

Director's Report

April 2026

Programming Board Report

Meals served March 1 – March 31, 2026: 1,073

Breakfast: 40; Lunch: 1,033

January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026: 2,979

Breakfast:133; Lunch: 2,886

Volunteer Hours: March 1 – March 31, 2026

- Volunteer Driving: 52.50
- SHIP: 8 Hours
- Servers: 99 Hours
- World Horizon: 80
- Programming Volunteers: 9

Social: March 1 – March 31, 2026

- Exercise Participants: 208
- Social: 217
- Games: 233
- Art & Culture: 18

Program Update:

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with a themed lunch. We had to hold the lunch on March 18th as we had two snow days that week.

A trip to Meijer Gardens- Butterflies in Bloom was enjoyed in March. A group is going to Grand Rapids to see the Lion King at the Devos Hall theater downtown. A trip is planned to attend the Lantern Festival at the John Ball Zoo the end of April. The Biltmore and Asheville, NC, is very popular and more than 20 people have signed up for the October trip.

The Programming Team is planning summer activities currently. Green House Tour, Annual Pie Auction, Mini golf and other outings.

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Senior Care Services Update:

Our Friends House (Adult Day Services)

March 2026 OFH Totals:

- **Client Hours:** 184.75
- **Meals Served:** 38
- **OCCOA Rides (OFH Clients):** 24
- **Volunteer Hours:** 17.5

Activities and Program Highlights

OFH is looking forward to the warmer weather. We are beginning to plan our outings for the near future with our first outing being to the local bowling alley as we announce our bowling league of wonderful OFH bowlers! Be on the lookout for fun posts on social media with our very talented Friends!

Our Friends have been busy getting ready for the Easter and are really enjoying egg hunts and anything related to bunny rabbits. Rabbits have been a HUGE topic of conversation. So many smiles!



Community Living Support

Currently, Senior Care Services is assisting **40 clients with in-home services**.

- **39 clients** are private pay.
- **1 client** is supported through a combination of private pay and Senior Resources funding.

Community Living Support services remain in high demand. We have received numerous calls from families seeking case coordination, and we will continue to promote our outstanding Community Living Support program and the dedicated staff who provide these exceptional services.

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Bathing Program

The Bathing Program continues to be a strong success, providing essential support to our clients and meeting a critical need in the community. This success is largely due to the exceptional leadership and dedication of Lupe, our Bathing Specialist and Scheduler. Her organization, compassion, and commitment to both clients and staff have helped the program run smoothly and grow in impact. We are grateful for her continued hard work and the positive difference she makes every day.

During the month of March, the program provided **20 spa treatments** to community members, supporting dignity, hygiene, and overall well-being.

SHIP Medicare Counseling

SHIP Medicare services have **slowed since the end of the open enrollment period**. In February, we provided **5 counseling sessions with beneficiaries**, totaling **8 hours of SHIP services**.

Jaccie was also responsible for providing a performance evaluation to Chris, our RSVP SHIP volunteer. This was a great opportunity to discuss the successes of having a support for SHIP within Oceana County! We are thrilled to have such a dedicated volunteer assisting with this program.

Loan Closet

Requests for the loan closet have remained consistent, reflecting the **ongoing need for durable medical equipment (DME) in the community**.

In March, we assisted **13 community members** with DME through the loan closet. Additionally, we provided hygiene products, including briefs, to several community members. These items are distributed as needed and are **not logged as loan closet inventory**.

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Transportation Update:

	MARCH 2025	MARCH 2026	YTD 2025	YTD 2026	YTD INCREASE
BUS MILES	8,196	8,319	21,178	22,488	1,310
NON-SENIOR TRIPS	7	17	42	40	-2
SENIOR TRIPS	233	250	593	695	102
NON-SENIOR DISABLED TRIPS	207	218	557	563	6
SENIOR DISABLED TRIPS	448	385	1,156	1,030	-126
TOTAL TRIPS	895	870	2,348	2,328	-20
PARATRANSIT MILES	713	1,173	1,831	1,843	12
TOTAL TRIPS	24	43	49	75	26
VOLUNTEER MILES	5,277	1,766	15,169	4,827	-10,342
TOTAL TRIPS	133	41	369	110	-259

UPDATE:

Emergency Management Transportation Planning: I have been in communication with Sergeant Phillips he will be sending me the contact information for the transportation contacts next week so I can get this entered into our system for quick contact.

Bus Garage Update: Tuesday, April 21st a 30-minute meeting was held between OCCOA, MDOT and FTA on the next steps necessary for NEPA approval. The first step of receiving which list our build falls under for NEPA Categorical Exclusion is completed. We received a general exclusion under 188(d) (no specific activity category applies, but the project is exempt per the conditions of 23 CFR 771.118(a) and (b)). Now we must complete the worksheet for final approval. During the meeting Anshu Singh, Environmental Protection Specialist from FTA Region 5 went through the document section by section and offered assistance if we have any further questions. Dan DiGiuseppe, Lead Environmental Protection Specialist also from FTA Region 5 is also assisting with parts of the worksheet.

Retired Bus #1: Interurban Transit Authority (Saugatuck/Douglas) is in desperate need of buses. I have offered to transfer Bus #1 to them. This bus was being held for parts for the last year, but we haven't utilized it, and it doesn't warrant holding onto it. Their mechanic Nick came to see the vehicle Thursday April 23rd and they are ready to complete the transfer.

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Transportation Update Continued

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING NUMBER:

Between

THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

And

PARTNER / ENTITY NAME		PRIMARY CONTACT	
EMAIL		TELEPHONE	
GEOGRAPHIC AREAS/COUNTIES SERVED			

MDHHS CONTACT	NAME Suzie Genyk	TELEPHONE 517-599-6930	EMAIL Genyks1@michigan.gov
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SUMMARY	
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PURPOSE	The Senior Project Fresh (SPF) program, provides benefits for the purchase of fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables and honey from authorized farmers markets and roadside stands to individuals age 60 years and older, or 55 years and older who belong to a Federally recognized Indian Tribe or Urban Tribal Group in Michigan, with gross incomes at or below 185% of the poverty level. This MOU details the requirements for local agencies who wish to assist older adults enroll and participate in Senior Project Fresh.
BEGIN DATE May 1, 2026	END DATE November 1, 2031

The individual or officer signing this agreement certifies by his or her signature that he or she is authorized to sign this agreement on behalf of the responsible governing board, official or agency.

_____	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Signature of Authorized Designee	Signature of Director or Authorized Designee
_____	_____
Print Name / Title	Print Name / Title
_____	_____
Date	Date

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Director's Update:

Gwen and Stephanie attended the Commissioner's meeting on April 9 to present the 2025 Annual Report. Although this is not something that is required, it was thought that it would be a good chance to provide some education as to what OCCOA does. The reports went well and can be viewed on the County YouTube Channel. The Echo reported on the presentation, unfortunately, many of the facts presented were reported incorrectly, including the following:

- The cost (donation) of rides is misleading, as there is no context as to what those numbers refer to. The article states \$2-5 per ride but does not explain clearly the differences between those fees. *This is for clarification
- The article states that the total number of miles driven in 2025 was 92,428 miles, yet bus mileage was not discussed at the meeting; only volunteer driving and those miles which totaled 49,956. This means that the total mileage is under reported by 49,956 as it should have been 142,384.
- It is stated in the article that the grant OCCOA received for the bus garage was from MDOT only. It is a federal grant passed to us through MDOT with a portion being matched by MDOT. *\$805,760 Federal Funds and \$201,441 State of Michigan Match.
- The amount stated in the article is \$1.7 million. The correct amount reported at the meeting is \$1,007,201.
- It is stated that construction is "underway" stating "concerns" following the question by Paul Erickson regarding the location utilization of the building. There is no "concern" as stated; it is a matter of working through the parameters of the grant with our grant manager from FTA and our Project Manager at MDOT.
- The article states "several state agencies"; I did mention that we have met with Congressman Moolenaar's Office at the Federal level and have gone back to MDOT for clarifications at the state level.

Stephanie and Kay attended the Senior Advocacy Coalition meeting held at Senior Resources. This group meets bi-monthly and is made up of lawmakers, senior care professionals, and is headed up by Senior Resources CEO, Pam Curtis, attended by other COAs, State Legislation, Trinity Health, and other local senior services.

Stephanie invited Troy Love, staff member at The Ladder Community Center to share what services are available.

OCCOA is hosting joint Business After Hours for Hart/Silver Lake, Pentwater, and Southern Oceana Chambers of Commerce on May 5th.

Stephanie is working with AgeWell Services to rework the contract held for the meal program. There have been changes to rules and regulations, so this is going to take some time.

Stephanie attended the MDOT and the FTA (Federal Transit Administration) with Lisa.

A quarterly all-staff meeting was held on April 8

The Admin Team had a strategic planning meeting on April 24

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The Executive Director from Cass County Council on Aging toured the facility and gathered ideas as they are looking to expand, and our Agency was mentioned as one of the places to visit.

Stephanie will be attending the National Council on Aging NCOA Conference May 24-29 where she will be presenting with other members of Michigan Association of Senior Centers. Stephanie will also be meeting with the offices of Senator Slotkin, Senator Peters, and Congressman Moolenaar.

Missions Moments: