



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, January 15, 2026

Proceedings: The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, January 15, 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
Cheryl V. Walker
AJ Gaddis
John Hernandez
Patricia Burnworth
Sylvia Chavez
Manuel Sanchez
Anna M. Garcia
Benjamin Horton
Javier Moreno
Ana Rodríguez
Ismael Lopez
Mary Walla

Representing Sector:

District 1
District 2
District 3
District 4
District 5
League of Cities
Senior Advocate
Senior Organization
HICAP
Law Enforcement
At-Large
Alternate At-Large
Alternate At-Large

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Sarah M. Enz ICAAA Director
Monica Veliz ICAAA Manager
Joanna D. Zepeda ICAAA Administrative Analyst I
Karla Flores ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Coordinator
Ana Corona ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Staff
Shawn Angulo ICAAA Volunteer
Mariana Alcaraz Baylon Catholic Charities, Case Manager, Senior Nutrition Program
Victoria Ramirez Elder Law & Advocacy/HICAP, Program Assistant
Daniel Flores Access to Independence, Program Manager
Lupita Guitron Access to Independence, Information & Assistance Coordinator
Marlet Vizcarra Innercare, Community Health Worker
Daniel Vasquez Director of Nursing
Tara Malcomb Director of Operations
Jesus Enriquez Director of Marketing

Absent:

Supervisor John Hawk County of Imperial
Paul R. Monarrez Disabled Interest
Ember Haller Senior Advocate
Patricia A. Thompson Service Provider
Helen Lopez Senior Legislature
Daniel Romero Senior Legislature
Lucy M. Hendry At-Large
Paul R Monarrez Disable Interest
Supervisor Peggy Price Alternate At-Large

Agenda Item / Action Taken:



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

Chair AJ Gaddis called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Cheryl V. Walker led the flag salute and staff completed the roll call. Guests introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moreno /Chavez (M/S/C) to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025, Advisory Council meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for comments.

Ms. Tara Malcomb, Director of Operations of Trusted Care, introduced herself and the agency. She then invited all present to attend the upcoming Senior Wellness & Health Fair, which was scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Imperial Valley Mall. This concluded her presentation.

Member Javier Moreno announced his resignation from the Advisory Council. He thanked everyone for everything he learned as he served the Imperial County AAA Advisory Council. Sarah M. Enz and AJ Gaddis both thanked Mr. Moreno for his service to the AAA.

This concluded with the public comments.

IV. PRESENTATION:

a) Supporting Cancer Patients & Families in Imperial County – Melanie Lira, Certified Patient Navigator, Cancer Resource Center of the Desert

Presenter did not attend the meeting. No presentation was provided.

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

a) Discussion-Advisory Council members to sign-up for Area Plan Hearing for Area Plan 2024-2028 Third Year Update

Chair Gaddis reminded members to let staff know what dates will work for them to conduct the Public Hearings. Several members signed up to do the presentations. This concluded the discussion.

b) AAA Advisory Council Quarterly Mileage Reimbursement for FY 2025-2026

Gaddis reminded Advisory Council members that this support was available if anyone needed to use it.

VI. AREA AGENCY ON ANGING DIRECTOR REPORT

Sarah. M. Enz, ICAAA Director, provided an update on the Information & Assistance Program and the efforts made to fill the vacant position. Ms. Enz announced that the California Senior Legislature will be holding elections this year and is now accepting applications for anyone who wanted to run for the open positions. Then Ms. Enz announced that the AAA is looking to contract with EVISET, a company that specializes in the design and collection of needs assessment questionnaires. The responses to the needs assessment will help staff design the Area Plan for the next four-year cycle 2028-2032. Ms. Enz then provided an update on the upcoming changes affecting all AAAs in California which will need to be implemented by 2030. All these changes were part of the Governor's pathway to CA 2030 plan. Some of the expected changes are modifications to the funding mechanism. The mechanism has been changed several times, and a final mechanism is yet to be announced. However, significant changes to funding for several AAAs are expected. There are also new core services requirements, which are expected to come into effect as early as July 2026. The following core areas are a focus for the California Department of Aging (CDA): 1. Nutrition Services, 2. Caregiver Services (details have not yet



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been released), and finally Information & Assistance Services. Enz then answered questions from members regarding funding amounts for services such as respite, notification to Board of Supervisors, the changes that other AAAs in our State have experienced, questions regarding the Indigent Burial, and other Public Administration services. Enz then asked Karla Flores, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, to provide an update on her program. Ms. Flores provided an update on Sonrisa Villa and its plan for the 77 residents that currently reside in this facility. As of the prior week, the State had taken over management of the facility until changes were made. This concluded the Director's Report.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive: Chair Gaddis stated that the Committee went dark for the Holidays but moving forward they will continue to meet monthly to discuss social media and attendance. This concluded her report.

Legislative: H. Lopez provided a written Legislative Committee report that was distributed to all members at the meeting and previously via email.

Nutrition: Patricia Burnworth 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: Sarah M. Enz asked Chair Gaddis if she could provide a brief update. Ms. Enz reported that unfortunately, the drivers for the transportation provider are currently on strike pending negotiations on salary. The provider promised to prioritize rides to the Senior Nutrition Program Congregate Sites, but an impact was expected. This concluded the report.

Social & Health: Manuel Sanchez reported that he is working with staff to reschedule the meeting for 2026. In the meantime, he was interested in joining the Nutrition Committee on monitoring visits to the Congregate Sites. This concluded the report.

VIII. INFORMATION:

Chair Gaddis advised Advisory Council to review the information attached which includes the Attendance Roster, the flyer announcing the CSL Elections, and the upcoming community events.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Chair Gaddis requested an update on the Data Center if applicable. This concluded the requests for future agenda items.

X. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MEMBERS:

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for announcements. Chair Gaddis announced that the Imperial Irrigation District had made changes to their client support services to ensure everyone could pay their electric bill. Manuel Sanchez invited members to an event honoring Martin Luther King Jr. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Pavillion in El Centro on January 19, 2026, at 11:15 a.m. Anna Garcia shared the calendar of events for the Northend of the County. This calendar is designed and distributed by the Northend Alliance. Finally, Chair Gaddis announced that a new company would be taking over the old Spreckel's plant. The new owners will be using the plant to convert sugar to ethanol. This concluded with the announcements from members.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Gaddis adjourned the Advisory Council meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Sarah M. Enz
AAA Director

Monica Veliz
Recording Clerk