



AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

778 W. State St., El Centro, CA 92243
800.510.2020 | 442.265.7030 | www.aaa24.org

Meeting Minutes: Thursday, July 15, 2021

Proceedings:

The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89725703645?pwd=QU1YSTNKT3lMbTg1aGZ1d3ZwR0ZzZz09>

Phone Number: +1 669 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 897 2570 3645 | Passcode: 286939

Voting Attendees:

Patsy Becerra
AJ Gaddis
John Hernandez
Benjamin J. Horton
Sup. Ray Castillo
Paul R. Monarrez
Virginia Ward
Veronica Wright
Helen Lopez
Daniel Romero
Oreda Chin
Lourdes Ramirez
Sedalia Sanders
Terry Swing
Ismael Lopez
Manuel Sanchez

Representing Sector:

District 2
District 3
District 4
District 5
County of Imperial
Disabled Interest
League of Cities
Senior Advocate
CSL – Senate
CSL – Assembly
Senior Organization
HICAP
At-Large
At-Large
At-Large Alternate
At-Large Alternate

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Sarah Enz
Karla Flores
Joanna D. Zepeda
Monica Veliz De Leon
Heather Murray
Polo Salazar
Ivan Romero
Daniel Glasser
Alejandra Pulido, MSW
Jessica Brantley-Lopez
Karen Teran
Acting Public Administrator / ICAAA Director
ICAAA Long Term Care Ombudsman Coordinator
ICAAA Administrative Analyst I
ICAAA Information & Assistance Coordinator
County of Imperial, Council
Catholic Charities, Program Manager
Catholic Charities, Quality Assurance Manager
Elder Law & Advocacy, Attorney
Alzheimer’s Association, Care Consultant & Education Manager
Nutrition Ink, Vice President of Operations
Access to Independence, Program Manager

Absent:

Mike Lara
Patricia A. Thompson
Javier Moreno
Sup. Mike Kelley
Senior Advocate
Service Provider
Law Enforcement
At-Large Alternate

Agenda Item / Action Taken:

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

Chair Virginia Ward called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Flag Salute and Roll call were completed and quorum was established. Staff introduced guests.



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II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Helen Lopez motioned to approve the June 17, 2021, Advisory Council meeting minutes as presented. Patsy Becerra seconded the motion. Chair called for vote. The motion passed unanimously with no nays or abstentions.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Virginia Ward opened up the floor for Public Comments; none received.

IV. ACTION ITEMS:

a) Chair to appoint an Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Ad-hoc Steering Committee of not less than three (3) Advisory Council Members to work on establishing this designation for the Imperial County Area Agency on Aging

Virginia Ward requested volunteers join the ADRC Ad-hoc Steering Committee. The following Advisory Council Members volunteered and were appointed by the Chair to the committee:

- Paul R. Monarrez
- Daniel Romero
- AJ Gaddis
- Helen Lopez

Helen Lopez provided a brief update on ADRC Designation. Committee will work with Access To Independence to obtain this designation for Imperial County. The letter of intent was submitted. The next step is to complete an application to become an Emerging ADRC. This should be completed before the next funding opportunities become available. This concluded her update. No further discussion.

b) Council to discuss return to in-person meeting September 2021

Sarah Enz reported to Advisory Council that all current COVID-19 guidelines and waivers in regards to the Brown Act were set to expire at the end of September. This means that the Advisory Council will need to start holding in-person meetings starting September 2021.

Helen Lopez stated that she was okay with meeting in person but recommended that the meeting be made available via ZOOM as well. Chair Ward and Member Monarrez agreed.

Paul Monarrez recommended that the Advisory Council proceed with caution as new variants of the COVID-19 Virus have been found. Helen Lopez recommended that only those that have been vaccinated attend the meeting.

Sarah Enz will check the Brown Act and discuss with County Counsel to see if more than three members can attend via ZOOM since the Advisory Council By-Laws limit the number of those attending virtually to three.



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Paul Monarrez, who is a member of the San Diego Aging & Independence, stated that this has not been brought up at their meetings. He will provide an update to the Advisory Council when this comes up.

Sarah Enz clarified that the meeting scheduled for September 2021 will be in-person. She will let the members know, how many of them can attend via ZOOM.

No further discussion.

c) Council to set meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Helen Lopez motioned for the Advisory Council to set meetings for the third Thursday of each month at 9 am. Daniel Romero seconded the motion. Chair called for additional comments, none received. Chair called for vote. Motion carried unanimously with no nays or abstentions.

d) Committee Reorganization

Chair Ward reviewed the proposed recommendations with Advisory Council Members. She asked members to let her know if any changes needed to be made. No changes were requested.

Manuel Sanchez moved to accept the Committee Roster as presented. Sedalia Sanders seconded the motion. Chair called for vote. Motion carried unanimously with no nays or abstentions. No further discussion.

e) Council to vote to go dark in August

Manuel Sanchez moved to go dark for the month of August and reconvene on September 16, 2021. Helen Lopez seconded the motion. Chair called for additional comments, none received. Chair called for vote. Motion carried unanimously with no nays or abstentions.

V. PRESENTATIONS:

a) Lifecycle of Legislation – Helen Lopez, CSL Senate

Helen Lopez provided an overview of the California legislative process. She explained the impact that legislation has on our lives and how legislation is born from ideas from the public and brought to organizations such as AAA and CSL. Once an idea is born, it is developed into a problem statement, researched and a legislative solution proposed, and anticipated opposition and support are identified. Deadlines apply for each step as the proposal, then bill travels through each committee and each house of the legislature. How bills are written and amended and what needs to be done to prepare for the Committee Hearings was discussed, including what happens in the Fiscal Committee process for bills that require funds. If different versions of laws are passed by the House and the Senate, conference committees come into play. What happens to a bill once it is at the Governor's desk and is signed, not signed, or vetoed was explained. Lopez also provided a glossary of legislative terms for better understanding of the legislative process. She also provided a brief update on our local proposals that will be submitted in the next Legislative Cycle.



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AJ Gaddis asked if bills that were vetoed or left on the desk by the Governor would be treated differently. Lopez explained vetoed bills can be overridden by the legislature with a 2/3 vote of both houses, and if left on the desk unsigned by the deadline, the bill becomes law by default. Once bills become law there is no difference as to how they arrived there – signed, overridden or by default - all have equal legal application.

AJ Gaddis asked if our local legislative representatives had ever presented to the Advisory Council. Lopez responded that staff of our local legislators have attended the Legislative Committee Meetings. She thought it would be a good idea to have them present to the Advisory Council in the future.

No further questions or discussion.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Virginia Ward asked Committee Chairs to provide a report for each committee.

Executive Committee: Chair Ward reported that some of the congregate sites have started to open: Heber, El Centro, and Brawley were now open. Nothing further to report.

Planning & Finance Committee: Terry Swing stated that there was nothing to report. The Committee did not meet in the month of June.

Legislative Committee: Helen Lopez advised the Advisory Council that an updated CSL Legislative Report was sent via email to them on July 12, 2021. She further reported that she and CSL Assemblyman Daniel Romero will be working on proposals identified with ideas from our local Legislative Committee, including co-authorship with Luis Monge and Helen McBrady from our CSL San-Diego Imperial Caucus to establish a Senior and PWD pedestrian lane at our international borders. Since this would be a federal proposal, our hope is that joint authorship will entice Congressman Juan Vargas to support and introduce the proposal as a bill in 2022.

Nutrition Committee: Chair Virginia Ward reported again that Congregate Nutrition Sites are starting to open. Once the sites are open, the Nutrition Committee will meet to schedule the site visits to conduct monitoring.

Transportation Committee: Chair Ward reported that there will be a transportation meeting on July 28, 2021, at 6 pm. She will be attending. Nothing further to report.

Social & Health Committee: Manuel Sanchez reported that the Social & Health Committee met on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. He reported that there is an increase in demand for in-home care and respite services in Imperial County. The Committee will continue to monitor this growth. Elizabeth Machado from AlzCare, Inc. and Lacy Johnson-Bathurst from Southern Caregiver Resource Center presented on the respite services provided by their agencies. They are currently able to meet the demand and will report back if any issues arise. The committee will go dark in August. This concluded his report.



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VII. INFORMATION:

The informational items included in the agenda packets consisted of the attendance roster, information on Coronavirus (COVID-19), ICAAA services flyers, and CSL legislative report.

VIII. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Sarah Enz reported that Catholic Charities did a great job in providing meals for seniors through the Congregate and Home Delivered Meal Programs. The new Fiscal Year started this year strong. Sarah Enz reported that the following sites were now open: Heber, Brawley, El Centro Desert Villas and El Centro Community Center. Both Brawley and El Centro Desert Villas had a grand opening. In El Centro, they had live music. The seniors invited Sarah Enz and Madeline Dessert to return for Karaoke Fridays. Everyone had a great time and are excited to be back. Gil Rebolgar, County of Imperial Public Information Officer, attended the event and took beautiful pictures of the seniors present.

Sarah Enz reported that the ICAAA received funding for local vaccination efforts from the California Department of Aging. The funds received will be used for local vaccine efforts such as targeted media outreach and transportation to vaccination sites for seniors. Staff will work with the Imperial County Public Health Department to see if they can provide vaccines to seniors at home for the Imperial County's most remote areas.

Sarah Enz reported that she and Madeline Dessert, Department Fiscal Manager, presented at the California Commission of Aging General Meeting on Friday, June 25, 2021. The services and extensive relief work of the ICAAA and the Public Administrator (PA) was outlined. Great response from the audience was received. Kim McCoy, CDA Director, was present and had her staff call to congratulate the AAA. Ms. McCoy was very impressed by the work done.

This concluded the Director's Report.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

No announcements were made by members.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

No future agenda items were requested.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Virginia Ward adjourned the meeting at 10:09 AM.

Sarah Enz
Acting Public Administrator/ ICAAA Director

Monica Veliz De Leon
Recording Clerk