



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 20, 2025

Proceedings: The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, February 20, 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
Cheryl V. Walker
AJ Gaddis
John Hernandez
Patricia Burnworth
Sylvia Chavez
Manuel Sanchez
Patricia Thompson
Helen Lopez
Oreda Chin
Lucy M. Hendry
Ana Rodriguez
Ember Haller

Representing Sector:

District 1
District 2
District 3
District 4
District 5
League of Cities
Senior Advocate
Service Provider
Senior Legislature
Senior Organization
At-Large
At-Large
Alternate At-Large

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Monica V. De Leon ICAAA Manager
Karla Flores ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Coordinator
Sofia Vasquez ICAAA Community Service Worker
Daniel Flores ICAAA I & A Coordinator
Joanna Zepeda ICAAA Administrative Analyst
Andrew Briseno Imperial County Counsel
Ivan Romero Catholic Charities/Program Manager
Polo Salazar Catholic Charities/Program Manager
Shawn Angulo ICAAA Volunteer
Agnes Zsigovics Alzheimer’s Association / Program Manager
Frank Espinoza AlzCare / Program Coordinator

Absent:

Paul R. Monarrez Disabled Interests
Mike Lara Senior Advocate
Daniel Romero Senior Legislature
Benjamin Horton HICAP
Javier Moreno Law Enforcement
Ismael Lopez Alternate At-Large
Supervisor Peggy Price Alternate At-Large
Supervisor John Hawk County of Imperial



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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 9:03 a.m. Cheryl Walker led the Advisory Council in the Flag Salute. Roll call was completed. Guests introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Alba/Chin (M/S/C) to approve the minutes of December 19, 2024, Advisory Council meeting as presented with Helen Lopez and John Hernandez abstaining.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

AJ Gaddis opened the floor for comments. Agnez Zsigovics commented on their new office hours at the Day Out Center and left flyers for the Advisory Council to take. Karla Flores gave kudos to Catholic Charities Congregate site in Calexico for having great attendance and celebration of events at the site. John Hernandez commented on the impacts on our older population with the change in government and IID increases. He recommended staff invite legislative representatives to come and talk to the Advisory Council. Helen Lopez volunteered to reach out to see if someone could come and talk to the Council. Polo Salazar commented that the City of El Centro allocated money for Senior Nutrition that is still going through the process of approval. Cheryl Walker spoke about the fear many have of immigration changes and recommended Advisory Council to keep an eye out on information and rights. Walker also provided information on the IID increase. Helen Lopez suggested staff share the Justice on Aging emails with the Council.

IV. PRESENTATION:

a) AlzCare, Inc. – Respite Services – Frank Ezpinoza, Program Coordinator

Frank Ezpinoza presented the services Alz-Care provides. Ezpinoza talked about how the program works, requirements, Day Out program, Depression & Social Isolation, and contacts. Espinoza ended the presentation by answering questions including struggles with volunteers and a discussion on how Alz-Care can get volunteers from a different source for the program.

V. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a) Emergency Preparedness Packet

Chair Gaddis let the Council know that there was a packet on everybody's desk and asked to please take a look at it. Monica De Leon added that this packet was created by the State of California. John Hernandez asked if the Area Agency on Aging still had the informational booklet with senior resources. Monica De Leon responded that the funding was removed and is no longer available.

VI. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Sarah Enz provided a written report. Sylvia Chavez added to the report that the Calipatria Congregate site has been a success, and seniors are showing up with RSVP.



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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.

Legislative Committee: Helen Lopez provided a written report in the agenda packet. Monica De Leon reported, upon Helen's request, that Sen. Valladares introduced SB508, a California Senior Legislative (CSL) proposal that could expand out of state telehealth for all cancer patients.

Nutrition Committee: Patricia Burnworth shared the next meeting date and provided a brief report on what is done during the Congregate Site Monitoring visits and a flyer was checked for any errors and two visits were made to Heber and Brawley.

Transportation Committee: AJ Gaddis reported that the Committee has not met but invited everyone to attend a groundbreaking event in Calexico.

Social & Health Committee: Manuel Sanchez reported that Committee discussed the Senior Day event including costs, permissions, and volunteers. This will be passed to the Advisory Council for further discussion.

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 and Public Hearings.

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. John Hernandez reminded the Council about the fair and that ICTC will have a bus taking seniors from Brawley to the fair.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Gaddis adjourned the Advisory Council meeting at 10:39 a.m.

Monica V. De Leon
AAA Manager

Daniel Flores
Recording Clerk