



# 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, September 17, 2020

### Proceedings:

The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89477529713?pwd=WFJNWGh0VzNWdTNTbkpoMVZoNnBHQT09>

Phone Number: +1 669 900 6833 | Meeting ID: 894 7752 9713 | Passcode: 081738.

### Voting Attendees:

Patsy Becerra  
AJ Gaddis  
John Hernandez  
Benjamin J. Horton  
Virginia Ward  
Patricia A. Thompson  
Helen Lopez  
Oreda Chin  
Lourdes Ramirez  
Sedalia Sanders  
Terry Swing  
Ismael Lopez  
Manuel Sanchez

### Representing Sector:

District 2  
District 3  
District 4  
District 5  
League of Cities  
Senior Provider  
CSL – Senate  
Senior Organization  
HICAP  
At-Large  
At-Large  
At-Large Alternate  
At-Large Alternate

### Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Rosie Blankenship  
Sarah Enz  
Madeline Dessert  
Karla Flores  
Monica Veliz De Leon  
Joanna Zepeda  
Layla Sarwari  
Cynthia Quinonez  
Polo Salazar  
Raul A. Cordova  
Elizabeth Machado  
Gil Rebolgar  
Veronica Wright  
Javier Moreno

Public Administrator / ICAAA Director  
Assistant Public Administrator / Assistant ICAAA Director  
ICAAA Department Fiscal Manager  
ICAAA Long Term Care Ombudsman Coordinator  
ICAAA Information & Assistance Coordinator  
ICAAA Administrative Analyst I  
Imperial County Counsel  
Adult Protective Services  
Catholic Charities  
Imperial County Work Training Center  
Alz-Care, Inc.  
Imperial County Air Pollution Control District  
Public  
Public

### Absent:

Sonia Silva  
Sup. Ray Castillo  
Paul R. Monarrez  
Mike Lara  
Daniel Romero  
Sup. Mike Kelley

District 1  
County of Imperial  
Disabled Interest  
Senior Advocate  
CSL – Assembly  
At-Large Alternate



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Agenda Item / Action Taken:

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

Chairman Virginia Ward called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Roll call was completed and quorum was established. Staff asked guests to introduce themselves. Virginia Ward asked members to recite the Flag Salute.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

AJ Gaddis motioned to approve the July 16, 2020, Advisory Council Meeting Minutes; the July 20, 2020, Ad-hoc Fundraising Committee Meeting Minutes; the July 27, 2020, Ad-hoc Fundraising Committee Meeting Minutes; and the September 8, 2020, Ad-hoc Nominating Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Helen Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried with no opposition and no abstentions.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Virginia Ward opened up the floor for Public Comments. No comments were made.

**IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM(S):**

- a) **The ICAAA received three applications for the vacant Senior Advocate and Law Enforcement Member positions. Council to take action on appointing the Senior Advocate and Law Enforcement Member positions based on the Ad-hoc Nominating Committee's recommendation.**

The Ad-hoc Nominating Committee recommends Advisory Council to appoint Javier Moreno, Ph(c) to the Law Enforcement Member Position and to appoint Veronica Wright to the Senior Advocate Member Position.

Virginia Ward moved to accept the recommendation from the Ad-hoc Nominating Committee and appoint Javier Moreno, Ph(c) to the Law Enforcement Member position and to appoint Veronica Wright to the Senior Advocate Member position. Helen Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried with no opposition and no abstentions.

- b) **Committee Assignments**

Virginia Ward asked new members what committees they would like to join. Veronica Wright asked to be placed on the committee where she is most needed. Ward recommended the Transportation Committee and Ms. Wright accepted. Mr. Javier Moreno asked to be placed on the Legislative Committee. Virginia Ward asked other members if there were any other requests. No other requests were received. Committee assignments were accepted as presented. No action was required per Rosie Blankenship.

- c) **Committees to Schedule Meeting Dates**

Virginia Ward asked staff to set dates for the committee meetings based on staff's availability and send meeting invite to Committee Members. Advisory Council Members agreed. No further discussion.

- d) **ICAAA Advisory Council Quarterly Mileage Reimbursement for FY 2020-2021**

Rosie Blankenship stated that this item was put on the agenda as a reminder. Even though no mileage reimbursement are expected during this time because meetings are held via ZOOM, it was left on the agenda to remind members of this option. No further discussion.

- e) **ICAAA Advisory Council to Approve Request For Proposal (RFP) Timeline**

Rosie Blankenship provided an update on RFP process from last fiscal year. Unfortunately, three of the RFP's were not consistent with California Department of Aging (CDA) guidelines and need to be released one more time. Even though guidance from CDA was sought during the process the guidance came after the process had ended. The selected provider for Senior Health Services, Respite, and Caregiver Respite was not accepted by CDA due to internal procedures not being followed. A one year extension was provided to the past providers to continue their services. Alz-Care, Inc. will continue providing Respite Care and Caregiver Respite Care.



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Unfortunately, the Imperial County Public Health Department could not accept the extension. N Your Home Health Care will be providing the Senior Health Program for this Fiscal Year.

Rosie Blankenship also reported that the Senior Nutrition Program provider was only granted a one year contract. Thus an RFP will be sent for the Congregate and Home Delivered Meals program as well.

This item was put on the agenda to keep advisory council informed and to allow for member input.

Sedalia Sanders asked if the issues had been resolved. Rosie Blankenship stated that the issues have been resolved.

No further discussion.

**f) ICAAA Advisory Council to Approve Service Provider Monitoring Schedule**

Rosie Blankenship updated Advisory Council on Monitoring Schedule. Monitoring is required every year for Senior Nutrition and every other year for all other providers along with Fiscal Monitoring. Advisory Council Members invited members to join. Recommends only 2 members attend at a time.

- AJ Gaddis will participate where she is needed.
- Helen Lopez would like to participate in the monitoring for the HICAP/Legal Services Programs.
- Ginger Ward would like to participate in the monitoring of the Senior Nutrition Program and anywhere else is needed.
- Oreda Chin would like to participate in the monitoring of the Senior Nutrition Program

Lourdes Ramirez corrected the address for the Elder Law & Advocacy office to 939 W. Main Street, El Centro, CA.

Polo Salazar stated that the address for the Catholic Charities San Diego office is incorrect. He will send the address to staff for update.

AJ Gaddis motioned to approve the monitoring schedule with the changes requested. Helen Lopez seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposition and no abstentions.

**g) ICAAA Advisory Council to Appoint a new Ad-hoc By-law Committee**

New Ad-hoc By-law Committee will need to meet to review Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council By-laws and update as necessary.

Rosie Blankenship reported that no changes have been made to the Advisory Council By-laws in over a year. It is time to revisit and consider any changes that should be made. Virginia Ward called for volunteers. The following individuals asked to join this committee:

- Helen Lopez
- AJ Gaddis
- Virginia Ward

AJ Gaddis motioned to appoint these three members to the new Ad-hoc By-law Committee. Helen Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried with no opposition and no abstentions.

**V. PRESENTATION(S):**

**a) Multipurpose Senior Services Program – Imperial County Work Training Center – Raul A. Cordova, MSC, Supervising Care Manager, MSSP**

Raul Cordova provided an overview of the Multipurpose Senior Services Program. He reviewed the history and the numbers of sites currently being served with this program. He reviewed the eligibility requirements, the forms used for referrals, and the assessments that are used to determine a client’s “Risk Level” which is used to rank the wait list. He reviewed the difference



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between Activities for Daily Living (ADLs) and **Instrumental** Activities for Daily Living (IADLs). He also explain the referral process for services from other agencies. During the pandemic all home visits are suspended. However, all activity is being done through the phone. Some of the services provided through this program are: Case Management, including providing incontinence supplies, monitoring client’s wellbeing, advocacy, transportation, and information and referral to other agencies for needed services. MSSP in Imperial County has 160 slots available and the program is always at capacity. The wait list is currently at 22, which is unusual. Usually the wait list is 80 clients or more. Some of the reasons people leave the program are moving out of area, no longer needs the service, no longer Medical eligible or they are institutionalized. This concluded his presentation and Mr. Cordova opened up for questions.

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

**Executive/Planning & Finance Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Legislative Committee:** Helen Lopez reported that the California Senior Legislature's Annual Legislative session will be held virtually in October due to the Pandemic. The CSL will not be voting on "Top Ten" proposals, because there were no new proposals being considered by the legislature unless they addressed the Pandemic, Fires, or Homelessness. A few carried over from this year, as the Legislature held the progress of all bills not related to above, in March 2020. Our local committee will reconvene early next year to review ideas to develop legislative proposals for consideration in the 2021 CSL legislative session.

**Nutrition Committee:** Virginia Ward reported that she continues to participate in the Senior Nutrition Program update meetings every other week.

**Transportation Committee:** Virginia Ward reported that there was another Transportation meeting scheduled for September 23, 2020 at 6 pm, and she was planning to attend.

**Social & Health Committee:** Oreda Chin reported that the committee has not met.

AJ Gaddis asked if there was an update on requiring Chair Persons for the committees to be rotated at least annually. She was instructed to discuss this at the Ad-hoc By-laws Committee meeting.

## VII. INFORMATION:

The informational items included in the agenda packets consisted of the following: the attendance roster, updated council members roster, and Information on Coronavirus (COVID-19).

## VIII. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Rosie Blankenship reported that the agency has provided 1,500 Victory Virus bags to seniors thanks to the funding provided by SEMPRA/ American Legion. The Victory Virus bags included a gallon of milk, a dozen eggs a loaf of bread, and one chicken. The agency surpassed the requested amount of 1,400 bags. The leftover funding will be used to continue feeding the seniors on the Senior Nutrition Program waitlist.

The National Guard assistance will be over on September 30, 2020, which will leave ICAAA without volunteers providing Emergency Relief Items to seniors.

Rosie Blankenship reported on the Dignity At Home Fall Prevention program that started earlier this month. The program will provide about 424 seniors with a hand rail, a set of nightlights, and anti-slip mat. About 100 seniors with the greatest need will also receive a Medic Alert scholarship.

Rosie Blankenship reported that ICAAA is working with Supervisor Ray Castillo to obtain \$100,000 from the Community Benefit fund to continue to feed about 300 clients on the Senior Nutrition Program wait list. Staff put it on the agenda for a Board of Supervisor’s meeting earlier this month but it was removed because the request needs to be made by the Supervisor. Staff is working on getting this completed.



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Rosie Blankenship reported to Advisory Council on the Digital Divide work that is being done. ICAAA has not received the Google Smartphones or Microsoft tablets but are looking to purchase Grand Pads with the grant provided by Charter Communication. Staff is also working with Assemblymember Garcia's staff on this project.

Rosie Blankenship reported on the reduction in service that is eminent on the representative payee program provided by the Public Administrator. The Account Clerk II fulltime position that was requested for funding this fiscal year was denied by the Board of Supervisors.. Unfortunately, once the position became vacant in 2019, the position was not authorized to be refilled due to the County's budgetary constraints. The PA appeal to the Board of Supervisors to fund this position recently was declined. Earlier this week, Public Administrator was notified that the Account Clerk III will not be returning and this position will also be left vacant. Unfortunately, the Public Administrator made the difficult decision to transition about 200 of the 300 Representative Payee clients to another provider. Currently, PA staff is working to transition clients to Spread the Love Charity, which is a non-governmental organization and non-profit. This transition will require the approval from Social Security Administration (SSA). PA is looking to complete this transition in the next six months.

In regards to COVID-19, Rosie Blankenship reported that the Imperial County is doing great. The positivity rate for September 17, 2020, is at 4.31%. The County is currently in the purple level and is looking to quickly improve their level to red.

Rosie Blankenship further reported that Karla Flores, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, will start facility visitation this week. As a requirement to visit facilities she will need to be tested for COVID-19 every two weeks. PA Deputies are starting to do home visits and hope to be allowed into facilities soon.

This concluded the Director's Report.

Virginia Ward thanked staff for all their hard work.

Sedalia Sanders also thanked staff and provided some suggestions to request additional funding for the Senior Nutrition Program.

Madeline Dessert introduced Joanna Zepeda, as the new Administrative Analyst I.

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:**

None received.

**X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

None received.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Virginia Ward adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Rosie Blankenship  
ICAAA Director

Monica Veliz De Leon  
Recording Clerk