



# 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, May 16, 2024

**Proceedings:** The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday, May 16, 2024, 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 V. Walker  
AJ Gaddis  
John Hernandez  
Benjamin J. Horton  
Paul R. Monarrez  
Virginia Ward  
Manuel Sanchez  
Patricia Thompson  
Helen Lopez  
Daniel Romero  
Oreda Chin  
Raquel V. Camacho  
Javier Moreno  
Patricia Burnworth

### Representing Sector:

District 2  
District 3  
District 4  
District 5  
Disabled Interests  
League of Cities  
Senior Advocate  
Service Provider  
Senior Legislature  
Senior Legislature  
Senior Organization  
HICAP  
Law Enforcement  
At-Large

### Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Sarah M. Enz Public Administrator/AAA Director  
Monica V. De Leon ICAAA Manager  
Karla Flores ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Coordinator  
Joanna Zepeda ICAAA Administrative Analyst  
Daniel Flores ICAAA I & A Coordinator  
Andrew Briseño County of Imperial Counsel  
Karina Leon Access to Independence/Program Manager  
Polo Salazar Catholic Charities/Program Manager  
Ivan Romero Catholic Charities/Quality Assurance Case Manager  
Jennifer Conklin Elder Law & Advocacy/Staff Attorney

### Absent:

Cynthia Alba District 1  
Supervisor Mike Kelley County of Imperial  
Mike Lara Senior Advocate  
Sedalia Sanders At-Large  
Ismael Lopez Alternate At-Large  
Supervisor John Hawk Alternate At-Large  
Lucy M. Hendry Alternate At-Large



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Agenda Item / Action Taken:

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

Chair Oreda Chin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Manuel Sanchez led the Advisory Council in the Flag Salute. Roll call was completed.

## II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Walker/Ward (M/S/C) to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2024, Advisory Council meeting as presented. Motion came with one (1) abstention from Helen Lopez.

## III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

John Hernandez commented that the Brawley Congregate site operating hours have recently changed and seniors have had to wait outside. Sarah M. Enz responded that the Contract funds are for meals only and not extra activities. Walker commented on the potential of Congregate Sites in Calipatria/Niland area. Polo Salazar, Senior Nutrition Program Manager, provided the history of congregate sites in Calipatria including attendance and operations. Members also discussed a possible site in Imperial. Members reminded staff about providing a report on the rental fees for each congregate site. Chair Chin mentioned that the Nutrition Committee will work on that.

No further comments received.

## IV. **PRESENTATION:**

### a) **Elder Law & Advocacy – Legal Assistance & Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy**

Jennifer Conklin, Staff Attorney, provided an update on the Legal Assistance program, Restraining Orders, Tenants rights, Family Justice Center and the work Elder Law & Advocacy has done in Imperial County. Raquel Camacho gave a program update on Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) and outreach activities. Then they answered members questions.

## V. **ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### a) **Review and approve AAA's General Grievances and Complaints Policy**

Gaddis/Helen Lopez (M/S/C) to approve AAA's General Grievances and Complaints Policy as presented. Motion carried with one (1) abstention from John Hernandez.

### b) **Advisory Council to set meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Gaddis/Helen Lopez (M/S/C) to approve Advisory Council meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

### c) **Reminder of the AAA Advisory Council proposed Slate of Officers for the fiscal year 2024-2025 Election that will occur in June Meeting.**

- Chair: AJ Gaddis
- Vice-Chair: Paul R. Monarrez
- Secretary: Patricia Burnworth
- Past Chair: Oreda Chin



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### VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Executive Committee:** Chair Chin had nothing new to report.

**Legislative Committee:** Helen Lopez stated that a written report was provided. She asked staff to distribute via email. She provided a brief update on some of the bills. This concluded her report.

**Nutrition Committee:** Oreda Chin reported that the Calexico and Brawley Congregate Site monitoring visits went well. A Nutrition Committee meeting is planned for the near future. Polo Salazar, Senior Nutrition Program Manager, added that a new staff will be starting soon at the Brawley Congregate Site.

**Transportation Committee:** AJ Gaddis requested an update from Imperial County Transportation Committee that includes any findings on the Unmet Transit Needs Survey. Enz asked if there was anything specific Gaddis would like to know. Enz can request an update as she is the new Chair for one of their committees. This concluded the discussion.

**Social & Health Committee:** Manuel Sanchez reported that the committee requested a presentation from Behavioral Health for their next meeting. They will also continue the discussion on the Senior Event. In the future, the committee would like to address the rental increase issues.

### VII. INFORMATION:

Chair Chin reminded members to review informational items: Member Attendance Roster, Information & Assistance Coordinator Report, and How to participate in the Rule Making Process.

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

Sarah M. Enz provided a written report to the Council. She provided an update on Senior Nutrition, AAA Advisory Council Mileage Claims, ADRC, AAA CDBG El Centro Meal Program, Dementia Aware, CalzConnect: Building CA's Dementia Capable No Wrong Door System, Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Proclamation, and SCAN Foundation.

### IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Chair Chin opened the floor for announcements. Virginia Ward announced that the next meeting will be her last as she is moving out of town.

### X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Chair Chin opened the floor for member requests. AJ Gaddis announced that she is a master gardener and would like to present to the Advisory Council in a future meeting. Helen Lopez requested that staff provide a monthly report on Aging & Disability Resources Connection (ADRC). No other items were requested.

### XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Monarrez/Thompson (M/S/C) adjourned the Advisory Council meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Monica V. De Leon  
AAA Manager

Daniel Flores  
Recording