AREA AGENCY ON AGING
ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Meeting Minutes: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Proceedings: The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Imperial County Workforce Development Board – Conference Room, Located at 2799 S. Fourth Street, El Centro, CA 92243.

Voting Attendees:	Representing Sector:
Cynthia Alba	District 1
Cheryl V. Walker	District 2
AJ Gaddis	District 3
John Hernandez	District 4
Patricia Burnworth	District 5
Supervisor John Hawk	County of Imperial
Patricia A. Thompson	Service Provider
Helen Lopez	Senior Legislature
Daniel Romero	Senior Legislature
Benjamin Horton	HICAP
Lucy M. Hendry	At-Large
Ana Rodríguez	At-Large
Ismael Lopez	Alternate At-Large

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:	
Sarah M. Enz	Public Administrator/ ICAAA Director
Monica Veliz	ICAAA Manager
Joanna D. Zepeda	ICAAA Administrative Analyst I
Karla Flores	ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Coordinator
Ana Corona V.	ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Staff
Shawn Angulo	ICAAA Volunteer
Andrew Briseno	County of Imperial, County Counsel
Polo Salazar	Catholic Charities, Program Manager, Senior Nutrition
Alan Azevedo-McCaffrey	Elder Law & Advocacy, Staff Attorney
Victoria Ramírez	Elder Law & Advocacy/HICAP, Program Assistant
Jade Acuna	Elder Law & Advocacy, IVROP Volunteer
Daniel Flores	Access to Independence, Program Manager
Lupita Guitron	Access to Independence, Information & Assistance Coordinator
Mario Jimenez	Volunteers of America, Program Supervisor
Agnes Zsigovics	Alzheimer's Association, Community Engagement Manager

Absent:	
Paul R. Monarrez	Disabled Interest
Sylvia Chavez	League of Cities
Ember Haller	Senior Advocate
Manuel Sanchez	Senior Advocate
Anna M. Garcia	Senior Organization
Roland Estrada	Law Enforcement
Mary Walla	Alternate At-Large
Supervisor Peggy Price	Alternate At-Large

Agenda Item / Action Taken:

I. FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL (MEMBERS), AND INTRODUCTIONS (GUESTS):

Chair AJ Gaddis called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Polo Salazar led the flag salute, and staff completed the roll call. Guests introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

H. Lopez/I. Lopez (M/S/C) to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2026, Advisory Council meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously with no nays or abstentions.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for comments.

Agnes Zsigovics, Community Engagement Manager, from Alzheimer's Association invited the Advisory Council members to the association's upcoming Town Hall Meeting scheduled for June 18th. Additional details on the Town Hall will be sent via email. She also invited them to participate in the association's monthly Community Engagement Meeting held every third Thursday of the month at 2:00 pm at the El Centro DayOut. She also invited members to join the AAA's team and participate at this year's "Walk to End Alzheimer's" which will take place on Friday, October 23rd at the United Toyota Dealership. Finally, she asked for support on a bill to make Alzheimer's screening and assessment prevention scans part of preventative care.

John Hernandez asked, with the summer upon us and expected extreme heat, what the plan was for Cool Centers in 2026. He also requested an update on Brawley's recent earthquake and those people that were evacuated. Sarah Enz reported that a team was already in place regarding extreme weather conditions in the summer and were set to open cool centers in 2026. As soon as flyers were distributed, they would be sent out. Regarding the Brawley earthquakes, she reported that the City of Brawley Emergency Operating Center was engaged and she was receiving emails throughout the weekend but that no help had been requested. Additional discussion was held regarding who should be the lead in an emergency.

Chair AJ Gaddis reminded Advisory Council and public about the upcoming elections and announced that this is the first time Voting Centers would be in place and she encouraged everyone to take advantage of these centers to vote.

This concluded with the public comments.

IV. PRESENTATION:

a) Elder Law & Advocacy Programs Update – Alan Azevedo-McCaffrey, Attorney

Alan Azevedo-McCaffrey, Staff Attorney with Elder Law & Advocacy, provided an overview of the legal services provided by Elder Law & Advocacy. He went over his process when setting appointments and explained that he may set up consultations by phone or in-person. In rare occasions but if needed he will conduct home visits. He also discussed current legal clinics, such as the unlawful detainer being offered and plans for future clinics in Imperial County. He also provided general examples of the type of legal matters he may assist with and what is not covered. Mr. Azevedo-McCaffrey took the time to answer questions from the Advisory Council before introducing Victoria Ramirez, the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) staff. Ms. Ramirez discussed the HICAP program briefly and provided information on the office hours and approximate waiting time for getting a call back for legal or HICAP services. This concluded the presentation.

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

a) Chair to appoint following Advisory Council Member to a committee:

- Roland Estrada

Chair Gaddis appointed Mr. Estrada to the following committees:

- ✓ Social & Health Committee
- ✓ Nutrition Committee
- ✓ Transportation Committee

b) Advisory Council to set meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2026- 2027

Walker/Romero (M/S/C) for meetings to be held on the 3rd Thursday of every month, with an option to go dark in August and/or December. The motion carried unanimously with no nays or abstentions.

c) Reminder of the AAA Advisory Council proposed Slate of Officers for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Elections (No Action Required).

Chair Gaddis reminded Advisory Council about the upcoming elections to be held at the regularly scheduled Advisory Council Meeting in June 2025. The proposed slate of officers is as follows:

- Chair: Patricia Burnworth
- Vice-Chair: Paul R. Monarrez
- Secretary: Patricia Thompson
- Past Chair: AJ Gaddis

This concluded with the reminder.

VI. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR REPORT

Sarah M. Enz, AAA Director, provided an update on her recent visit to Sacramento to attend the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) Strategic Plan Meeting. During the visit the team met with legislators including the local Assemblymember's staff. The focus this year was to restore the funding to the Older American's Act (OAA) which was taken away during the financial crisis of 2008. The ask is for funding to be restored to pre-pandemic numbers. The Budget Ask for FY 26-27 is $62.3 million dollars, broken down as follows: $37 million for Nutrition Services, $15.6 for Information & Assistance Services, and $10.44 million for caregiver support. Director Enz also announced that SB1249 passed, and as of July 1, 2026, the following three core services must be offered by all AAAs in California: Nutrition Services, Information & Assistance, Caregiver Support. This means that the funding for other services such as Senior Legal and Transportation may be affected. She encouraged Advisory Council to ask their legislators to support the request in funding for the OAA. She also provided an update on the Information & Assistance Coordinator position as it is again vacant. This concluded with the Directors' Report.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chair Gaddis reminder Committee Chairs must submit their reports in writing so that they are included in the agenda.

a. Executive: No written report submitted.

b. Legislative: H. Lopez provided a written Legislative Committee report that was included in the agenda.

c. Nutrition: Committee Chair Burnworth provided a written report that was included in the agenda.

d. Transportation: Chair Gaddis provided a brief update on transportation events that happened earlier in the month such as the opening of the Calexico Intermodal Transportation Center and an invite to a planning event by the railway. This concluded her report.

e. Social & Health: Patricia Burnworth reported on behalf of Committee Chair Sanchez. She reported that the committee had met and had an interesting presentation from Alzheimer's Association. This concluded the report.

VIII. INFORMATION:

Chair Gaddis advised Advisory Council to review the information attached which includes the Attendance Roster and the updated Advisory Council Member Roster.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

No future agenda item requests were received.

X. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MEMBERS:

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for announcements.

Daniel Romero invited Advisory Council to attend the Memorial Day ceremony taking place on Monday, May 25, 2026, at 11:00 am at Mt. View Cemetery in Calexico, with Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez as the speaker. The Baja Runner's will be putting up American Flags on each Veteran's tombstone starting at 5:00 am if anyone wants to help.

Patricia Thompson announced that the American Legion is having their annual Poppies Fundraiser. She asked members to reach out to her if interested. She also took the opportunity to thank Daniel Flores, Program Manager at Access to Independence, who worked with United Way to bring someone home.

AJ Gaddis announced that the Calipatria City Manager was no longer there. This person was instrumental in supporting the opening of the Congregate Site in this city. This concluded the announcements.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Gaddis adjourned the Advisory Council meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Sarah M. Enz
Public Administrator/AAA Director

Monica Veliz
Recording Clerk