



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, July 17, 2025

Proceedings: The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2025, 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
Patricia Burnworth
Sylvia Chavez
Manuel Sanchez
Ember Haller
Patricia Thompson
Helen Lopez
Daniel Romero
Anna M. Garcia*
Benjamin Horton
Javier Moreno
Lucy M. Hendry
Ana Rodriguez
Ismael Lopez
Mary Walla*

Representing Sector:

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

*Members appointed during meeting.

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 V. | ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Staff |
| Sofia Vasquez | ICAAA Community Service Worker |
| Adli Burgos | ICAAA Intern |
| Andrew Briseno | County of Imperial, County Counsel |
| Ivan Romero | Catholic Charities, Quality Case Manager |
| Agnes Zsigovics | Alzheimer’s Association, Community Engagement Manager |
| Marlet Vizcarra | Innecare, Promotora |
| Elva King | Innecare, Community Health Worker II |
| Mamerto Cadiz | Public |
| Dolores Provencio | Public |
| Frances Beope | Public |

Absent:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Cheryl V. Walker | District 2 |
| Supervisor John Hawk | County of Imperial |
| Paul R. Monarrez | Disabled Interests |
| Supervisor Peggy Price | 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 9:00 a.m. Flag salute and roll call were completed. Guests introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moreno/Chavez (M/S/C) to approve the minutes of May 15, 2025, Advisory Council meeting as presented with abstentions from Gaddis, Romero, Thompson, and Horton.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for comments. Agnes Zsigovics representing the Alzheimer's Association, provided an update on the organization's activities and invited Advisory Council members to attend upcoming events. She will send additional information and an invitation to AAA Staff for distribution.

Frances Beope representing the Democratic United Club of Imperial Valley invited Advisory Council members to attend the Healthcare Town Hall which was taking place that evening at 6 pm in Brawley, CA. A flyer was shared with all attendees.

This concluded with the Public Comments.

IV. PRESENTATION:

a) ICAAA – Long Term Care Ombudsman and Information & Assistance Program Updates

Karla Flores provided an update on the activities of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. She introduced new staff, changes in legislation, and an overview of the number of visits to facilities, number and types of complaints received, and outreach activities that took place in the last year. She also provided information on the Elder Abuse Prevention activities for the year that was undertaken by her department. She answered questions and provided clarification to Advisory Council members as she proceeded.

Monica Veliz, AAA Manager, provided a brief update on the activities for the Information & Assistance Program and services provided year-to-date for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Ms. Veliz answered questions as she presented. This concluded her presentation.

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

a) Senior Organization At-Large Member Appointment

The Nominating Committee recommends that the Advisory Council appoint Anna M. Garcia to the vacant At-Large Member position representing a Senior Organization.

John Hernandez seconded the recommendation from the Nominating Committee. Motion carried unanimously with no nays and no abstentions.

b) Alternate At-Large Member Appointment

The Nominating Committee recommends that the Advisory Council appoint Mary Walla to the vacant Alternate At-Large Member position.

Javier Moreno seconded the recommendation from the Nominating Committee. Motion carried unanimously with no nays and no abstentions.



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c) **Committee Membership Roster**

Per the By-Laws, the Advisory Council is to submit a revised or new Committee Roster each July.

Chair Gaddis presented the new Committee Roster and asked the newly appointed members to think about what committee they would like to join and let her know later.

Helen Lopez/M. Sanchez (M/S/C) to approve the Committee Roster as presented. The motion carried unanimously with no nays and no abstentions.

d) **Advisory Council to set meeting dates for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Helen Lopez/P. Thompson (M/S/C) to set the meeting dates for the third Thursday of every month for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The motion carried unanimously with no nays and no abstentions.

e) **Council to vote to go dark in August**

Helen Lopez/P. Thompson (M/S/C) for Advisory Council to go dark in August 2025 and to reconvene in September 2025. The motion carried unanimously with no nays and no abstentions.

VI. **AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Sarah Enz provided an overview of the Area Plan Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. She went over the changes in funds and what is expected moving forward. She answered questions from the Advisory Council members. This concluded her Director's Report which was presented prior to item IV. Presentations.

VII. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Executive Committee: Chair AJ Gaddis reported that the committee has been meeting regularly to look at potential agenda items, attendance rosters, social media, and other items. She reported that the committee will be working with the Soroptimist of El Centro to put on a Senior Appreciation event. She also reported that a letter of support was sent to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Voter's Choice Act. This concluded her report.

Legislative Committee: Helen Lopez provided a written report. She briefly went over some legislative proposals that she believes will move forward in the process. She also answered some questions regarding State & Federal funds, and future funding changes. This concluded her report.

Nutrition Committee: Patricia Burnworth reported that the committee visited all congregate sites this year. The committee will meet in September to go over findings and set the dates to monitor the sites for the new Fiscal Year 2025-2026. This concluded the report.

Transportation Committee: AJ Gaddis reported that a meeting would be scheduled for the fall. This concluded the report. A member from the public recommended that the committee discuss transportation to voting center sites for seniors.

Social & Health Committee: Manuel Sanchez reported that he will reach out to staff to coordinate a meeting in September for this committee. He stated he would like to invite



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Sarah Enz, AAA Director, to provide a presentation on the Homeless Seniors Issues. This concluded his report.

VIII. INFORMATION:

Chair Gaddis reminded members to review informational items provided.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for member requests. Chair Gaddis stated that she would like to see an update on the Voter's Choice Act. No other requests were received.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for announcements.

Cynthia Alba announced that the Calexico Neighborhood House had opened its doors as a cooling center as of June 15th and it will remain open from 9 am to 6 pm daily for those who would like to cool down. She will send additional information to staff to share with the Advisory Council.

Ember Haller announced that the City of Imperial was working with the Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE) to put together 50 cooling kits which included hand-held fans, cooling neck wraps and other items to help individuals keep cool in the summer heat.

No additional announcements were received.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Gaddis adjourned the Advisory Council meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Sarah M. Enz
AAA Director

Monica Veliz
Recording Clerk