



# 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 16, 2023

### Proceedings:

The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Imperial County Department of Social Services – Classroom A, located at 2895 S. Fourth Street, El Centro, CA 92243.

### Voting Attendees:

Cheryl Viegas Walker  
AJ Gaddis  
John Hernandez  
Paul R. Monarrez  
Virginia Ward  
Mike Lara  
Manuel Sanchez  
Patricia A. Thompson  
Helen Lopez  
Oreda Chin  
Sedalia Sanders  
Patricia Burnworth  
Lucy M. Hendry

### Representing Sector:

District 2  
District 3  
District 4  
Disabled Interest  
League of Cities  
Senior Advocate  
Senior Advocate  
Service Provider  
CSL – Senate  
Senior Organization  
At-Large  
At-Large  
Alternate At-Large

### Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Sarah M. Enz  
Joanna D. Zepeda  
Karla Flores  
Monica Veliz De Leon  
Andrew Briseno  
Polo Salazar  
Karina Leon  
Maribelle Mendez  
Public Administrator/ICAAA Director  
ICAAA Administrative Analyst I  
ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Coordinator  
ICAAA Information & Assistance Coordinator  
County of Imperial, Counsel  
Catholic Charities, Senior Nutrition, Program Manager  
Access To independence, Program Manager  
AlzCare, Inc., Program Director

### Absent:

Cynthia Alba  
Benjamin J. Horton  
Supervisor Mike Kelley  
Daniel Romero  
Javier Moreno  
Ismael Lopez  
Supervisor John Hawk  
District 1  
District 5  
County of Imperial  
CSL – Assembly  
Law Enforcement  
Alternate At-Large  
Alternate At-Large

### Agenda Item / Action Taken:

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

Chair Oreda Chin called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Flag salute and roll call were completed and quorum was established. Staff introduced guests.



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## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Virginia Ward motioned to approve the January 19, 2023, Advisory Council meeting minutes as presented. Mike Lara seconded the motion. Chair called for vote. The motion passed unanimously with no nays or abstentions.

## III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Oreda Chin opened up the floor for public comments.

John Hernandez asked if there was any information on a fair day for seniors. He would like to organize something if this was offered. Sarah Enz reported that staff had not been informed if there was. However, in the past transportation was provided. She asked members to let her know if they needed her support.

Monica De Leon informed them that Farm Smart's Senior U Pick Day was scheduled for Friday, February 17, 2023, and a flyer was provide to them in their packets.

Patricia A. Thompson announced that the local American Legion would be volunteering at the fair. She asked members to contact her if they would like to volunteer. The volunteers would help guard buildings and the exhibits.

Lucy Hendry announced that Wreaths Across America would be coming to Imperial County on March 4<sup>th</sup>. She will send additional information via email.

Helen Lopez kindly reminded members that this section was for public comments. This concluded the discussion and no further comments were received.

## IV. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

### a) Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program – Volunteer

Advisory Council to recognize and thank Mrs. Gail Luallin for 5 years of dedicated service to the imperial County Area Agency on Aging's LTC Ombudsman Program

Karla Flores provided a brief summary of the years Mrs. Luallin has been volunteering with LTC Ombudsman Program. Unfortunately, Mrs. Luallin was unable to be present at this meeting to receive the recognition but Ms. Flores will make sure she receives it during the monthly volunteer meeting. John Hernandez suggested that a press release be written to recognize her or to present this to her during a Board of Supervisors meeting. Virginia Ward agreed. Karla Flores took this into advisement. This concluded the discussion.

### b) Set a date for Executive/Planning & Finance Committee to meet and review the fourth year Area Plan for 2020-2024.

Chair Oreda Chin open floor for discussion. Cheryl Walker suggested that a doodle poll be sent out via email to select a date and time of the meeting. Other members agreed and this concluded the discussion.



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### **c) Discuss the ICAAA Logo**

Oreda Chin opened the floor for discussion. Cheryl V. Walker started the conversation since she was the one that suggested the logo be redesigned. She believed that the logo was outdated and ageist. It didn't represent the seniors the agency served. Helen Lopez asked how long had this logo been in place. Staff responded that it was at least from 2017.

AJ Gaddis suggested that this item be handled by the Ad-hoc Social Media Committee.

Helen Lopez reminded members that this logo was for the Public Administrator as well as the ICAAA. It would be great for public to participate in redesigning the logo if possible.

Patricia Thompson stated that there were many AAA's that had their own logos that this council could pull from when designing our local agency's logo.

Sarah Enz, ICAAA Director, reminded members that any changes made to this logo would need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Unfortunately, there is currently no budget to be able to make any changes. She had requested a quote to design a new logo and signage. She was informed that the cost would be about \$1200, including design and installation. Unfortunately, budget wise this could not be done.

Cheryl V. Walker stated that her suggestion would be to update the logo for the Area Agency on Aging only, that the Public Administrator (PA) could continue to use the current logo. The new AAA logo would be used on marketing material and correspondence and no additional cost should be incurred.

Sarah Enz commented that having three logos for her department is unacceptable.

Helen Lopez motioned to move the discussion regarding the logo to the Ad-hoc Social Media Committee. Virginia Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no nays or abstentions. This ended the discussion.

### **d) Council to set deadline to accept application for Advisory Council Vacancy**

Effective January 19, 2023, the Advisory Council has one vacancy: Health Insurance & Advocacy Program (HICAP) Member (1). The Council to set deadline to accept applications for this position.

Helen Lopez motioned for the deadline to be set for 30 days from today's date or March 17, 2023. AJ Gaddis seconded the motion. The motion passed with no nays and one abstention from John Hernandez. This ended the discussion.

### **e) Council to sign up to host 2022-2023 Public Hearings**

John Hernandez commented that the Public Hearings had very little participation and suggested for adjustments to be made to improve participation.

Chair Oreda Chin agreed that changes could be made as she did not believe that the PowerPoint used captured seniors' attention.



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Cheryl V. Walker stated that she opposed check the box outreach and wondered how the Advisory Council could prepare to get this done successfully.

Sarah Enz commented that California Department of Aging (CDA) only requires three Public Hearings to be held.

AJ Gaddis shared with the Advisory Council her experience with the Public Hearings that turned out to be very interactive. She agreed that the PowerPoint needed to be redefined but she did that on her own.

Manuel Sanchez commented that he collaborated with AJ Gaddis last year and reorganizing the presentation to make more sense helped seniors provide input.

Helen Lopez agreed that the PowerPoint had room for improvement. However, this will need to be adjusted at a later time since the Public Hearings were just around the corner. This concluded the discussion.

### V. PRESENTATIONS:

#### a) AlzCare, Inc. – Respite Services

Maribelle Mendez, AlzCare, Inc. (AlzCare) Program Director, introduced herself. Then she shared the challenges AlzCare is having in recruiting families to the program. In order to improve this, they recently sent out 300 flyers via mail to possible participants. Staff has been making home calls. Maribelle Mendez commented that the middle-class are those that are forgotten. Unfortunately, they do not qualify for Medi-Cal and they cannot pay the high costs of in-home care. She encourages those that are eligible for a high share of cost Medi-Cal to still participate in order to be eligible for other program such as In-home Support Services (IHSS), Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), and/or DayOut (adult daycare).

Many middle class families would prefer to take their parent to daycare instead of having a “stranger” come into their home. Maribelle Mendez has been in this industry for over 10 years. She hopes that eventually caregiving is available to the middle class.

She then provided a brief update on the Respite Services provided by AlzCare, Inc. Under Title III E (Family Caregiver Support Program), AlzCare is serving 20 families with a total of 2,804 hours provided in care to these families. Currently, the AlzCare Respite Program services do not include assistance with showering, diapering, medication management, chores or cleaning. One of the challenges faced by the program is that families do not want another “older person” to take care of their elderly.

Under Title III B, AlzCare has provided 367 hours of care. The big challenge for this program is male volunteers to join as well as volunteers that are bilingual.

Staff continues to do presentations, mailings and outreach to recruit volunteers and participants for the program.

Maribelle Mendez then opened up for questions. The following members asked questions and provided suggestions to improve the programs: Oreda Chin, Paul R.



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Monarrez, Patricia Thompson, John Hernandez, AJ Gaddis and Sedalia Sanders. Maribelle Mendez asked for the support of these members to get funding to be able to hire more staff that can offer additional services to the clients, including weekend and holiday care. Sarah Enz took this into advisement.

Chair Oreda Chin thanked her for her presentation. No further questions or comments were received. This concluded the presentation.

### VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chair Oreda Chin asked Committee Chairs to report for their committee.

**Executive Committee:** Chair Oreda Chin reported that the Committee will start meeting a week before this meeting (the regularly scheduled Advisory Council meeting). This concluded the report.

**Planning & Finance Committee:** Paul R. Monarrez reported that the Committee will be meeting with the Executive Committee meeting one week prior to this meeting (Advisory Council Meeting). This concluded the report.

**Legislative Committee:** Helen Lopez stated that she would provide a legislative update in March, once the deadline for new bills has passed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month. This concluded the report.

**Nutrition Committee:** Chair Oreda Chin reported that she along with staff attended the Brawley Congregate site and enjoyed the meal. She had nothing new to report. This concluded the report.

**Transportation Committee:** AJ Gaddis reported that the Transportation Committee will meet on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. The Committee will discuss the following at this meeting: New Leadership at the Imperial County Transportation Commission, Goals or Objectives, and the Unmet Transit Needs Survey. This concluded the report.

**Social & Health Committee:** Manuel Sanchez reported that the Social & Health Committee met on Thursday, January 26, 2023. He informed the Advisory Council that staff from the Continuum of Care provided information on housing and homelessness in Imperial County based on the Point-In-Time Count. Inflation is also having an impact on housing. This concluded the report.

**Ad-Hoc By-Law Committee Report:** Helen Lopez reported that the Committee is almost done working on the by-laws. They should be able to provide a draft to County Counsel for review by April 2023 and to the Board of Supervisors by June 2023. This concluded the report.

AJ Gaddis asked staff to add Ad-hoc Social Media Committee to this list for monthly updates. The Committee will be meeting on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 2 p.m. This committee will take on the logo discussion in one of their meetings. This concluded the report.

### VII. INFORMATION:

Chair Oreda Chin went over the informational items included in the agenda and asked members to review at their leisure. Paul R. Monarrez reminded council members that the



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Executive Committee would be looking at attendance closely to ensure that any lack of attendance from members is addressed. Monica De Leon, staff, informed members that the Advisory Council Member's roster was updated and the updated copy was placed at each member's seat. This concluded the comments.

### **VIII. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Sarah Enz, ICAAA Director provided the Director's Report. She reported that Catholic Charities was on track with the monthly meals provided to seniors. She reported that they were considering changing the location for the Heber Congregate Site. The Heber Public Utility District has offered one of their buildings to host the Congregate Site. The Westmorland Congregate Site has now reopened with a new volunteer and about six participants. In regards to Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC), Sarah Enz will be meeting with the state later this month and recruiting is underway for an Extra Help Information & Assistance Coordinator. Sarah Enz informed the committee that the El Centro Meals Program made possible with a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) would be ending on March 17, 2023. Cheryl V. Walker suggested that a letter be sent out right away to provide the best customer service to the participants. Sarah Enz then reported on the SCAN Project. She will be working on this project the second week of March, shadowing five to six seniors through their journey in accessing health care here in Imperial County. Members suggested she contact Innercare. Sarah Enz concluded her presentation by providing a brief update on the CalConnect project. No further comments or questions were made by Advisory Council Members.

### **IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:**

Chair Oreda Chin opened the floor for announcements.

Cheryl V. Walker provided a brief update on the hospital situation. Cash flow has improved for the El Centro Regional Medical Center (ECRMC) through June 2023. The Imperial Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is working on a county-wide district funding to support both hospitals – ECRMC and Pioneers Memorial Health Center. She also recommend that the representatives for the new Senator and Congressman be invited to these meeting to start working with them. Staff assured her that staff has been invited. She also asked if the updated by-law would come to the Advisory Council before it goes to the Board of Supervisors. Sarah Enz informed her that the by-laws document would be presented to this Advisory Council before it goes to County Counsel and before it is presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Oreda Chin announced that Jim Shinn would be starting a men's cancer support group on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of these month.. She asked for anyone interested in participating to contact her. She also discussed the myriad of information lines available for seniors. All the different channels of information can sometimes become overwhelming for seniors looking for help. She thanked the Advisory Council for their work on getting this resolved.

This concluded the announcements.



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### **X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Secretary Paul R. Monarrez asked staff to move the Presentations to before the Action Items on the agenda moving forward. Other members agreed. No action required to get this completed for the next agenda.

AJ Gaddis asked that presenters be requested to provide a PowerPoint and/or handouts.

Secretary Paul R. Monarrez reminded Advisory Council members about the Healthy Aging Virtual Education trainings held monthly by the ICAAA. Some of the topics covered are those being requested by Advisory Council members.

This concluded the discussion and no further requests were made.

### **XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Oreda Chin entertained a motion to adjourn. Paul R. Monarrez motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m. AJ Gaddis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with no nays or abstentions.

Sarah Enz  
Public Administrator/ICAAA Director

Monica Veliz De Leon  
Recording Clerk