



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, April 15, 2021

Proceedings:

The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, April 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
Mike Lara
Veronica Wright
Patricia A. Thompson
Helen Lopez
Oreda Chin
Lourdes Ramirez
Javier Moreno
Sedalia Sanders
Ismael Lopez
Manuel Sanchez

Representing Sector:

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

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Sarah Enz
Madeline Dessert
Karla Flores
Joanna Zepeda
Marisol Luna
Monica Veliz De Leon
Polo Salazar
Ivan Romero
Guadalupe Rodriguez
Faith Espejo
Daniel Glaser
Gil Rebollar
Nakia Newton
Elizabeth Machado
Jessica Brantley-Lopez, MBA RDN
Lacy Johnson-Bathurst, MA

Acting Public Administrator / ICAAA Director
ICAAA Department Fiscal Manager
ICAAA Long Term Care Ombudsman Coordinator
ICAAA Administrative Analyst I
ICAAA Information & Assistance Coordinator
ICAAA Information & Assistance Coordinator
Catholic Charities, Program Manager
Catholic Charities, Quality Assurance Manager
Catholic Charities, Director of Outreach Imperial Valley
Catholic Charities, Chief Program Officer
Elder Law & Advocacy, Attorney
County of Imperial Administration Office, Public Information Officer
N Your Home Health Care, Administrator
AlzCare, Inc., President
Nutrition Ink, Vice President of Operations
Southern Caregiver Resource Center, Program Manager

Absent:

Gloria Grijalva
Daniel Romero
Terry Swing
Sup. Mike Kelley

District 1
CSL – Assembly
At-Large
At-Large Alternate



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Agenda Item / Action Taken:

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

Chair Virginia Ward called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Flag Salute and Roll call were completed and quorum was established. Staff asked guests to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Helen Lopez moved to approve the March 11, 2021, Executive/Planning & Finance Committee meeting minutes as presented. Mike Lara seconded the motion. Chair called for vote. The motion passed unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.

Helen Lopez motioned to approve the March 18, 2021, Advisory Council meeting minutes as presented. Oreda Chin seconded the motion. Chair called for vote. The motion passed unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Virginia Ward opened up the floor for Public Comments.

Sarah Enz announced that the Registrar of Voters called to remind her that all Advisory Council Members need to submit a Form 700 for this year. Please complete as soon as possible. Discussion followed but it was understood that all members had to complete the form.

IV. PRESENTATIONS:

a) Senior Nutrition Program – Catholic Charities – Polo Salazar, Program Manager

Polo Salazar began his presentation with the history of the agency. Catholic Charities has provided the Senior Nutrition Program for 31 years. He personally has 10 years combined experience working directly with the Senior Nutrition Program. He reported that Catholic Charities recently replaced Hot Shot vehicles using the One-Time-Only (OTO) Funds provided by the state. He briefly described the equipment being used to provide the service. Then he provided a profile of the seniors participating in the Senior Nutrition Program and the benefits the program provides to the clients. He explained the difference between the Home Delivered Meals and Congregate Meals. He described the plan followed during the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. He also discussed the intake process for both programs and discussed the suggested contribution amount which has not changed since 2016. Mr. Salazar stated that meals are currently being provided to 657 clients throughout the Imperial Valley. He provided a map. He also discussed the waitlist. Approximately 316 seniors are on the wait list. This is due to the ending of the Restaurant Program on April 9, 2021. Mr. Salazar then moved on to discuss the volunteers that help the program, including the benefits of volunteering for the Senior Nutrition Program and the activities that the volunteers help coordinate. He also reviewed the volunteer meal program which may provide meals to volunteers age 60 or less, only if it does not take a meal from a person 60 years of age or older. He ended the presentation thanking the ICAA for allowing Catholic Charities to help the most vulnerable residents. He opened up for questions. Mr. Salazar was asked to provide more details on the intake and



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assessment process. He also had to clarify on the suggested contribution amount which is currently \$2.00 per meal. No further questions were asked. This ended Catholic Charities presentation.

b) Nutrition Education – Nutrition Ink – Jessica Brantley-Lopez, VP of Operations

Ms. Brantley-Lopez provided an overview of Nutrition Ink. They've been in business for over 35 years and have been assisting ICAAA for over 6 years now. Nutrition Ink provides nutrition education services to several Area Agencies on Aging throughout California. Their goal is to provide quarterly nutrition education to senior participants as well as staff and volunteers. This fiscal year they provided training on food safety, preparing for an emergency, and locating food during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also provided training to Catholic Charities and the participating restaurants on the importance of hand washing, infection control, food labeling, food safety, temperature control, and sanitation. Nutrition Ink also provided support by monitoring the providers to ensure they followed all guidelines to ensure the safety of the food being prepared and delivered. They reviewed and approved all menus. The education plan was put together by surveying staff and seniors on what they would like to see being offered. Training was provided to all at no additional cost. This ended the presentation. Staff thanked Jessica Brantley-Lopez for her dedication during the COVID-19 Pandemic. No questions were asked.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Executive /Planning & Finance Committee: Ward had nothing to report.

Nutrition Committee and Transportation Committee: Ward reported that she was waiting on staff to schedule the meetings for both committees. There was one question regarding free transportation. Sarah Enz explained that funds typically used to transport seniors to the Congregate Sites are being used to provide transportation, at no cost, for seniors using the IVT Ride service.

Legislative Committee: Helen Lopez provided a brief report. Four out of 10 proposed legislations were picked up by legislators. There may be one additional proposal from Assembly member Eduardo Garcia requesting a Senior Malnutrition Awareness Day. Helen Lopez reminded Advisory Council Members that additional details on all the CSL Sponsored Bills can be found on the CSL Leg Report which was sent to Advisory Council by staff earlier this week.

Social & Health Committee: Manuel Sanchez reported that he was waiting for staff to schedule a meeting for the committee with Sara Griffen, Imperial Valley Food Bank Executive Director.



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VI. INFORMATION:

The informational items included in the agenda packets consisted of the following: the attendance roster, updated Council Member Roster, Updated Committee Roster, and information on Coronavirus (COVID-19).

VII. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Sarah Enz provided the Director's Report. She reported that staff has started to deliver shelf stable food to the seniors that had their meals suspended earlier this month. One box of food should last a senior approximately one week. Imperial Valley Food Bank is storing food at their location until we distribute.

Ms. Enz updated the Advisory Council on the COVID-19 Efforts. Out of the 82,062, individuals vaccinated in Imperial County, 24,864 were seniors, age 65 or over. That is 30.3% of all vaccines. The ICAAA provide support as follows:

This concluded the Director's Report.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Helen Lopez announced that AARP Tax Preparation services is now accepting walk-ins every Tuesday at the El Centro Community Center until Tuesday, May 17, 2021.

Discussion followed regarding the Advisory Council setting up the Non-Profit status to be able to accept donations on behalf of the ICAAA. Sarah Enz reported that she spoke with County Counsel and was informed that in order to get this accomplished the Council will need to file. Members recommended that an ad-hoc committee be formed to look into this. Sarah Enz warned that obtaining non-profit status would require alot of work and that ICAAA staff would not be able to assist (Per CDA regulations). Some of the Advisory Council members were interested in reviewing this further.

Supervisor Ray Castillo announced that he would speak with the Imperial County's Intergovernmental Relations Director to work on a resolution to recognize May as Senior Citizen Month. This will help bring some attention to the issues affecting seniors in our community.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

John Hernandez requested an update on the Master Plan on Aging and asked how the Advisory Council could advocate to support legislature that supports the community. Sarah Enz reported that the Master Plan on Aging was released in January. Helen Lopez reminded the Council that participating in the California Department of Aging Public Hearings regarding the Area Plan is a great way to get involved. She will continue to send information as she receives it. Sarah Enz stated staff would include a draft copy of the Area Plan in the next meeting agenda.

X. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Virginia Ward adjourned the meeting at 10:31 AM.

Sarah Enz
Acting ICAAA Director

Monica Veliz De Leon
Recording Clerk