



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, October 15, 2020

Proceedings:

The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, October 15, 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
Benjamin J. Horton
Paul R. Monarrez
Virginia Ward
Veronica Wright
Helen Lopez
Daniel Romero
Oreda Chin
Lourdes Ramirez
Javier Moreno
Sedalia Sanders
Ismael Lopez
Manuel Sanchez

Representing Sector:

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

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Rosie Blankenship
Sarah Enz
Madeline Dessert
Karla Flores
Monica Veliz De Leon
Polo Salazar
Elizabeth Machado
Lacy Johnson-Bathurst
Letty Zuno
Dan Glaser

Public Administrator / ICAAA Director
Assistant Public Administrator / Assistant ICAAA Director
ICAAA Department Fiscal Manager
ICAAA Long Term Care Ombudsman Coordinator
ICAAA Information & Assistance Coordinator
Catholic Charities, Program Manager
Alz-Care, Inc., President
Southern Caregiver Resource Center, Program Manager
Access to Independence San Diego, Inc., Executive Director
Elder Law & Advocacy, Attorney

Absent:

Sonia Silva
John Hernandez
Sup. Ray Castillo
Mike Lara
Patricia A. Thompson
Terry Swing
Sup. Mike Kelley

District 1
District 4
County of Imperial
Senior Advocate
Service Provider
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 9:07 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 September 17, 2020, Advisory Council Meeting Minutes with changes requested in the discussion to follow. AJ Gaddis seconded the motion.

Helen Lopez mentioned that when a recommendation from an Advisory Council Committee exists there is no need for a motion. The action would only require a second. Sarah Enz confirmed this is the case.

Helen Lopez requested that on page four (4), under the Presentation section that the word "Instrument" should be corrected to "Instrumental" for the Instrumental Activities for Daily Living (IADLs). Paul R. Monarrez confirmed that it should be Instrumental.

Lastly, Helen Lopez asked for the Legislative Committee report be revised to state that there will be a CSL Meeting. However, the meeting will be curtailed and held virtually. Also, no voting will be done since no new proposals were received. This concluded the discussion.

Virginia Ward asked for any further discussion. No other comments received. Virginia Ward called for a vote. Motion carried unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM(S):

a) Committee Assignments

Helen Lopez motioned to approve the Committee Assignments as presented by the Chair Virginia Ward. Javier Moreno seconded the motion. Virginia Ward called for a vote. Motion carried unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.

b) ADRC Designation:

Helen Lopez motioned to approve the letter of interest to the state seeking state designation as an Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) as presented. Oreda Chin seconded the motion.

Chair Virginia Ward opened up for discussion. AJ Gaddis requested additional information on the matter. Helen Lopez reported that she would be receiving an orientation and additional information this week regarding her new appointment to the Aging Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Advisory Committee. She asked AJ Gaddis to hold her questions for another month when she is able to provide additional information. No further discussion.

Chair Virginia Ward called for vote. Motion carried unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.

V. PRESENTATION(S):

a) Services for people with Disabilities – Access to Independence – Leticia Zuno, JD, Executive Director

Letty Zuno, Executive Director for Access to Independence San Diego, Inc. provided an overview of the agency. Access to Independence is a non-profit serving the needs of seniors and people with disabilities. She reported that they currently have four branches serving the following areas: County of San Diego, County of Imperial, the Island of Oahu, and the Honolulu County. Access to Independence has been serving the County of Imperial for over 30 years. Some of the programs they offer are as follows:



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A program for older individuals with vision loss (OIB). This program serves people age 55 years of age and older with some sort of vision loss. They provide technology to help with the disability. This is a program offered only in Imperial County and it is their largest program.

Access to Independence provides emergency preparedness classes to their constituents. They provide workshops where participants receive resources & material. In certain areas participants will create an emergency preparedness kit to take with them. The topics covered by this program vary depending on the location. In Imperial County, they cover earthquakes while in San Diego they go over emergency preparedness in case of fire. In Hawaii, they cover volcano emergency preparedness.

Access to Independence also offers a Living Well with a Disability Workshop Series which provides six to ten workshops to help constituents manage a new disability. They also offer a Working Well with Disability workshop series. Other support services offered to their constituents are: Work Preparedness, Assistive Technology, Transition Services for individuals wanting to transition out of a nursing or long term care facility to live independently in the community, and the Diversion Program that addresses issues facing individuals in the community that may make them vulnerable to becoming institutionalized. The Diversion Program helps individuals with home modifications to ensure that grab bars, ramps, and other modifications are made to their homes to allow them to continue living independently.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Access to Independence has also added two new programs: Food Pantry, which provides a one month supply of groceries to their participants and PPE Supply, which provides participants with a basket that includes face masks, hand sanitizer, and other necessary items. Access to Independence also offers Benefits Counseling.

Letty Zuno ended her presentation by thanking the Advisory Council for approving the letter of interest seeking the state ADRC designation. Access to Independence will be partnering with the Imperial County Area Agency on Aging to make this happen.

Mrs. Zuno opened up for questions. Sarah Enz asked what the eligibility requirements were to participate in the Transition and Diversion programs. Mrs. Zuno responded that an individual is eligible to participate in the transition program if they currently reside in a skilled nursing or long-term care facility and is interested in moving out. In order to participate in the Diversion Program, the individual needs to show risk of potential institutionalization. No other questions were asked.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Executive/Planning & Finance Committee: Virginia Ward reported that committee has met.

Legislative Committee: Helen Lopez reported that the California Senior Legislature will be meeting virtually for their Annual Legislative Session Oct 26-27, 2020, to ratify this year's "Top 12" proposals for the 2021 legislation cycle. Most of these are re-booted, authored bills from the 2020 Top Ten, as their progress through the legislative process was halted (the bills were held in suspense) in March when the legislature stopped action on all bills not related to "Covid, Homelessness or Wildfires". The session will also hold elections for CSL's Senate leadership positions in the Joint Rules Committee (JRC) and Legislative Committee (LEG). Helen has been nominated for a LEG leadership position.

Daniel Romero & Helen Lopez will be meeting with local legislators in November to discuss the top 12 proposals, and to solicit authorship into a bill, or support when a bill has found sufficient author(s).

Friday, October 16, 2020, Daniel and Helen will meet for the first time via ZOOM with the San Diego/Imperial "CSL Caucus", to identify shared responsibilities and, next year, proposal ideas for a shared legislative platform.



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Helen commented, "They are many and we are few, and as we share several state and federal representatives our goal is to reduce duplication of effort and present a stronger position with legislators."

A press release announcing the Top 12 priorities for 2021 will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Helen thanked Monica for getting them an updated media list for that effort.

Helen reported that the local "Legislative Committee and Friends" will meet in January to brainstorm ideas for new proposals for the 2021 CSL Legislative Session in November 2021. They will review ideas that were not developed into full proposals from 2020 when they met during the months of Jan-March, and before the legislature halted all considerations not related to their "Covid/Wildfire/Homelessness priorities", as well as solicit new ideas for proposal development.

Finally, CSL supported SB 596 - In-Home Supportive Services: additional higher energy allowance. The Governor signed, and it has been chaptered.

Nutrition Committee: Chair Virginia Ward reported that she along with Madeline Dessert visited the Catholic Charities Main Kitchen to do a monitoring. No meeting has been set up yet to review the findings. Virginia Ward will work with staff to set up meeting.

AJ Gaddis, who is on the committee, asked whether the visit to the Catholic Charities was committee related. Staff and Chair Ward clarified that the visit was done to review the resolutions of the findings from the committee's monitoring from the previous Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Sarah Enz reported that staff was working on the report and that it would be presented in the next Nutrition Committee Meeting once it was finalized.

Transportation Committee: Virginia Ward reported that the next Transportation Meeting with ICTC is scheduled for October 28, 2020 at 6 pm. AJ Gaddis asked about an invitation they received. Monica De Leon informed the committee that this was the SSTAC Transportation Meeting to be held on November 4, 2020.

Social & Health Committee: Oreda Chin reported that the committee has not met but would like to have a meeting soon to discuss the committee's responsibilities. Sarah Enz asked Oreda Chin to send her availability to staff for a meeting to be scheduled.

Discussion followed regarding scheduling meeting dates. Ismael Lopez recommended having a set schedule for each of the committees to avoid confusion and to ensure members attend. AJ Gaddis mentioned again that chairs should be rotated. Sedalia Sanders recommended for the Chairperson to contact all the Chairs to determine if their situations change before making a decision. At that point, Mr. Manuel Sanchez, called in to report that he was listening to the call but could not be heard. However, he is interested in meeting with the committee right away and get some clarification on what the committee can do during this time of the pandemic. Sarah Enz informed the committee that staff will work with committee chairs to establish meeting dates for the year. This concluded the discussion.

VII. INFORMATION:

The informational items included in the agenda packets consisted of the following: the attendance roster, updated council members roster, Information on Coronavirus (COVID-19), and Dignity At Home Fall Prevention Program Flyers – English & Spanish. Helen Lopez requested for the attendance roster to be updated to reflect that Mr. Paul Monarrez had an excused absence for September, since he tried to join in and was unable to do so. Madeline Dessert provided a brief update on the Dignity at Home Fall Prevention Program. This concluded the information section of the meeting.

VIII. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Sarah Enz provided the Director's Report. She reported that Karla Flores, Long Term Care Ombudsman, had started doing facility visits. In order to visit the facilities the Ombudsman is required to be tested for COVID-19 every two weeks.

Sarah reported that since the start of the pandemic, ICAAA has conducted 3,570 wellness calls, delivered 807 food boxes and 2,167 relief bags to seniors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, the ICAAA has two



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individuals, employed by the Imperial County Employment Workforce Development office, helping with the call center and doing senior wellness calls.

In terms of finance, the agency has expended all the funding from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act Emergency Nutrition (\$135,405) as well as the first installment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Emergency Funding. (About \$320,000) The remaining CARES funding is expected to be received this week.

The funding received by SEMPRA for the Victory Virus has been expended. Approximately 1,590 bags of food were delivered to seniors in Imperial County. The LS Power funding of \$22,500 was expended in feeding seniors on our waitlist.

Sarah Enz reported that the County’s CEO office will be allocating a portion of the CARES Act Funding they received to fund the Senior Nutrition Program. The \$375,000 expected to be received will help the ICAAA feed the seniors on the waitlist through the end of this calendar year.

AJ Gaddis requested a break down on meals provided. Madeline Dessert reported that Catholic Charities is feeding 290 seniors under Title C1 funding and 278 seniors under Title C2 funding. 103 of those are served through Mom’s Meals. AJ Gaddis asked to end her delivery of Mom’s Meals so that other seniors could benefit. The reason she received it in the first place was to provide a report on the service and food to staff. She encouraged other Advisory Council receiving the meals to stop their delivery to ensure other seniors are fed.

Rosie Blankenship joined the meeting to announce that effective December 31, 2020 she will be retiring. She thanked the Advisory Council for their continued support and advocacy to provide services to seniors in our community.

Staff took a 15 minute break to participate in the Great Shake Out Training. Advisory Council was encouraged to participate and *DROP, COVER & HOLD for 1 minute.*

Meeting reconvened. Rosie Blankenship was asked what was being done to secure funding for the Senior Nutrition Program. Rosie Blankenship reported that staff continued to work with local government, private donors and grants to continue to feed all seniors. This concluded the Director’s Report. Helen Lopez applauded staff’s efforts in securing resources for the program.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

None received.

Helen Lopez had some comments. She asked Advisory Council to consider going paperless. Instead of having staff send a hard copy of the agenda via US Mail, that they consider requesting an electronic copy only. Sarah Enz agreed and instructed staff to poll Advisory Council to determine who would need a hard copy of the agenda.

Helen Lopez also requested for those calling in by phone to be identify on the screen. Sarah Enz replied that she can change the label on the phone numbers as long as individuals identify themselves at the beginning. This will be done during the next meeting.

No further comments received.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None received.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Virginia Ward adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Sarah Enz
Assistant ICAAA Director

Monica Veliz De Leon
Recording Clerk