



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, January 19, 2023

Proceedings:

The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Imperial County Workforce Development Office, located at 2895 S. Fourth Street, El Centro, CA 92243.

Voting Attendees:

AJ Gaddis
John Hernandez
Benjamin J. Horton
Paul R. Monarrez
Virginia Ward
Mike Lara
Manuel Sanchez
Oreda Chin
Pablo Corona
Javier Moreno
Sedalia Sanders
Patricia Burnworth

Representing Sector:

District 3
District 4
District 5
Disabled Interest
League of Cities
Senior Advocate
Senior Advocate
Senior Organization
HICAP
Law Enforcement
At-Large
At-Large

Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Joanna D. Zepeda
Karla Flores
Monica Veliz De Leon
Andrew Briseno
Polo Salazar
Stephanie Alvarez
Annabel Huber
Letty Zuno
Karina Leon
Javier Garcia
Jaysel V. Mendoza
ICAAA Administrative Analyst I
ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Coordinator
ICAAA Information & Assistance Coordinator
County of Imperial, Counsel
Catholic Charities, Senior Nutrition, Program Manager
Catholic Charities, Director of Community Services
ICAAA Provider, Registered Dietitian
Access to Independence, Executive Director
Access To independence, Program Manager
Elder Law & Advocacy, Staff Attorney
Senator Steve Padilla, District Representative

Absent:

Cynthia Alba
Cheryl Viegas Walker
Patricia A. Thompson
Helen Lopez
Daniel Romero
Ismael Lopez
Supervisor Mike Kelley
District 1
District 2
Service Provider
CSL – Senate
CSL – Assembly
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 9:04 a.m. Flag salute and roll call were completed and quorum was established. Staff introduced guests.



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II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

AJ Gaddis motioned to approve the November 17, 2022, Advisory Council meeting minutes as presented. Manuel Sanchez 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. Javier Garcia, Staff Attorney with Elder Law & Advocacy, announced their new Elder Abuse Technology Project Clinic which will be held Tuesday mornings from 9 am to 12 pm and Wednesday afternoons from 1 pm to 4 pm. This service will provide guidance and assistance to seniors needing a temporary or permanent restraining order. This concluded his comment. John Hernandez suggested for the Elder Law & Advocacy to collaborate with the Sheriff's & District Attorney's Offices on this matter. No other comments were received.

IV. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a) **The ICAAA had two applicants for the vacant Alternate At-Large Member position. Council to take action on selecting an Alternate At-Large Member based on the Ad-hoc Nominating Committee's recommendation.**

Chair Oreda Chin provided a summary of the Ad-hoc Nominating Committee Meeting discussion. The Ad-hoc Nominating Committee is recommending for the Advisory Council to appoint Lucy Hendry to the Alternate At-Large Member position.

Sedalia Sanders motioned to accept the Ad-hoc Nominating Committee's recommendation and appoint Lucy Hendry to the Alternate At-Large Member position. AJ Gaddis seconded the motion. Chair Oreda Chin opened up the floor for comments. No further comments received. Chair Oreda Chin called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously with no nays and no abstentions.

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. Several members asked if this could be tabled or handle over email once members had an opportunity to check their availability. The committee will discuss and provide staff with a date. The rest of the Advisory Council members agreed with the recommendation and discussion on this item ended.

c) **Discuss the ICAAA Logo**

Chair Oreda Chin recommended for this item to be tabled until Cheryl Walker, the member who requested this item, is present. Paul Monarrez motioned to table this item. Mike Lara seconded the motion. Chair Oreda Chin opened up for discussion.

Sedalia Sanders provided a substitute motion for the Advisory Council to accept the logo as is and discuss any changes later, once the person who requested this is present. Mike Lara seconded the motion.



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Chair Oreda Chin called for vote on the first motion. The motion passed with no nays and one abstention from Sedalia Sanders.

Chair Oreda Chin opened discussion on the substitute motion. Benjamin Horton and Mike Lara asked for clarification on the substitute motion. Paul R. Monarrez asked for details on why this was on the agenda. AJ Gaddis provided a brief explanation on why the logo was placed on the agenda but did not have the details. She stated that her understanding was that the logo was confusing and did not represent the population we serve. Virginia Ward recommended that a substitute logo be presented before any changes are made to the current logo. AJ Gaddis stated that she is open to accept the current logo as is but would like this to be tabled and to discuss at a later date to get the details from Cheryl Walker, who was the member who requested this be placed on the agenda.

Chair Oreda Chin called for vote on tabling this item for a later date. Motioned passed with one nay from Sedalia Sanders and no abstentions.

d) Advisory Council to discuss Area Agency on Aging Social Media Presence

AJ Gaddis informed the Advisory Council that she requested this item be placed on the agenda. She recommended that an Ad-hoc Committee be formed to discuss this item. AJ Gaddis believed that a social media presence would benefit this agency by providing information to the community.

Sedalia Sanders asked if this was to establish the channels for information to follow before it gets posted. AJ Gaddis answered yes, that it was a legal issue. AJ Gaddis further stated that this would provide awareness and information on services to the public. The goal is to reach a wider audience.

John Hernandez agreed that a concerted effort needs to be made to get the information out to the community. He recommended that any future contracts with providers and employees include in writing a requirement that social media be offered. This would allow the agency to ensure the providers are getting their information out.

Paul R. Monarrez mentioned his concerned about Social Media. He stated that he doesn't believe that an Ad-hoc Committee should interact with the community through social media as this can open a can of worms. His recommendation is to limit the Social Media Platform to providing information only.

Chair Oreda Chin asked who would manage this. AJ Gaddis recommended that these questions and concerns be discussed within the Ad-hoc Social Media Committee. Once the committee meets, the ideas and plan would be presented to the full Advisory Council.

Benjamin Horton agreed with Paul R. Monarrez, that social media can open the agency to negativity including conflicts and disagreements on things posted. He commented that this need to be discussed as well.



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Sedalia Sanders recommends that social media only be used for information, providing dates and times of upcoming meetings and events. Outside of information, this can be very turbulent. Sedalia Sanders asked if the purpose was to have the Advisory Council Meetings be held online to encourage community involvement. AJ Gaddis answered that it was not the intent but that it was a good idea.

John Hernandez stated that there was a distinction between social media and information technology (IT). John Hernandez would like IT to be used to provide information to the community outside of social media.

Patricia Burnworth commented that there is a new generation of seniors that actively use social media. She would like to see the information that is already being sent by staff to be placed on a social media platform.

Chair Oreda Chin recommended that this committee be formed and that AJ Gaddis chair this committee.

Manuel Sanchez recommended that Advisory Council be cautious moving forward because of everything that is currently going on in our society. He asked for the Committee to take this into consideration when discussing social media. He recommends that this is used for information only.

AJ Gaddis asked for volunteers and the following members asked to be placed on this committee: Patricia Burnworth, Manuel Sanchez, Virginia Ward, Benjamin Horton, and Paul R. Monarrez.

Paul R. Monarrez motioned to form an Ad-hoc Social Media Committee with AJ Gaddis as the Chair. Virginia Ward seconded the motion. Chair Oreda Chin opened for discussion. No further comments were made. Chair Oreda Chin called for vote. The motion carried unanimously with no nays and no abstentions.

e) Advisory Council to discuss issue with local hospitals' services to determine Advisory Council role or involvement (if any.)

Chair Oreda Chin provided a brief overview of the issue. Unfortunately, not much information is available yet as not much is being shared by the parties in question. However, this body will need to keep this in mind since changes in service will impact cancer patients and the aging population in Imperial County.

John Hernandez agreed that the Advisory Council will need to engage in this discussion with all the changes coming to the Valley and possible loss of services.

Paul R. Monarrez stated that unfortunately the Advisory Council's role will be limited since the Area Agency on Aging does not have direct service or contract with either of the hospitals. He recommended that this issue is discussed further and handled by the Social & Health Committee. The main concern is to avoid the discontinuation of service to older adults in Imperial County.



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Manuel Sanchez, Chair of the Social & Health Committee, agreed to include this issue in the next meeting of the Social & Health Committee.

Paul R. Monarrez motioned for the Social and Health Committee to further investigate this issue to figure out the role of the Advisory Council, if any. Manuel Sanchez seconded the motion.

Chair Oreda Chin opened up for discussion.

Manuel Sanchez commented that there are a lot of rumors going around and accurate information is needed to make sure that this is handled appropriately.

Sedalia Sanders recommended that this Committee work with the two Board of Supervisors that are currently working on the hospital issue. She asked for a friendly amendment to the motion to include this recommendation.

Paul R. Monarrez accepted the amendment. The amended motion is for the Social & Health Committee to work with the two Board of Supervisors currently working on the hospital issue to further investigate and figure out the role of the Advisory Council, if any. Manuel Sanchez seconded the amended motion.

Chair Oreda Chin opened the floor for discussion. Sedalia Sander added that the two Board of Supervisor working on this issue are Ryan Kelley, District 2, and Supervisor John Hawk, District 5. This concluded her comment.

Jayzel Mendoza, District Representative for Senator Steve Padilla, asked why not go to the source for information such as the hospital's Board of Trustees.

Sedalia Sanders responded that this Advisory Council is not a standalone group. Thus, this group has to work with the Board of the Supervisors who are already working directly with the hospitals.

Chair Oreda Chin added that unfortunately the main sources are not disclosing information. The focus of this committee is assisting seniors and people with disabilities. Both hospitals are currently going through many changes and not much information is being shared. The focus is to ensure we address how these changes will impact the community served by this Council. Chair Oreda Chin thanked Jaysel Mendoza for her comment and thanked her for joining.

Chair Oreda Chin called for vote. The motion passed unanimously with no nays and no abstentions. This concluded the discussion.

V. PRESENTATIONS:

- a) Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) – Letty Zuno, Executive Director, Access to Independence

Letty Zuno started her presentation by introducing herself and Karina Leon, the new Program Manager, handling the Imperial County area. She provided the history behind Access to Independence and a brief overview of the services they provided which include:



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legal assistance, home modifications, transition programs, diversion (transitions people out of homelessness), safe in the home programs, youth & foster transitional programs, and employment services. She then shared the history behind the Imperial County ADRC including how the idea was born and the work needed for it to come into fruition. Letty Zuno thanked Helen Lopez, Advisory Council member, for her efforts to get this implemented. Mrs. Lopez was instrumental in getting the ADRC set up in Imperial County. A year ago the Imperial County received the designation of Emerging ADRC with \$168,000 in funding to get started. In a year or two, the funding level is expected to double. The purpose of the ADRC is to improve the quality of life of the clients accessing the services, making it a one stop for all their needs. Currently the ADRC is working on growing their community of partners in Imperial County. All ADRC calls are currently being handled by Karina Leon and staff at the Access to Independence office. Letty Zuno shared that additional information on the ADRC website at icadrc.org or by reading the monthly newsletter. This concluded the presentation and she opened up for questions.

Paul R. Monarrez asked how an agency could become a provider. Letty Zuno responded that they can contact the Access to Independence office.

AJ Gaddis asked if the current system is working or if the Advisory Council could help with anything. Letty Zuno responded that it would be great if the vacant position currently under the Area Agency on Aging could be filled. The original plan was for the ICAAA to be answering all calls and making the referrals to other providers. However, because the Information and Referral Coordinator position has not been filled, the staff at Access to Independence is having to respond and refer from their end. Letty Zuno also recommended Advisory Council continues to advocate to get additional presentations and updates on ADRC.

John Hernandez asked if the ADRC had their own Advisory Council. Letty Zuno responded that the State no longer requires for the ADRC to have an Advisory Council. Thus, the local ADRC opted not to create a new Advisory Council.

Chair Oreda Chin asked if this was similar to 211. Letty Zuno responded that it was very similar platform.

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 had nothing new to report.

Planning & Finance Committee: Paul R. Monarrez had nothing new to report since this committee usually meets with the Executive Committee.

Nutrition Committee: Chair Oreda Chin asked Annie Huber for an update. Annie Huber reported that she just started a new educational campaign for the quarter focusing on fiber in senior meals. She will be visiting the congregate sites and sending information in English and Spanish to Home Delivered Meal clients. She also is working with Polo Salazar, the Senior



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Nutrition Program Manager at Catholic Charities, on the menu to ensure that any substitutions made are of equal nutritional value and that the food served is also budget friendly. Annie Huber also reported that she will be going out with the Home Delivered Meals drives to ensure meals are kept at room temperature and properly handled.

Chair Oreda Chin reported that she along with staff attended the Brawley Congregate site and enjoyed the meal. Annie Huber responded that she usually spends time with the kitchen staff to ensure that everything is handled appropriately in the kitchen. She stated that now that she is in the congregate sites more often she can gather feedback from the seniors on the foods they like and dislike. She also reported that she is working on including a Quick Nutritional Tip in the monthly newsletter.

John Hernandez asked what happened to the Heber Site and if it is opened. Polo Salazar responded that the site continues to be closed while the search for a volunteer to reopen this site continues. In the meantime, the participants are being provided Home Delivered Meals or given the option to be taken to El Centro for meals. He also reported that participation dipped in November. John Hernandez asked what the participation was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Polo Salazar responded that it was about 15 participants. Nothing further was reported.

Transportation Committee: AJ Gaddis reported that the Transportation Committee has not met but will work with staff on setting a date to meet.

Social & Health Committee: Manuel Sanchez reported that the Social & Health Committee has not met. However, a date is set for a meeting next Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 2:00 pm to discuss homelessness, housing, and issues with the hospitals. This concluded the report.

Legislative Committee: AJ Gaddis provided the update on behalf of Helen Lopez who sent the following comments: Of the eleven (11) California Senior Legislature's priority proposals, eight (8) have been picked up and will be authored by Legislators, including Daniel and Helen's IHSS substitute W-2 Wage Report proposal. Helen Lopez will follow-up with details of proposals that are now bills next month. The deadline to introduce bills is February 20th, one more month. Language has to be submitted to Legislative Counsel by Jan 20th; therefore, the four (4) proposals NOT picked up yet will be submitted to Legislative Counsel by CSL "unbacked" - meaning they have no specific author yet but can still be introduced until Feb 20th. This concluded the Legislative Report.

Ad-Hoc By-Law Committee Report: AJ Gaddis provided the update on behalf of Helen Lopez who sent the following comments: Lots of work has been done. The Committee will be working on Committees (Article 7) structure, definitions, appointments and chairs in February; and Conflict of Interest, and Ad-Hoc Committee Minutes process in March. The Committee expects to submit drafts of suggested revisions to County Counsel and to the full ICAAA Advisory Council by April. Committee will continue to meet to address policies and procedures to support By-Laws while revision draft is under review. This concluded the Ad-hoc By-Law Committee report.



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VII. INFORMATION:

Chair Oreda Chin went over the informational items included in the agenda and asked members to review at their leisure.

VIII. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Chair Oreda Chin went over the Director's Report that was included in the packet and summarized it for all present. She asked Advisory Council to review the report at their leisure and any questions will be addressed with Sarah Enz at the next meeting. This concluded the report.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Chair Oreda Chin opened the floor for announcements.

Pablo Corona, sadly announced that due to personal reasons he would be resigning from the Advisory Council. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the seniors. Members thanked him for his service.

Monica De Leon, ICAAA staff, announced that Farm Smart was hosting a Senior U Pick Day on Friday, February 3, 2023 at UC Cooperative Extension. She is working with Polo Salazar to provide some meals to seniors on site. Additional information will be shared with Advisory Council via email.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Chair Oreda Chin announced that she is working with other agencies to get information out on the service available to seniors here in Imperial County. For example, the Imperial Valley Cancer Support Center offers free vasectomy products, transportation, cancer support groups, and soon are starting a prostate cancer support group. As a senior, it is confusing to know where to start when looking for a service. Hopefully this can be discussed in the future.

No further requests were made.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Oreda Chin adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Karla Flores
ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Coordinator

Monica Veliz De Leon
Recording Clerk