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, September 17, 2026

Proceedings: The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley – Conference Room, located at 512 W. Aten Road, Imperial, CA 92251.

Voting Attendees:	**Representing Sector:**
Cynthia Alba	District 1
AJ Gaddis	District 3
John Hernandez	District 4
Patricia Burnworth	District 5
Sylvia Chavez	League of Cities
Ismael Lopez*	Senior Advocate
Patricia A. Thompson	Service Provider
Helen Lopez	Senior Legislature
Anna M. Garcia	Senior Organization
Benjamin Horton	HICAP
Roland Estrada	Law Enforcement
Ana Rodríguez	At-Large
Agnes Zsigovics*	Alternate At-Large
Mary Walla	Alternate At-Large

*Member appointed during this meeting.

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:	
Monica Veliz	ICAAA Manager
Joanna D. Zepeda	ICAAA Administrative Analyst I
Karla Flores	ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Coordinator
Ana Corona V.	ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Staff
Shawn Angulo	ICAAA Volunteer
Andrew Briseno	County of Imperial, County Counsel
Polo Salazar	Catholic Charities, Program Manager, Senior Nutrition
Ivan Romero	Catholic Charities, Quality Assurance/Case Manager, Senior Nutrition
Daniel Flores	Access to Independence, Program Manager
Lupita Guitron	Access to Independence, ADRC Program Coordinator
Victoria Ramirez	Elder Law & Advocacy, Program Assistant
Lucia Aguilar	MAAC, Program Coordinator
Betzabeth Gonzalez	MAAC, Volunteer
Alea Romo	Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley (CHPIV), Marketing
Veronica Arroyo	Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley (CHPIV), Retention Specialist

Absent:	
Supervisor John Hawk	County of Imperial
Cheryl V. Walker	District 2
Paul R. Monarrez	Disabled Interest
Manuel Sanchez	Senior Advocate
Daniel Romero	Senior Legislature
Lucy M. Hendry	At-Large
Supervisor Peggy Price	Alternate At-Large

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Agenda Item / Action Taken:

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

Chair Patricia Burnworth called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. The flag salute was led by Mr. Ismael Lopez, and staff completed roll call. Guests introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Gaddis/Chavez (M/S/C) to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2026, Advisory Council meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously with no nays and no abstentions.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Burnworth opened the floor for comments. No public comments were made.

IV. PRESENTATION:

a) "Alzheimer's, Dementia & Bran Health" – Agnes Zsigovics, Alzheimer's Association, Community Engagement Manager

Agnes Zsigovics provided an overview of the Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures for 2026. She highlighted the prevalence of Alzheimer's in Imperial County and California. She also pointed out the populations at highest risk. Then she explained what Alzheimer's disease is and how it is different than other types of dementia. She discussed the importance of early detection, the ten (10) warning signs of Alzheimer's, the risks to brain health in general, and some of the things the community can do to prevent disease and keep their brain health. Then she discussed what the Alzheimer's Association is doing to reach their vision of a world without Alzheimer's, the services they provide, and how the community can reach them for services and/or to support their cause by donating or volunteering. She concluded her presentation by answering questions from the Advisory Council members.

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

a) At-Large Member Appointment:

Helen Lopez seconded the recommendations provided by the Ad-hoc Nominating Committee to appoint Ismael Lopez to the vacant At-Large Member position as the new Senior Advocate and to appoint Agnes Zsigovics to the Alternate At-Large Member position, left vacant with the appointment of Ismael Lopez to the vacancy. Motion carried unanimously with no nays and no abstentions.

b) Committee Membership – Member Participation (No Action Required)

Chair Burnworth asked members to review the Committee Roster and if they had any changes to let her know. Monica Veliz, AAA Manager, clarified that the Executive Committee had noticed that there was a lack of participation of members in their assigned committees. She encouraged everyone to attend the meetings and support any tasks associated with their committees. This concluded the discussion.

VI. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Monica Veliz, ICAAA Manager, stated that Sarah M. Enz, ICAAA Director, will be sending a written Director's Report via email to members. Veliz informed the members that the Information & Assistance Coordinator was vacant again and that they would be going out for recruitment one more time. This concluded with the Directors' Report.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chair Burnworth provided an opportunity for the Committee Chairs to provide any comments on the reports included in the agenda.

a. **Legislative:** H. Lopez provided a written Legislative Committee report that was included in the agenda.
b. **Nutrition:** Committee meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2026, at 11:00 am at the AAA Office.
c. **Transportation:** Chair Gaddis provided a written Transportation Committee report that was included in the agenda.
d. **Social & Health:** Gaddis provided a written Social & Health Committee report on behalf of the Committee Chair that was included in the agenda.

VIII. INFORMATION:

Chair Burnworth advised Advisory Council to review the information attached which includes the Attendance Roster and upcoming events.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None received.

X. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MEMBERS:

Chair Burnworth opened the floor for announcements.

Anna Garcia announced the Walk to End Cancer that will take place on October 17, 2026, in Calipatria.

Roland Estrada announced that the Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Blood Drive on November 22, 2026, at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Imperial.

AJ Gaddis invited everyone to visit the Imperial Library that now has a seed library that is part of the Master Garden program.

Patricia Thompson announced that the Imperial Valley Breakfast Rotary is having a Speak Easy Fundraiser on October 16, 2026. She asked people to reach out to her for tickets.

Anna Garcia announced that Calipatria is hosting a congregate site with guest speakers and activities for the seniors on the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Calipatria Community Center (flagpole). She also mentioned that Calipatria seniors will be attending the Senior Event on October 8, 2026.

This concluded the announcements.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Burnworth adjourned the Advisory Council meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Monica Veliz
ICAAA Manager

Monica Veliz
Recording Clerk