



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, April 17, 2025

Proceedings: The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, April 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:

Cheryl V. Walker
AJ Gaddis
John Hernandez
Patricia Burnworth
Sylvia Chavez
Helen Lopez
Daniel Romero
Oreda Chin
Benjamin Horton
Javier Moreno
Ana Rodriguez
Ismael Lopez

Representing Sector:

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

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Sarah Enz ICAAA Director
Monica V. De Leon ICAAA Manager
Karla Flores ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Coordinator
Sofia Vasquez ICAAA Community Service Worker
Daniel Flores ICAAA I & A Coordinator
Shawn Angulo ICAAA Volunteer
Ivan Romero Catholic Charities / Quality Case Manager
Polo Salazar Catholic Charities / SNP Program Manager
Michelle Romo Catholic Charities / FGP/SCP Program Manager

Absent:

Cynthia Alba District 1
Supervisor John Hawk County of Imperial
Paul R. Monarrez Disabled Interests
Manuel Sanchez Senior Advocate
Patricia Thompson Service Provider
Lucy M. Hendry At-Large
Ember Haller Alternate At-Large
Supervisor Peggy Price Alternate At-Large

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. Flag salute and roll call were completed. Guests introduced themselves.



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II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Romero/I. Lopez (M/S/C) to approve the minutes of March 20, 2025, Advisory Council meeting as presented with no abstentions.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AJ Gaddis opened the floor for comments. Sarah Enz, AAA Director, thanked Oreda Chin, member and Past Chair for her invaluable service to the Imperial County Area Agency on Aging. Today's meeting marks Oreda's last day as part of the Advisory Council.

IV. PRESENTATION:

a) Catholic Charities / HLT Nutrition Co. Inc. – Senior Nutrition Program Update/ Nutrition Education Program Update

Polo Salazar along with Ivan Romero updated the Advisory Council on the activities for the Senior Nutrition Program. They provided an update on sites as well as the number of seniors served with the Congregate Meal and Home Delivered Meals Programs. They provided a brief update on legislative changes that have impacted on how they do business and concluded with answering questions from Advisory Council Members.

Annie Huber, owner of HLT Nutrition Co. Inc., sent in a video that summarized the activities she performs as the Registered Dietitian overseeing the Senior Nutrition Program. She provided information on the Nutrition Education being offered to seniors as well as SNP staff. She also provided pictures of the monitoring she performs in the kitchen and other remote sites as well as the vehicles transporting food to help ensure that proper food handling standards are kept by all. This concluded her presentation. She invited the Advisory Council members to send her any questions via email. None were received.

b) April National Volunteer Recognition

Unfortunately, no names were submitted by providers to be recognized during this meeting. Sarah Enz and Monica Veliz DL thanked all volunteers for their service to the Area Agency on Aging. Without the commitment from volunteers such as the Advisory Council Members, the Long-Term Ombudsman Volunteers, Information & Assistance Program volunteers, and all those that volunteer in different capacities, the AAA would not be as successful in providing services to our senior population. This concluded the presentation.

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

a) Chair to appoint the Ad-hoc Nominating Committee of not less than three (3) Advisory Council members to make recommendations on possible vacancies.

Chair Gaddis appointed the following Advisory Council members to this Ad-hoc Nominating Committee:

- AJ Gaddis
- Patricia Burnworth
- Sylvia Chavez
- Ana Rodriguez
- Benjamin Horton



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The committee agreed to meet on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 11:00 am at the AAA Office Conference room.

VI. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Sarah Enz provided a brief update on the Aging and Disability Resource Connection Program, and the recent funding cuts to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) which will impact programs that serve the senior and disabled communities. This concluded her report.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Chair AJ Gaddis reported that the committee has been meeting regularly to look at potential agenda items, attendance rosters, strategic planning, and other potential items. She reported that the committee decided to table the senior event as well as the strategic planning meeting. This concluded her report.

Legislative Committee: Daniel Romero stated that a written report was provided, and that staff would be sending it out soon. He provided a brief update on the CSL supported bills.

Nutrition Committee: Patricia Burnworth gave a brief report on the Public Hearings that took place at the different congregate sites. She stated that there was another monitoring occurring soon.

Transportation Committee: AJ Gaddis reported that a meeting would be scheduled soon. Sarah Enz reported that the unmet needs survey and public hearing took place. The results of the survey and public hearing were general transit issues, rides to the Imperial Valley College from the border, the bus stops during inclement weather, and the ability to purchase tickets online. This concluded the report.

Social & Health Committee: No report was provided.

VIII. INFORMATION:

Chair Gaddis reminded members to review informational items: Information & Assistance Coordinator Reports, Ombudsman reports, CALz Connect Report, Member Attendance Roster, and upcoming events list.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for member requests. None were received.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Chair Gaddis opened the floor for announcements. Sylvia Chavez shared the success that the new Congregate Site in Calipatria is having. About 25 participants were served during this month but many more seniors are interested in participating. This concluded the announcements.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Gaddis adjourned the Advisory Council meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Monica V. De Leon
AAA Manager

Daniel Flores
Recording Clerk