



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, March 18, 2021

Proceedings:

The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82897599586?pwd=RkZSbjU2UDhXUy9Bd3d3UVNITE00Zz09>

Phone Number: +1 669 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 828 9759 9586 | Password: 242397

Voting Attendees:

Gloria Grijalva
Patsy Becerra
AJ Gaddis
John Hernandez
Benjamin J. Horton
Virginia Ward
Mike Lara
Veronica Wright
Patricia A. Thompson
Helen Lopez
Daniel Romero
Oreda Chin
Javier Moreno
Sedalia Sanders
Terry Swing
Ismael Lopez
Manuel Sanchez

Representing Sector:

District 1
District 2
District 3
District 4
District 5
League of Cities
Senior Advocate
Senior Advocate
Service Provider
CSL – Senate
CSL – Assembly
Senior Organization
Law Enforcement
At-Large
At-Large
At-Large Alternate
At-Large Alternate

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Sarah Enz
Madeline Dessert
Karla Flores
Marisol Luna
Monica Veliz De Leon
Polo Salazar
Ivan Romero
Guadalupe Rodriguez
Daniel Glaser
Gil Rebolgar
Nakia Newton
Alex King
Guadalupe Ruiz
Tanitia Burks
Camilo Garcia

Acting Public Administrator / ICAAA Director
ICAAA Department Fiscal Manager
ICAAA Long Term Care Ombudsman Coordinator
ICAAA Information & Assistance Coordinator
ICAAA Information & Assistance Coordinator
Catholic Charities, Program Manager
Catholic Charities, Quality Assurance Manager
Catholic Charities, Director of Outreach Imperial Valley
Elder Law & Advocacy, Attorney
County of Imperial Administration Office
N Your Home Health Care, Administrator
ARC-Imperial Valley
Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District, Case Management
San Diego Workforce Partnership, Case Manager III
I.C. Workforce & Economic Development Office, Program & Compliance Manager

Absent:

Sup. Ray Castillo
Paul R. Monarrez
Lourdes Ramirez
Sup. Mike Kelley

County of Imperial
Disabled Interest
HICAP
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. Flag Salute and Roll call were completed and quorum was established. Staff asked guests to introduce themselves.

Sarah Enz introduced Gloria Grijalva, new Advisory Council Member representing District 1, as appointed by Supervisor Jesus Escobar. She asked Gloria Grijalva to provide a brief description of herself. Mrs. Grijalva went over her accomplishments. She currently serves as the President of Heffernan Memorial Health District.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Manuel Sanchez moved to approve the January 13, 2021, Social & Health Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ismael Lopez seconded the motion. Chair called for vote. The motion passed unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.

Patsy Becerra motioned to approve the January 21, 2021, Advisory Council meeting minutes as presented. Helen Lopez 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.

Gil Rebollar is working with the County of Imperial CEO's office in communications and attended the meeting to promote the State of the County. He invited the Advisory Council members and public to view the recording of the State of the County address that is posted on the Imperial County's website.

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

- a) **Review and approve proposed Area Plan 2020-2024 – Second Year Update for Fiscal Year 2021-2022** Request for the Advisory Council to approve the proposed Area Plan 2020-2024, second year update for FY 2021-2022 (with any revisions recommended by the Council) with the direction for the Chair to sign the transmittal page of the final Area Plan. Upon execution by all parties, the proposed Area Plan will be submitted to the California Department of Aging (CDA) for their review and approval.

Sarah Enz, Acting Director, provided an overview of the changes made to the Area Plan. Updates were simple and consisted of updating dates, Advisory Council membership, and staff changes.

Helen Lopez asked how having the Public Hearings later would affect the Area Plan. Sarah Enz explained that due to the pandemic, CDA is being very flexible and will allow changes to the Area Plan if necessary.

Helen Lopez motioned to approve the proposed Area Plan 2020-2024, update for FY 2021-2022, as presented with the direction for the Chair to sign the transmittal page of the final Area Plan. John Hernandez seconded the motion.



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John Hernandez asked when a new ICAAA director was expected to start and when the 2020 Census data will be released. Sarah Enz responded that she is currently serving as the Acting Director for the ICAAA. She has not received any information from the CEO or Board of Supervisors on their plan for a permanent Director. In regards to the Census data, data is expected to be released at the end of 2021 or early 2022.

Chair called for vote on motion. The motion passed unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.

- b) Request For Proposal** – Discuss and review the Executive/Planning & Finance Committee’s recommendations for the award of the Area Agency on Aging program allocations and issue a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors:

1. RFP 21-0206 - Title C1 Congregate Nutrition Service

Sarah Enz reviewed the report and recommendations provided by the Executive/Planning & Finance Committee and Evaluation Committee. She went over the seven areas evaluated by the Evaluation Committee and the findings. Finally, she shared the recommendation, which is to award the contract for RFP 21-0206 – Title C1 Congregate Nutrition to NUMA, Inc.

Helen Lopez motioned to accept the recommendation and award the contract for RFP 21-0206 – Title C1 Congregate Nutrition to NUMA, Inc. John Hernandez seconded the motion.

Discussion followed regarding NUMA, Inc. and their history. Sarah Enz shared that NUMA, Inc. has several restaurants throughout Imperial and Yuma Counties. They have been in business for 17 years. It is NUMA’s first time handling a government contract.

Advisory Council members asked about the quality of food. Sarah Enz reminded them that a licensed nutritionist would be working with NUMA to ensure that they follow all dietary guidelines. Others commented on start of contract date and the process to get them on board.

Sarah explained that because NUMA is a for-profit entity, approval must be requested from California Department of Aging (CDA) to be able to award the contract to them. However, prior to requesting that approval, the Advisory Council must vote to select the provider to be awarded the contract. If NUMA is selected, Helen Lopez offered to write the letter to CDA requesting their approval. The contract is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2021.

Further discussion on NUMA and Catholic Charities followed, including the process to get approval from CDA.

Chair Ward called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.



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2. RFP 21-0207 - Title C2 Home Delivered Meals

Sarah Enz reviewed the report and recommendations provided by the Executive/Planning & Finance Committee and Evaluation Committee. She went over the seven areas evaluated by the Evaluation Committee and the findings. Finally, she shared the recommendation which is to award the contract for RFP 21-0207 – Title C2 Home Delivered Meals to NUMA, Inc.

Helen Lopez motioned to accept the recommendation and award the contract for RFP 21-0207 – Title C2 Home Delivered Meals to NUMA, Inc. John Hernandez seconded the motion.

No further discussion. Chair Ward called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.

c) Area Plan Public Hearings for Area Plan 2020-2024 -Second Year Update for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Sarah Enz informed the Advisory Council that due to staffing restraints, the Public Hearings had to be cancelled in February. This action is to approve rescheduling the Public Hearings to April 2021.

John Hernandez motioned to approve the Area Plan Public Hearings to be held in April 2021. Mike Lara seconded the motion.

John Hernandez suggested having a Public Hearing in Calexico. Sarah Enz explained that staff had tried to set up a Public Hearing at the Carmen Durazo Cultural Arts Center in Calexico but it was not approved by the City of Calexico Parks and Recreation Department. However, all Public Hearings will be held via ZOOM and seniors may attend from any city virtually. Sedalia Sanders suggested the Advisory Council members who live in Calexico help share information with others in their city. Benjamin Horton and Daniel Romero volunteered to help. No further discussion.

Chair Ward called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.

V. PRESENTATION

a) Senior Health Program Services – N Your Home Health Care – Nakia Newton, Administrator

Mr. Newton introduced himself and provided an overview of the Senior Health Clinic program which was started in October 2021 and offered to seniors age 60 or more. The main purpose of the program is prevention and education. The program seeks to assess the health needs of seniors and provide health maintenance tips and/or referrals to medical specialists. They also provide free physical therapy and exercise programs, emphasizing in arthritis. The process consist of (One) The Health Screening & Nutritional Evaluation which are done via Telehealth; (Two) A needs assessment



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which is conducted by a nurse who also provides needed education; (Three) A Physical Therapy assessment is conducted and an exercise plan is created, if needed; (Four) Referrals to medical specialists are provided, if needed; and (Five) Finally, a follow-up is conducted with the client. To-date the program has provided 100 Health Screening of the 280 projected, has conducted 25 Evaluations of the 100 projected, has provided 100 referrals of the 280 projected; and has conducted 50 follow-ups of the 280 projected. This concluded the presentation and Mr. Newton opened up for questions. Members asked for organization address and phone number. N Your Home Health Care can be found at 515 W. Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 and may be reached via phone at (760) 352-2102. Their hours of operations are 9 am to 3 pm, Monday through Friday. Services are for age 60 years and older without any other requirements. Services are provided at home but the original screening is done over the phone.

b) Aging Workforce Program – San Diego Workforce Partnership – Tanitia Burks, Case Manager III

Ms. Burks provided an overview of the San Diego Workforce Partnership and their mission to “empower job seekers to meet the current and future workforce needs of employers in the San Diego [and Imperial Counties]”. She briefly provided some data on the aging workforce in San Diego and the benefits that a company receives in employing a mature workforce. She then provided an overview of the Aging Workforce Program. The program targets seniors age 60 or more with priority given to CalFresh Recipients. The program offers this population an opportunity to participate in skill building/refreshing workshops, receive case management support, potentially participate in a paid 150-hour “returnship”, and helps them return to the workforce. The program is just starting in Imperial County and they are looking to offer any of the following available workshops: Digital Literacy, Financial Literacy, Resume Reboot, Interview Techniques, Leveraging LinkedIn, Networking, Career Exploration, and Generational Identity in the Workplace. She asked members to contact her if interested via phone at (619) 228-2918 or by visiting workforce.org/return. This concluded the presentation and Ms. Burks opened up for questions.

John Hernandez asked how the Imperial County Workforce Development was involved and how this is tied to local efforts. Camilo Garcia, Program & Compliance Manager for the I.C. Workforce & Economic Development Office, responded that they are partnering with the San Diego Workforce Partnership to help bring this program into Imperial County. However, they will continue to provide services to adults through their Dislocated Adults Program. He asked for interested individuals to be referred to him directly if needed. He also offered to help with any efforts that needed to be done in the City of Calexico where he currently serves as a member of the City Council.



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Karla Flores, recommended Advisory Council to take the workshops and evaluate them to see if they would be of benefit to the community. AJ Gaddis agreed with Karla. This concluded the discussion.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Executive /Planning & Finance Committee: Ward reported that the committee met on March 11, 2021, and discussed the RFP proposals previously discussed in this meeting.

Legislative Committee: Helen Lopez indicated that she will be sending out a written report with information on the bills currently being supported by the California Senior Legislature (CSL). This year four of the ten legislative proposals were picked up by legislators, which is great. She stated that Advisory Council members should already be receiving the CSL Newsletter since she added them last year. She will be adding new Advisory Council members soon. She will set up a committee meeting sometime in April 2021 and will invite local legislator representatives. She reported that they met with the local representative for Juan Vargas in February and are in close contact with Senator Ben Hueso's representatives as well. She will send out a written report with additional details by end of this month.

Nutrition Committee and Transportation Committee: Ward reported that the meetings scheduled for these two committees had to be rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts. She will work with staff to get them scheduled soon. This concluded her report.

Social & Health Committee: Manuel Sanchez reported that committee met on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, during which they discussed issues and concerns brought forth by John Hernandez. He will work with staff to set up a meeting date for the Imperial Valley Food Bank presentation. This concluded his report.

VII. 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). Monica De Leon stated that the Council Member and Committee Rosters would be updated to include the new member, Gloria Grijalva. The updated rosters will be shared in a future meeting.

VIII. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Sarah Enz provided the Director's Report. She reported that Catholic Charities provided 6,579 meals through the C1 Congregate Nutrition Services Program and 7,468 meals through the C2 Home Delivered Meals program. The restaurants served 8,175 meals. The ICAAA is currently providing meals to 934 seniors. Funding for the restaurant program is projected to end by the end of May 2021. Once the funding is depleted, about 294 clients will have to be put on a wait list. Efforts have been made to garner support for this program. Letters were sent to the Board of Supervisors requesting funding to continue feeding these seniors.



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Sarah Enz further reported that from the start of the pandemic the ICAAA has conducted 3,701 wellness calls, delivered 946 food boxes, and 2,325 relief bags to seniors. The ICAAA has ordered 600 boxes of shelf stabled food which will be provided to those seniors that will be placed on the wait list.

Ms. Enz updated the Advisory Council on the COVID-19 Efforts. Out of the 39,322, individuals vaccinated in Imperial County, 19,031 were seniors age 65 or more. That is 49.7% of all vaccines. The ICAAA provide support as follows:

- Received 7,043 Vaccine related calls
- Registered 150 Seniors to get vaccinated by the Public Health Department
- Registered 36 seniors to get vaccinated by Desert Pharmacy
- Sent out 64 RoboCall Text Messages and 1,757 RoboCall voice messages in English and Spanish

This concluded the director's report.

AJ Gaddis asked how they can help. Sarah Enz encourage members to reach out to their representatives to support the Senior Nutrition Program. No other comment or questions were received.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Helen Lopez sadly announced that Richard Inman, past County of Imperial Chief Administrative Officer, passed away two days ago.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None at this time.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Virginia Ward adjourned the meeting at 10:59 AM.

Sarah Enz
Acting ICAAA Director

Monica Veliz De Leon
Recording Clerk