



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, March 19, 2026

Proceedings: The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, March 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
Cheryl V. Walker
AJ Gaddis
Patricia Burnworth
Paul R. Monarrez
Sylvia Chavez
Manuel Sanchez
Patricia A. Thompson
Helen Lopez
Daniel Romero
Anna M. Garcia
Benjamin Horton
Lucy M. Hendry
Mary Walla

Representing Sector:

District 1
District 2
District 3
District 5
Disabled Interest
League of Cities
Senior Advocate
Service Provider
Senior Legislature
Senior Legislature
Senior Organization
HICAP
At-Large
Alternate At-Large

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Monica Veliz
Joanna D. Zepeda
Karla Flores
Shawn Angulo
Andrew Briseno
Gil Rebollar
Polo Salazar
Anabel Huber
Victoria Ramírez
Lupita Guitron
Ana Chavarin
Denise Pasillas
ICAAA Manager
ICAAA Administrative Analyst I
ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Coordinator
ICAAA Volunteer
County of Imperial, County Counsel
County of Imperial, Deputy CEO
Catholic Charities, Program Manager, Senior Nutrition
HLT Nutrition Co Inc., President
Elder Law & Advocacy/HICAP, Program Assistant
Access to Independence, Information & Assistance Coordinator
Goodwill, Career Advisory Supervisor
Community Health Plan (CHPIV), Community Liaison

Absent:

John Hernandez
Supervisor John Hawk
Ember Haller
Ana Rodríguez
Ismael Lopez
Supervisor Peggy Price
District 4
County of Imperial
Senior Advocate
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 9:04 a.m. Cheryl Walker led the flag salute and staff completed the roll call. Guests introduce themselves.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Walker/Monarez (M/S/C) to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2026, Advisory Council meeting as presented. Motion carried with abstentions from Burnworth, H. Lopez, Thompson, and Walla.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for comments. None received.

IV. **PRESENTATION:**

a) **HLT Nutrition Co Inc. – Senior Health Services – Annie Huber, Registered Nutritionist/Owner**

Annie Huber introduced herself and HLT Nutrition Co Inc. She then provided an overview of the activities being done under the Senior Health Program with funding from Title IIIB and Title IIID. She went into detail on what the program entailed, what has been done so far, and the upcoming classes to be offered. She concluded her presentation by answering questions from the members.

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

a) **Committee Chair to set a date for the Legislative Committee to meet this Fiscal Year.**

Committee Chair Helen Lopez requested that the committee meet in June 2026 and actual date will be set via email. This concluded the discussion for this item.

VI. **AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR REPORT**

Monica Veliz, ICAAA Manager, announced that Sarah M. Enz, ICAAA Director, could not attend the meeting as she was attending the US Aging Policy Briefing in Washington DC, where the policies directly impacting the Area Agencies on Aging were being discussed. Monica Veliz also announced that an Information & Assistance Coordinator was expected to start on Friday, March 20, 2026. Finally, she asked Karla Flores, LTC Ombudsman Coordinator, to provide an update regarding the situation with the closure of Sonrisa Villa. Ms. Flores provided the update and answered questions from members. Monica Veliz concluded the Director's Report by reminding the Advisory Council members of the Public Hearings which started on Monday, March 16 and will end on Thursday, March 26, 2026.

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. She stated that the California Senior Legislature (CSL) submitted ten (10) proposals this year, of which six (6) are reboots from previous years. She also reminded members that the deadline to apply to become a California Senior Legislature representative is Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Anyone interested can find an application on the AAA website or request one from staff. Applicants must be 55 years or older to be eligible. Helen Lopez has already submitted her application for CSL Senator, but no one has yet applied for CSL Assemblymember. She encouraged those who are interested to reach out to her if they have any questions. This concluded the Legislative Committee report.



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Nutrition: Committee Chair Burnworth reported that the Nutrition Committee has no site visits scheduled for this month due to the Public Hearings. They will reconvene visits in April. This concluded the report.

Transportation: Chair Gaddis provided a brief update on transportation and requested members to attend the Imperial County Transportation Commission's Unmet Needs Public Hearing scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2026. 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, and the Public Hearings. There were no upcoming community events included.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: The following future agenda items were requested: updates on Sonrisa Villa, and information & resources regarding financial literacy and fraud. This concluded the requests.

X. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MEMBERS:**

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for announcements. No announcements were made by members.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Gaddis adjourned the Advisory Council meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Monica Veliz
AAA Manager

Monica Veliz
Recording Clerk