,

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