

DEPARTMENT ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD

Cari Rebottaro
LDA Director

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MEMBERS

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

MEETING LOCATION
Old County Courthouse

Minutes: Thursday, July 23, 2026

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by President Russ Amo.

II. Roll Call

Present: Russ Amo, Commissioner David Aungst, Cathy Burr, Jeff Dicenso, Rob Trevino, Julie Wetherby, Carol Zawacki, Alan Dickerson, Burt Fenby, Gloria Bortnichak, Karol Bolton

Also Present: Director Cari Rebottaro, Deputy Director Dillon Donaghy, Administrator Kim Murphy, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Jennifer Ambrose

Absent: Commissioner Ralph Tillotson, Chris Peoples, Julie Hackett

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: May 28, 2026

David Aungst made a motion to accept the May meeting minutes as written. Gloria Bortnichak offered support. The motion was voted upon and passed.

IV. Presentation

A. Wheelchair Accessible Van Update

Lenawee Department on Aging Transportation Coordinator, Amy Young, gave a great presentation on the new wheelchair-accessible van. This new addition was made possible by a grant through the Consumers Energy Foundation and WellWise Services. It is currently only available to individuals who are wheelchair bound but is not tied directly to medical transportation. There is a small amount of grant funding from Lenawee Community Foundation that allows for these extended services for those that rely on a wheelchair. This additional van and service is among the first of its kind in Michigan, and is intended to fill a crucial gap in our community.

V. Department on Aging Director's Report

A. LDA - Director's Report

Director Rebottaro reported that Daybreak passed a surprise audit from the State of Michigan in May and, more recently, passed the scheduled Community Mental Health audit of services as well.

The board was reminded of Senior Day at the Lenawee County Fair. The department will be hosting "Let's Make A Deal" starting at 1pm at the band shell.

Director Rebottaro reported that there has been some interest in the Foster Grandparent Program as it continues to stay active through the summer months.

It was noted that Millage funds were dispersed in the month of June. Director Rebottaro reported that the department has utilized 61% percent of its allowed budget for FY2026.

The Department on Aging recognized 407 volunteers in the month of April during Volunteer Appreciation Month.

Director Rebottaro reported that senior centers have been busy with picnics and other summer activities.

Additionally, Director Rebottaro gave a report on the current status of the curbside meal program at the senior centers as a whole. Citing declining participation and utilization, Director Rebottaro formally requested that the board approve the removal of curbside meals as a line item in the FY2027 budget. She noted that the change would go into effect as of 10/01/2026. Discussion about the program and potential impact of eliminating it took place. Director Rebottaro shared that there are always circumstances that would require a curbside-style meal and the department will accommodate them on a case-by-case basis. It was clarified that the curbside has only been in place since 2020 in an effort to creatively distribute meals to individuals during the pandemic.

Karol Bolton made a motion to eliminate curbside meals as a line item in the FY2027 budget. Burt Fenby offered support. The motion was voted upon and passed.

Director Rebottaro presented the Draft Budget for FY2027 to the board. She discussed the outline and noted any changes to the overall budget. Burt Fenby made a motion to accept the Lenawee Department on Aging FY2027 Draft Budget as it was presented. Robert Trevino offered support.

Discussion took place. It was clarified that at this time the board would simply be accepting the draft budget. Director Rebottaro also confirmed that the budget does include some estimates as to how things like food and fuel will increase through the upcoming fiscal year. Director Rebottaro shared more details around the personnel side of the budget, including the impact of the upcoming minimum wage increase. It was reiterated that the department is not funded through the Lenawee County General Fund and relies on millage funds, grants, contributions, and donations as revenue.

The motion was voted upon and passed.

Director Rebottaro noted that with the RFP for Older Americans Act Funds, many programs look different for FY2027 as far as some programs are no longer available while others have been added. She noted that over the rest of July the department will be evaluating estimates and potential program values to make the most informed decisions going forward into FY2027.

VI. Existing Business

There was no existing business.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IX. Board Member Comment

Russ Amo shared that the Adrian Dominican Sisters donated \$7,700 dollars from an employee-funded donation program. The board and Director Rebottaro shared their appreciation for this gift that will be used to help older adults in our community.

X. Adjournment

Karol Bolton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan Dickerson offered support. Russ Amo adjourned the meeting at 1:56pm.