



# 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 18, 2023

**Proceedings:** The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council: Regular meeting of Thursday, May 18, 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:

Cynthia Alba  
Cheryl Viegas Walker  
John Hernandez  
Benjamin J. Horton  
Paul R. Monarrez  
Virginia Ward  
Mike Lara  
Manuel Sanchez  
Patricia A. Thompson  
Helen Lopez  
Oreda Chin  
Sedalia Sanders\*  
Patricia Burnworth

### Representing Sector:

District 1  
District 2  
District 4  
District 5  
Disabled Interests  
League of Cities  
Senior Advocate  
Senior Advocate  
Service Provider  
CSL – Senate  
Senior Organization  
At-Large  
At-Large

### Alternate Attendees

Ismael Lopez

Alternate At-Large

\*Member attended by phone

### Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Sarah M. Enz	Public Administrator/ICAAA Director
Monica V. De Leon	ICAAA Manager
Joanna D. Zepeda	ICAAA Administrative Analyst I
Karla Flores	ICAAA LTC Ombudsman Coordinator
Andrew Briseno	County of Imperial, Counsel
Ivan Romero	Catholic Charities, Senior Nutrition, Q/A, Case Manager
Apolinar "Polo" Salazar	Catholic Charities, Senior Nutrition, Program Manager
Raquel Camacho	Elder Law and Advocacy/HICAP
Jennifer Conklin	Elder Law and Advocacy, Staff Attorney
Blanca Morales	Calexico Wellness Center, C.E.O.
Cynthia Rodriguez	Calexico Wellness Center, Marketing & Outreach Manager
Jecell Murguia	Calexico Wellness Center, Outreach
Jennifer Zapata	Calexico Wellness Center, Outreach Medical Assistant
Elisa Barnett	Alzheimer's Association, San Diego/Imperial County
Karina Leon	Access to Independence, Program Manager
Gabriela Zamora	Sonrisa Villa, Inc., Manager
Isabel Andrade	Imperial Valley Food Bank, Outreach Manager
Shawn Angulo	ICAAA, I&A Volunteer



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**Absent:**

AJ Gaddis	District 3
Supervisor Mike Kelley	County of Imperial
Daniel Romero	CSL - Assembly
Javier Moreno	Law Enforcement
Lucy M. Hendry	Alternate At-Large
Supervisor John Hawk	Alternate At-Large

Agenda Item / Action Taken:

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

Chair Chin called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Member Monarrez led the Flag salute; roll call was completed, and quorum was established. Guests introduced themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Walker/Ward (M/S/C) to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2023, Advisory Council meeting as presented.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Cynthia Rodriguez of Calexico Wellness Center announced that they are working on holding health clinics in Heber and Salton Sea. She will send out the calendar of upcoming events.

John Hernandez stated that he had seen that additional funds were available from the Public Benefits Program and he would like the AAA to apply. Sarah Enz, AAA Director, replied that AAA will be applying for funding for transportation, food, and more. This concluded the Public Comments.

**IV. PRESENTATION:**

a) **Elder Law & Advocacy – Legal Assistance & Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program Update:** Jennifer Conklin and Raquel Camacho summarized program mission, vision, recent updates to services, and upcoming projects for both programs.

**V. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

a) **Discuss the ICAAA Logo**

This discussion was tabled to be discussed once Social & Health Committee had a chance to meet and provide a recommendation on this item.

b) **Nominating Committee to set a date to meet to review applications for the HICAP member position. Meeting should be no later than Wednesday, June 7, 2023.**

The following members volunteered to be on the committee: Paul R. Monarrez, Mike Lara, Benjamin J. Horton, and John Hernandez. The committee members instructed staff to send out an email to set meeting date. No further action was taken.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**Planning & Finance Committee:** Combined with Executive Committee. Nothing new to report.

**Legislative Committee:** Chair Lopez had nothing new to report but will inform members that she would send out a written report at a later date. Sarah Enz, AAA Director, provided a brief update on the California State Budget. John Hernandez



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requested for the Legislative Committee provide updates on AB 918 which would set up a single healthcare district for Imperial County. Helen Lopez stated that she would add it to track.

**Nutrition Committee:** Ginger Ward reported the committee's monitoring to the El Centro Adult Center. Everything went well.

**Transportation Committee:** Sarah Enz provided a brief update on the transportation strike and the impact to IVT Ride /IVT Access services. She reported that the managers were providing transportation for these two services to avoid impact to this vulnerable population.

**Social & Health Committee:** Chair Sanchez had nothing new to report. He will work with staff to set up a meeting.

**Ad-Hoc By-Law Committee Report:** Member Lopez had nothing new to report and reminded staff that this Committee has been disbanded and should be removed from this section.

### VII. INFORMATION:

Chairman Chin reminded members to review informational items: Member Attendance Roster and LTC Ombudsman Coordinator Report.

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

Written report provided and attached to Agenda. Director Enz update on the ADRC and CDBG El Centro Meal Program which is set to restart on July 1, 2023. She then highlighted details of the upcoming projects: Dementia Care Aware and CalzConnect. Manger Monica De Leon provided on the 2023 Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults (CASOA) being sent out statewide by California Department of Aging. This concluded the Director's Report.

### IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Chair Chin opened the floor for announcements. Member Lara announced that the El Centro Senior Club was hosting a Senior Event on Friday, May 19, 2023. He invited everyone to attend.

### X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- a) Additional information on the Skilled Nursing Facility being taken over by Pioneer's Health
- b) Additional information on Master Plan on Aging

### XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Chin adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Sarah M. Enz  
Public Administrator/ICAAA Director

Monica Veliz De Leon  
Recording Clerk