

DEPARTMENT ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD

Cari Rebottaro
LDA Director

1040 S Winter St, Adrian, MI 49221
p: 517-264-5280 | f: 517-264-5299

[Website](#)



MEMBERS

Russ Amo, President
301 N. Main St.
Adrian, MI 49221

MEETING LOCATION
Old County Courthouse

Minutes: Thursday, September 25, 2025

I. Call to Order

President Russ Amo called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: Russ Amo, Commissioner Terry Collins, Commissioner Ralph Tillotson, Carol Zawacki, Gloria Bortnichak, Darwin Vandevender, Chris Peoples, Alan Dickerson, Julie Hackett

Also Present: Department Director Cari Rebottaro, Deputy Director Dillon Donaghy, County Administrator Kim Murphy, Board of Commissioners Chairperson Jim Van Doren

Absent: Jeff Dicenzo, Burt Fenby, Karol Bolton

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: August 21, 2025

Terry Collins made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Alan Dickerson offered support, the motion was voted upon and passed.

IV. Presentation

A. WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging

Nichole Baker, CSO with WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging, delivered a very informative presentation about her organization as well as the partnership between WellWise and the Lenawee Department on Aging. She shared that the LDA is the largest contractor for WellWise in the county.

V. Department on Aging Director's Report

A. LDA - Director's Report

Director Rebottaro shared that the All Staff Training took place today. She shared that it was a great opportunity to see the entire staff together and engaging with one another and is a great way to celebrate everything the department has accomplished and learn a little too.

Director Rebottaro shared some of the challenges that the organization has faced this year,

including new software for home care staff and moving an entire kitchen for the nutrition staff. Director Rebottaro did share that the kitchen equipment has been moved to the new centralized kitchen and will be setup or organized in the coming days. She extended appreciation to the Board of Commissioners and Administrative staff who helped complete the new kitchen project.

Director Rebottaro shared that the Foster Grandparent Program is undergoing a large recruitment push to add individuals to the program.

Director Rebottaro shared that the LDA is going into the final month of FY25 with a total of 74% of the budget spent.

When asked about the uncertainty of the State and Federal budgets, Director Rebottaro stated that the LDA will be okay and there are contingency plans in place to continue offering services as usual. There is always concern when it comes to funding but the LDA and partners have been having proactive conversations with regard to this.

VI. Existing Business

When asked about donation rate increases, Director Rebottaro shared that we will not start to see a big change until the October statements go out in early November. The response so far has been positive.

VII. New Business

President Russ Amo presented Darwin Vandevender with a certificate of appreciation for his many years of service to the LDA, and its Advisory Board.

Director Rebottaro reminded the board of the upcoming Lenawee County Walk to End Alzheimer's on 10/5

VIII. Public Comment

Board of Commissioners Chairperson Van Doren offered his congratulations on the Centralized Kitchen Project and offered appreciation for Well Wise Services and their partnership with Lenawee County.

Administrator Murphy reminded everyone of the 2025 Lenawee County Legislative Dinner on November 19th. The dinner will take place at 6pm with registration beginning at 5:30pm.

IX. Board Member Comment

Gloria Bortnichak raised concerns about the new Home Delivered Meals delivery method and it was determined that she should meet with the LDA Nutrition Director for further explanation.

X. Adjournment

Department on Aging Advisory Board
9/25/2025

Ralph Tillotson made a motion to adjourn. Alan Dickerson offered support, the meeting was adjourned by Russ Amo at 1:53pm.