

Genesee County Commission on Aging Minutes from Meeting 02-26-2026

Call to order at 12:02 by Seth
Introductions of COA members

Approval of minutes, January. Patti made motion, Bruce seconded for acceptance of minutes

Approval of the February agenda, someone made a motion, and Jennifer from FIA.

The lunch sponsor was Comfort Keepers, and the first speaker was on aging practices.

Kailey Baker from GHS was 2nd speaker on CIT program and behavioral health

Meeting notes:

- **Comfort Keepers Presentation on Senior Care:** Patti introduced the Comfort Keepers speaker, who discussed the importance of everyday interactions in senior care, emphasizing dignity, choice, and active listening for older adults, and addressed challenges such as compassion fatigue among caregivers.
 - **Impact of Everyday Interactions:** The Comfort Keepers speaker highlighted how small moments and daily interactions significantly affect the well-being of seniors, stressing that the approach and presence of caregivers can restore or diminish dignity regardless of resources or time constraints.
 - **Challenges of Aging:** The presentation outlined common losses experienced by seniors—independence, privacy, routine, and control—and explained how these losses can lead to behavioral expressions such as resistance or withdrawal, which are often misunderstood by professionals.
 - **Best Practices for Caregivers:** Recommendations included offering choices to seniors to reduce frustration, using their names, sitting beside them rather than standing over them, and practicing active listening to build trust and reduce anxiety.
 - **Compassion Fatigue in Caregiving:** The speaker described the four phases of compassion fatigue—zealot, irritability, withdrawal, and zombie phases—explaining that emotional and physical exhaustion is common among caregivers and emphasizing the importance of self-care and recognizing meaningful moments.
- **Genesee Health System Crisis Intervention Programs:** Kaylee Baker from Genesee Health System presented on the county's crisis intervention programs, including co-response teams, CIT training for law enforcement, behavioral health urgent care, and support services for both the public and first responders.

- **Co-Response Team Operations:** Kaylee Baker described the co-response model where mental health professionals partner with law enforcement to respond to mental health and substance use calls, aiming to address root causes and connect individuals to appropriate services rather than defaulting to incarceration.
- **CIT Training and Outcomes:** The CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) program provides 40 hours of mental health training to law enforcement, resulting in improved officer preparedness, reduced arrests of people with mental illness, and an 80% reduction in officer injuries during mental health calls; 217 officers have been trained in Genesee County.
- **Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center:** The county's first behavioral health urgent care center offers 24/7 walk-in and virtual crisis services for all ages and insurance statuses, filling a gap for those not meeting hospital admission criteria and providing immediate support for a range of mental health crises.
- **Access and Transportation to Services:** Kaylee explained that while the co-response team cannot guarantee attendance at every call due to high volume, dispatchers are trained to prioritize mental health crises, and alternative access options include a 24/7 phone line, virtual sessions, and partnerships with transportation services for those unable to travel.
- **Support for First Responders:** Genesee Health System offers free emotional support and therapy for first responders, recognizing the high rates of trauma in this group, and also provides mental health training in police and corrections academies.
- **Membership, Treasurer, and Resource Directory Updates:** Patti provided updates on membership renewals, the treasurer's report, and the status of the resource directory, urging members to renew, submit ads, and utilize both print and online versions of the directory for community outreach.
 - **Membership Renewal Status:** There are currently 142 active members, with only 69 renewed for the next year; members were encouraged to renew promptly to support ongoing activities and resources.
 - **Treasurer's Report and Ad Revenue:** The treasurer's report showed a starting balance of \$2,500 in savings and \$11,125.45 in checking, with ad revenue for the resource directory lagging behind previous years, prompting a call for more ad submissions.
 - **Resource Directory Distribution:** All copies of last year's resource directory have been distributed, and plans to increase print numbers depend on ad sales; members were reminded that the directory is also available online as a PDF.

- **Digital Payment and Content Submission:** A digital payment option for dues and ads is available on the website, and members were encouraged to submit events and content for the directory and Facebook page to enhance outreach.
- **Senior Millage and Annual Report Availability:** Patti announced the availability of the Senior Millage annual report, which details services provided to area seniors, and noted that current operations remain status quo.
 - **Annual Report Distribution:** The Senior Millage annual report booklet, produced by the county, is available for interested members and highlights key statistics and services provided to seniors in the area.
- **Planning for Senior Resource Fair:** Patti and Doug discussed initial planning for the upcoming Senior Resource Fair, including the need to select a date, coordinate with the library, and recruit volunteers for the planning committee.
 - **Event Planning and Volunteer Recruitment:** The team aims to hold the Senior Resource Fair in early September, with a brief meeting scheduled to establish a base plan and a call for additional volunteers to join the planning committee.
- **Community Announcements and Program Updates:** Members shared information about upcoming events, program changes, and available services, including Medicaid enrollment, dementia-related art programs, and organizational name changes.
 - **Event and Program Sharing:** Members announced various events and programs, such as the SHIP program, Medicaid enrollment assistance, and dementia-related art programs, and were encouraged to submit details for inclusion in the directory and on social media.
 - **Organizational Updates:** Updates included the Care Team Home Health's upcoming name change to Care to You Home Health, with advice to coordinate directory listings accordingly.
- **Atlas Home Safety Partnership Discussion:** Sarah from Atlas Home Safety discussed with Patti the organization's readiness to partner, having updated insurance requirements, and plans to reconnect with the contract manager for potential collaboration.
 - **Vendor Readiness and Service Area:** Atlas Home Safety confirmed updated insurance coverage and readiness to partner, serves Genesee, Shiawassee, and neighboring counties, and will coordinate with the contract manager to proceed with partnership discussions.
Follow-up tasks:
- **Membership Renewal:** Send membership renewal payments and paperwork to maintain active status for next year. (All members who have not yet renewed)

- **Resource Directory Ad Submission:** Submit organization ads for inclusion in the resource directory and ensure payment is made, either by check or electronically via the website. (All organizations wishing to advertise)
- **Resource Directory Ad Revenue:** Increase efforts to secure more ad submissions to support potential increase in directory print numbers and cover printing costs. (All members, especially those on the directory committee)
- **Event Calendar Content:** Submit upcoming organization events to Kim or Jessica for inclusion on the website and Facebook calendar. (All members)
- **Senior Resource Fair Planning:** Sign up to participate in the Senior Resource Fair planning subcommittee to assist with event organization and execution. (All interested members)
- **Collaboration with WNEM Channel 5:** Discuss and decide on participation in the WNEM Channel 5 program at the next board meeting. (Board members)

MEMBERSHIP SHARING

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm by Seth Neblock

The next meeting is to be held on November 20, 2025