



# 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, December 17, 2020

### Proceedings:

The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, December 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  
Paul R. Monarrez  
Virginia Ward  
Mike Lara  
Veronica Wright  
Helen Lopez  
Oreda Chin  
Lourdes Ramirez  
Javier Moreno  
Sedalia Sanders  
Terry Swing  
Ismael Lopez

### Representing Sector:

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

### Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Sarah Enz  
Karla Flores  
Joanna Zepeda  
Marisol Luna  
Monica Veliz De Leon  
Polo Salazar  
Elizabeth Machado  
Daniel Glaser  
Lacy Johnson-Bathurst, MA  
Nakia Newton  
Cynthia Quinonez

Acting Public Administrator / ICAAA Director  
ICAAA Long Term Care Ombudsman Coordinator  
ICAAA Administrative Analyst I  
ICAAA Information & Assistance Coordinator  
ICAAA Information & Assistance Coordinator  
Catholic Charities, Program Manager  
Alz-Care, Inc., President  
Elder Law & Advocacy, Attorney  
Sounther Caregiver Resource Center, Program Manager  
N Your Home Health Care, Administrator  
Adult Protective Services

### Absent:

Sonia Silva  
Sup. Ray Castillo  
Patricia A. Thompson  
Daniel Romero  
Manuel Sanchez  
Sup. Mike Kelley

District 1  
County of Imperial  
Service Provider  
CSL – Assembly  
At-Large Alternate  
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 9:06 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**

Mike Lara motioned to approve the November 19, 2020, Advisory Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Javier Moreno seconded the motion. Chair called for vote. Motion carried with no nays and one abstention from John Hernandez.

AJ Gaddis motioned to approve the December 1, 2020, Executive/Planning & Finance Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Paul R. Monarrez seconded the motion. Chair called for vote. Motion carried with no nays and one abstention from Sedalia Sanders.

Mike Lara motioned to approve the December 2, 2020, Social & Health Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Oreda Chin seconded the motion. Chair called for vote. Motion carried with no nays and one abstention from Chair Virginia Ward.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Virginia Ward opened up the floor for Public Comments. No Public Comments received.

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

- a) **Review and approve Request For Proposals (RFP) plan for the years 2021-2024 based on the recommendation of the Executive and Planning & Finance Committees for the Advisory Council to Accept Staff’s Recommendation as Presented.**

(Action Item IVa1- Staff Report Recommendation; Action Item IVa2 RFP – CONGREGATE NUTRITION SERVICE - Older Americans Act Title III C-1; Action Item IVa3 HOME DELIVERED MEALS - Older Americans Act Title III C-2)

The Executive and Planning & Finance Committee recommends that the Advisory Council accept staff’s recommendation as presented:

**SENIOR NUTRITION** – Due to the staffing constraints the AAA is facing and the expense involved in bringing this program in house as a direct service, the AAA would recommend the senior nutrition programs for C1 and C2 go out for RFP for FY 2021-2024.

**RESPITE SERVICES** – Alz-Care, Inc. has been a long-term provider who continues to deliver excellent service to their clientele; the AAA would recommend continuing with them as the service provider for FY 2021-2022.

**SENIOR HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM** – It is hard to gauge N Your Home Healthcare’s performance as they have only been providing services for the past month. Due to the fact the next contract is for only a year, it would be more feasible to keep N Your Home Healthcare on board for another year versus the time it takes for the RFP process to occur. AAA would recommend continuing with N Your Home Healthcare, Inc. as the service provider for FY 2021-2022.

Helen Lopez seconded the motion by the Executive & Finance Committee to accept staff’s recommendation as presented. Chair called for vote. Motion carried with no nays nor abstentions.

**V. PRESENTATION(S):**

- a) **Ageing and Disability Resource Connections State Designation – Helen Lopez, CSL Senate Member & ADRC Advisory Committee Member**

Helen Lopez provided an overview of the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) State Designation. She provided a real life story from Marin County to showcase the impact of an ADRC will have on the lives of those we serve. Helen Lopez belongs to the ADRC Statewide Advisory



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Committee that advises state on policies that help guide agencies and counties seeking this designation. She provided the basics on ADRC and some of its features with a PowerPoint Presentation. She also went over what ADRCs are and what they are not. She reviewed the "No Wrong Door" & "Person Centered Practices" that help an ADRC succeed. She then went over the various agencies that comprise an ADRC as well as provided an overview of the funding available to help agencies/counties fund Administrative Positions that can administer an ADRC. She stated that the Imperial County Area Agency on Aging along with Access to Independence, has proposed submission of a Letter of Interest to be approved as an emerging ADRC. We are still waiting for a response. No questions were asked. Sedalia Sanders commended Helen Lopez for an outstanding presentation.

### VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

**Executive/Planning & Finance Committee:** Virginia Ward stated that there was nothing to report for the Executive Committee. Terry Swing stated that she did not attend the last meeting and could not report for the Planning & Finance Committee. Sarah Enz reported that the last meeting held was to provide a recommendation to Advisory Council regarding the request for proposal process which was discussed during Action Item A.

**Legislative Committee:** Helen Lopez reported that she will be "Walking the Halls" Sacramento via ZOOM in January 2021. This process is to seek authors and co-authors among the California Congressional representatives, for our Top 10 Proposals. However, Senators may only introduce 20 bills each at most. This will make this process harder. Nothing further reported.

**Nutrition Committee:** Virginia Ward reported that the Senior Nutrition Team continues to meet every two weeks via ZOOM. No major changes have occurred. AJ Gaddis and John Hernandez requested an update and asked Sarah Enz to start the Director's Report.

Sarah Enz reported that the Senior Nutrition Team is currently providing meals to 965 seniors with no waitlist. She also reported that the CARES Funding received from the Imperial County's CEO office needs to be spent by December 30, 2020. In order to spend the funds the following actions have been implemented:

Restaurant providers are providing seven meals a week instead of five for the month of December.

ICAAA purchased 630 shelf stable meals. These meals will be stored at the Imperial Valley Food Bank for approximately 3 months and will be provided to seniors requesting food.

All CI & CII Clients (those served by Catholic Charities) will receive an additional meal a day for the month of December. These meals will be shipped directly from Mom's Meals to the clients home. The first shipment went out the first week and the second is expected this week.

Enz further reported that ICAAA currently has 327 seniors being served by the restaurants. Once funding is exhausted these seniors will be placed on a wait list.

Advisory Council Members asked if there are any homeless individuals being served by Senior Nutrition Program. Sarah Enz stated that this information is not currently available. Polo Salazar, from Catholic Charities, informed the Advisory Council that older adults that reside in Slab City are currently being provided meals through Buckshot Diner from Niland, CA.

Helen Lopez, who has been helping deliver in the Boulevard/Campo area, suggested we look into a National Meal Program or the Medicare Advantage Plans which include in-home meals for our area to help serve the seniors currently being served by the restaurants. She also recommended trying to receive some of the Heroes Act funding of about \$480 million dollars.

Veronica Wright stated that she has been helping make calls from seniors receiving meals from ICAAA's Nutrition Program and they are very happy with the service.



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Sedalia Sanders stated that it would be good to know how many seniors in our area have Medicare. She stated that she has encountered many seniors that do not have Medicare. It would be interesting to poll 100 seniors to determine how many have a Medicare plan. Medicare Advantage plans have higher premiums making it hard for many seniors to afford them. She suggested we keep track of those items.

Sara Enz continued her report stating that the Molina Closet has been restocked with beanies, gloves, shampoo, and other toiletries for the seniors. She also reported that we are pending a decision on the ADRC Designation from the Access to Independence Board. This concluded Mrs. Enz report.

**Transportation Committee:** Virginia Ward reported that she was unable to attend the last meeting but will continue to attend. Chair Ward asked AJ Gaddis to attend future meetings on her behalf and Mrs. Gaddis agreed.

**Social & Health Committee:** Sarah Enz reported that committee met on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 10:00 am and that meeting minutes were included with agenda package. AJ Gaddis was concerned about the mental wellbeing of our seniors and wondered what would be a good way to send a message to seniors. Sarah Enz responded that we send flyers regarding our services to seniors that request relief bags. She also stated that the robo call tool will be used to send messages to seniors.

Nothing further was discussed.

**VII. INFORMATION:**

The informational items included in the agenda packets consisted of the following: the attendance roster and Information on Coronavirus (COVID-19). Sarah Enz reported that COVID-19 positive numbers are drastically high. She reminded all in attendance to continue to follow the public health guidance: Don't gather, don't go out, and stay healthy.

**VIII. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Sarah Enz provided the Director's Report during the Nutrition Committee report. See minutes above.

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:**

Sarah Enz reported that she is working with Rosie Blankenship for a drive-by ceremony to celebrate Tim Blankenship's life. The event will be held in January.

John Hernandez congratulated Virginia Ward (City of Holtville) and Javier Moreno (City of Calexico) for being elected to the city council for each of their cities.

Lourdes Ramirez, announced that they held the first virtual community education event yesterday, December 16, 2020. She thanked Monica De Leon for putting this together. Monica De Leon took the opportunity to inform the Advisory Council that these Virtual Community Education Events will be held every first and third Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm via ZOOM.

Paul R. Monarrez asked whether Sonia Silva's position was vacant. Staff advised that they will be reaching out to Sonia Silva to ensure she was still interested in the position.

Sedalia Sanders took the time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

**X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

AJ Gaddis asked for the status and update of the By-Laws- Rotation of the Committee Chairs, and Helen Lopez requested a revisit to the Senior Appreciation Day. Ismael Lopez would like for the Imperial County Public Health Department to provide additional information on the COVID-19 Vaccinations. No further requests were made.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Virginia Ward adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Sarah Enz  
Acting ICAAA Director

Monica Veliz De Leon  
Recording Clerk