



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, February 19, 2026

Proceedings: The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Imperial County Workforce Development Board – Conference Room, Located at 2799 S. Fourth Street, El Centro, CA 92243.

Voting Attendees:

Cynthia Alba
AJ Gaddis
John Hernandez
Supervisor John Hawk
Paul R. Monarrez
Sylvia Chavez
Ember Haller
Manuel Sanchez
Daniel Romero
Anna M. Garcia
Benjamin Horton
Ismael Lopez

Representing Sector:

District 1
District 3
District 4
County of Imperial
Disabled Interest
League of Cities
Senior Advocate
Senior Advocate
Senior Legislature
Senior Organization
HICAP
Alternate At-Large

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Sarah M. Enz
Monica Veliz
Joanna D. Zepeda
Karla Flores
Ana Corona
Shawn Angulo
Polo Salazar
Ivan Romero
Michelle Romo
Victoria Ramirez
Lupita Guitron
Marlet Vizcarra
Mario Jimenez
Agnes Zsigovics
ICAAA Director
ICAAA Manager
ICAAA Administrative Analyst I
ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Coordinator
ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Staff
ICAAA Volunteer
Catholic Charities, Program Manager, Senior Nutrition
Catholic Charities, Case Manager/QA, Senior Nutrition
Catholic Charities, Program Manager, Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Programs
Elder Law & Advocacy/HICAP, Program Assistant
Access to Independence, Information & Assistance Coordinator
Innecare, Community Health Worker
Volunteers of America, Supervisor
Alzheimer’s Association, Community Engagement Manager

Absent:

Cheryl V. Walker
Patricia Burnworth
Patricia A. Thompson
Helen Lopez
Lucy M. Hendry
Ana Rodríguez
Mary Walla
Supervisor Peggy Price
District 2
District 5
Service Provider
Senior Legislature
At-Large
At-Large
Alternate At-Large
Alternate At-Large



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Agenda Item / Action Taken:

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

Chair AJ Gaddis called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. John Hernandez led the flag salute and staff completed the roll call. Guests introduce themselves. Agnes Zsigovics, provided a brief update on the Alzheimer's Association and upcoming events including the distribution of the quarterly newsletter. Mr. Mario Jimenez was asked questions regarding the Volunteers of America Enhanced Care Program that he manages. This concluded the presentation of guests.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Sanchez /I. Lopez (M/S/C) to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2026, Advisory Council meeting as presented. Motion carried with abstentions from Monarrez and Haller.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for comments.

Supervisor Hawk provided an update on the County of Imperial and answered questions regarding current issues. He also addressed briefly the current issues affecting long-term care in Imperial County.

This concluded with the public comments.

IV. **PRESENTATION:**

a) **Alz-Care, Inc. – Respite Services – Frank Espinoza, Program Coordinator**

Frank Espinoza provided a video presentation in which he went over the Respite and Caregiver Respite Programs. He described the programs and eligibility criteria. He provided an overview of the Day Out Program. He touched on depression and other issues affecting the seniors in our community. The video recording can be found in the following link:

<https://1drv.ms/v/c/7f5955ed2a90a8c6/IQDOqy6OMXqkSr1eAcYAB5PCAeRnFtS-aCHEbaoqP6vrek8>. This concluded his presentation. Mr. Espinoza asked for questions to be sent to him via email.

John Hernandez asked staff for the number of clients served with this program, the funding source, and amount of funding. Staff responded to his inquiry. No further questions were asked by members.

V. **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM(S)**

a) **Announcement of Vacancy and Advisory Council to set deadline for applications**

Chair Gaddis announced that there was a vacancy for an Alternate At-Large Member, preferably representing Law Enforcement, and that a deadline to accept applications needed to be set.

Monarrez/Sanchez (M/S/C) to set the deadline for applications for membership to the Advisory Council for **Friday, March 20, 2026**. The motion carried unanimously. This concluded the discussion.

b) **Ad-hoc Nominating Committee**

Chair Gaddis requested volunteers to appoint an Ad-Hoc Nominating Committee to make recommendations on vacancies and to select the slate of officer nominations. Chair Gaddis appointed the following members to the Ad-hoc Nominating Committee:

- AJ Gaddis
- Manuel Sanchez
- Benjamin Horton
- Ember Haller
- John Hernandez



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VI. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR REPORT

Sarah M. Enz, ICAAA Director, announced that she will be asking the Board of Supervisors' support to attend the US Aging Policy Briefing in Washington DC, where the policies directly impacting the Area Agencies on Aging will be discussed. She also updated the Advisory Council on the Information & Assistance Coordinator vacancy. She then provided a brief update on SB 1249 and how this policy has impacted other AAAs in the State such as Ventura County. This concluded the Director's Report.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive: Chair Gaddis stated that the Committee met and discussed attendance, future agenda items and social media. She encouraged members to reach out to Executive Committee to add any items to future agendas. This concluded her report.

Legislative: H. Lopez provided a written Legislative Committee report that was included in the agenda. Daniel Romero, CSL Assembly Member, announced that he has decided not to run for a second term. He encouraged others who may be interested in applying to do so. Applications are due to the State by March 31, 2026, but must be submitted to AAA by no later than noon on March 30, 2026. This concluded the Legislative Committee report.

Nutrition: Chair Gaddis reported that the Nutrition Committee continues to monitor sites at least monthly. She encouraged members to join the committee and participate in these monitoring site visits. This concluded the report.

Transportation: Chair Gaddis encouraged members to take the time to complete the Unmet Needs Transportation Survey that was sent out by the Imperial County Transportation Commission. It is important that the senior voice is heard. She announced that the driver strike was over and that service was reestablished for seniors travelling to the Senior Nutrition Program Congregate Sites. This concluded the report.

Social & Health: Manuel Sanchez reported that he is working with staff to schedule the meeting for 2026. He would like the Alzheimer's Association to present at their next meeting. This concluded the report.

VIII. INFORMATION:

Chair Gaddis advised Advisory Council to review the information attached which includes the Attendance Roster, the Legislative Written Report, the flyer announcing the California Senior Legislature Elections, the Public Hearings, and the AARP Free Tax Preparation. There were no upcoming community events included.

IX. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** No future agenda items were requested.

X. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MEMBERS:

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for announcements. Member Chavez provided an update on the Calipatria Senior Congregate Site. She invited members to attend the Niland Senior Event. She will share the information online. Hernandez announced that there was still time to comment on the Lithium Valley project. He invited members to provide commentary if possible. This concluded with the announcements from members.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Gaddis adjourned the Advisory Council meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Sarah M. Enz
AAA Director

Monica Veliz
Recording Clerk