

# Allegan County Commission on Aging



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**Chairperson: Rich Butler**  
**Vice Chairperson: Sally Heavener**

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## **COMMISSION ON AGING - MINUTES**

Chair Rich Butler called the meeting to order at 9:00 am on November 19, 2025 - Pledge of Allegiance, Roll call

The Commission of Aging met in the Zimmerman Room of the Human Services Building.

### **ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Mark DeYoung, Chairperson Rich Butler, Vice-Chairperson Sally Heavener, Larry Ladenburger, Lue Phelps, Mary Campbell, Pat Petersen, Jo VerBeek

**ABSENT:** Jim Storey

**OTHERS:** Director Jen Garcia, Admin Asst Teresa Galloway, Senior Service Coordinator Hailey Pearson, Allegan County Finance Specialists Diane Gomez and Kim Bowe, Deputy County Administrator of Services Dan Wedge, Lisa Evans Community Action of Allegan County

**ZOOM:** Brenda Molendyk Community Action of Allegan County, Sallie Prins Holland PHO, Senior Service Coordinator Katie Cole

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Director Jen Garcia introduced Hailey Pearson as the new Senior Service Coordinator; Hailey joined Senior Services on November 3, 2025.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA-**

Jo VerBeek submitted a question on the Finance & Service Delivery Metrics Report-September, moved to discussion items. With that removed the consent agenda was moved by Sally Heavener, supported by Larry Ladenburger. All in favor, motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Community Action of Allegan County proposed a Senior Home Repair Program to be funded through support of the senior millage, presented by Lisa Evans and Brenda Molendyk.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**ACTION ITEMS:** None

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Senior Services Finance Review – Director Jen Garcia introduced our current County Financial Specialists Diane Gomez, who then introduced Kim Bowe who is in training and will eventually support Senior & Veteran Services as the Designated Financial Specialist. Director Jen Garcia walked through five years of historical revenues and expenditures specific for Contractual Services. In the discussion it was mentioned that we need to report units not clients, per service. Mary Campbell asked to do a breakdown by township, by service in the future when information becomes available.

Strategic planning – Vice Chair Sally Heavener emailed Strategic Planning surveys to COA members; meeting date is set for December 3. Election of officers discussion was had. Dan Wedge told about the

#### **Mission Statement**

“Dedicated to serving Allegan County seniors by developing and coordinating services that support their independence, maintain their dignity, and preserve their quality of life”

bi-laws being rewritten regarding standardizing across the county; this is a strategic project of the Board of Commissioners for 2026. Commissioner Mark DeYoung stated how the Board of Commissioners elect officers at the January meeting and the Chair that is elected takes over the running of the current meeting. It was agreed upon to hold a meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 with Election of Officers taking place at that meeting. Jo VerBeek would like a copy of the approved Senior Service budget for FY2026.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Transportation/Bus Buddy – ACT on the road. Potential presentation or update on ways to enhance senior transportation across Allegan County.

**ROUND TABLE (COA MEMBER TIME):** Deputy County Administrator of Services Dan Wedge, shared a special thank you to Jo VerBeek & Sally Heavener for all their hard work that has gone into Policy & Procedure Committee, including RFPs and standardization of policies.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL:**

Motion to adjourn by Sally Heavener, supported by Mary Campbell. All favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:01 am. Next Meeting December 3, 2025 from 9:00AM to 10:00AM in the Zimmerman Room at the Human Services Building with strategic planning immediately following.