



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, November 19, 2020

Proceedings:

The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, November 19, 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
Benjamin J. Horton
Paul R. Monarrez
Virginia Ward
Veronica Wright
Patricia A. Thompson
Helen Lopez
Daniel Romero*
Oreda Chin
Lourdes Ramirez
Javier Moreno
Sedalia Sanders*
Terry Swing*
Manuel Sanchez

Representing Sector:

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

*Member joined after roll call.

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Rosie Blankenship
Karla Flores
Joanna Zepeda
Monica Veliz De Leon
Polo Salazar
Elizabeth Machado
Daniel Glaser
Maricela Galarza
Gustavo Gomez
Alex King

Public Administrator / ICAAA Director
ICAAA Long Term Care Ombudsman Coordinator
ICAAA Administrative Analyst I
ICAAA Information & Assistance Coordinator
Catholic Charities, Program Manager
Alz-Care, Inc., President
Elder Law & Advocacy, Attorney
ICTC, Regional Mobility Coordinator
ICTC, Regional Mobility Coordinator
ARC-Imperial Valley

Absent:

Sonia Silva
AJ Gaddis
John Hernandez
Sup. Ray Castillo
Mike Lara
Ismael Lopez
Sup. Mike Kelley

District 1
District 3
District 4
County of Imperial
Senior Advocate
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 9:04 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

Helen Lopez motioned to approve the October 8, 2020, Executive/Planning & Finance Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Paul R. Monarrez seconded the motion. Chair called for vote. Motion carried unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.

Helen Lopez motioned to approve the October 15, 2020, Advisory Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Javier Moreno seconded the motion. Chair called for vote. Motion carried unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.

Helen Lopez motioned to approve the November 5, 2020, Executive/Planning & Finance Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Manuel Sanchez seconded the motion. Chair called for vote. Motion carried unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Virginia Ward opened up the floor for Public Comments. Rosie Blankenship reported for the recorded that Member Daniel Romero had joined the meeting. No other comments were made.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM(S):

a) Area Plan Hearings for Area Plan comprehensive update for Fiscal Years 2020-2024

Designate Advisory Council Members to lead Area Plan Hearings for Area Plan on Aging Update at congregate meal sites and long-term care facility. (Action Item IVb)

Rosie Blankenship provided an update on the Public Hearings. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, staff has prepared a schedule taking into account the closure of congregate sites and Public Health Department guidelines to avoid large gatherings. Public Hearings will be held virtually. However, staff will add one more hearing to be held at a long-term care facility. This concluded her report.

Paul R. Monarrez volunteered to coordinate a Public Hearing at Imperial Heights. He will also be available to conduct hearing.

Helen Lopez, commented that both Daniel Romero and herself would like to volunteer but will need to figure out dates to avoid conflict with the annual legislative visits in February.

Helen Lopez motioned to approve the plan as presented with the addition of one more hearing at a long-term care facility. Manuel Sanchez seconded the motion. Motioned carried with no nays nor abstentions.

V. PRESENTATION(S):

a) Imperial County Transportation Commission Services – Maricela Galarza and Gustavo Gomez, Regional Mobility Coordinators

Maricela Galarza and Gustavo Gomez provided an overview of the transportation services provided by ICTC. They went over each service including route stops, eligibility criteria, fees, application process (for the services that require an application). Following are the services that they discussed: Intercity Circulators (Green & Blue Line in El Centro and Gold Line in Brawley); Paratransit Service- IVT Access; Dial-A-Ride Service – IVT Ride; and Medical Transportation Service to San Diego – IVT Med Trans. They also discussed the service available in Winterhaven and Yuma through a partnership with the YCAT. They provided the phone numbers for each service as well as the hours of operations for dispatch. They opened up for Q&A. There were some questions regarding fees and methods of payment other than cash. Gustavo Gomez responded that they are working on improving all their systems.



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VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Executive/Planning & Finance Committee: Virginia Ward reported that committee met but decision regarding Request for Proposal were postponed until the next meeting scheduled for December 1, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

Legislative Committee: Helen Lopez reported that 2021 top 10 proposals were essentially recycled from 2020, as the legislative process was essentially halted except for bills related to COVID-19 and wildfire mitigation in March of this year, by gubernatorial order.

Helen Lopez was elected to serve on CSL leadership team in October, to the legislative Committee, and will be "Walking the Halls" Sacramento via ZOOM in January and February of 2021. This process is to seek authors and co-authors among the California Congressional representatives, for our Top 10 Proposals. At the local level Daniel and Helen have joined the Inland Empire caucus (Eduardo Garcia district) and San Diego caucus (Ben Hueso and Juan Vargas districts) as we share these representatives with neighboring counties. These local joint visits will occur in November and December. We will convene a local meeting of the AAA Legislative Committee and Friends in January or February to begin discussions regarding local needs for development into proposals for the 2021 session next October, which hopefully will again be in person in Sacramento.

Nutrition Committee: Virginia Ward reported that the Senior Nutrition Team continues to meet every two weeks via ZOOM. Updates on the Congregate & Home Delivered Meals are provided. There are two new providers: Mom's Meals providing meals to the rural area as well as Buckshot Diner that is helping with meals for seniors in the Niland and Calipatria Area.

Transportation Committee: Virginia Ward reported that she was unable to attend the last meeting but will continue to attend.

Social & Health Committee: Manuel Sanchez reported that a meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 10:00 am.

Nothing further was discussed.

VII. INFORMATION:

The informational items included in the agenda packets consisted of the following: the attendance roster, amended September 15, 2020, Advisory Council Meeting Minutes, the California Senior Legislature Announces Top Legislative Priorities for 2021 Press Release, flu shot flyers, and Information on Coronavirus (COVID-19).

VIII. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Rosie Blankenship provided an update on the COVID-19 Pandemic. She discussed the tiers. Imperial County is still in the Purple Tier. However, many more counties in California were shifted back. 34 counties are in the purple zone, 11 are in the red tier, 4 are in the orange tier, and 2 are in the yellow tier. Unfortunately the entire country is seeing an increase in positive cases. She encouraged everyone to continue taking preventative measures such as wearing a face cover, washing of hands, social distancing of at least 6 feet, staying home if sick. She also provided some guidelines for the upcoming Holidays including engaging in lower risk activities. Families are encouraged not to have social gatherings but if they decide to do so that no more than three households should come together and gathering should not include more than 16 individuals. If possible, activities should be held outdoors. She also reported that FMLA for COVID-19 is due to end at the end of this year. She advise that an additional mobile testing site was going to be established for the county as well as an additional fix site. Schools will continue to provide distance learning. This concluded her COVID-19 report.

Rosie Blankenship went on to report that ICAAA received \$375,000 in CARES funding through the County of Imperial that will need to be spent by December 30, 2020. In order to spend this money, restaurants will start providing seven (7) meals a week instead of five (5) and meals will be prepaid with Mom's Meals.



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She also reported that the Executive/ Planning & Finance Committee will be meeting on December 1, 2020 at 2 pm to discuss five request for proposals (RFP) that would be released in January 2021. One of those RFPs is for the Senior Nutrition Program provider.

Rosie Blankenship updated Advisory Council on the ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Connection) Designation. ICAAA is working with Access to Independence to bring this to the county. Access to Independence will be the Fiscal Agent when ADRC Designation is established. However, ICAAA is looking closely into this to ensure that funding is made available to hire another Information & Assistance Coordinator position for the agency to be able to take care of the increase in calls that are expected once this is established.

Rosie Blankenship reported that the Master Plan for Aging will be presented to Governor Newsom next month. Over 250 partnering agencies were successful in breaking down the silos of aging. The purpose of the Master Plan for Aging is to make agencies a one stop shop to provide aging services to seniors. Rosie Blankenship further stated that her vision was to create a one stop shop for both aging and disabled services. She believes that this may be the start to making this happen. Helen Lopez asked if this is a state reorganization or local. Rosie Blankenship stated that this would be done at the local level to ensure seniors or individuals are not bounced around to receive service.

She ended her report by congratulating Virginia Ward for being elected to the city council in Holtville and Dr. Javier Moreno for being elected to the city council in Calexico.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Patricia A. Thompson provided some gargling recommendations to the Advisory Council to reduce their changes of contracting COVID-19. However, she stated that this is based on a study done in Europe but everyone could decide what to do with the recommendation. Sedalia Sanders questioned Mrs. Thompson further on this because of the effects on peroxide on an individual's mouth.

No further comments received.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Helen Lopez would like a short update on California Department of Aging. No further requests were made.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Virginia Ward adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Rosie Blankenship
ICAAA Director

Monica Veliz De Leon
Recording Clerk