



# 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, October 19, 2023

**Proceedings:** The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council: Regular meeting of Thursday, October 19, 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:

AJ Gaddis  
John Hernandez  
Paul R. Monarrez  
Virginia Ward  
Manuel Sanchez\*\*  
Helen Lopez  
Oreda Chin  
Raquel Camacho  
Sedalia Sanders\*  
Patricia Burnworth  
Ismael Lopez

### Representing Sector:

District 3  
District 4  
Disabled Interests  
League of Cities  
Senior Advocate  
CSL – Senate  
Senior Organization  
HICAP  
At-Large  
At-Large  
Alternate At-Large

\*Member attended by phone. \*\*Members arrived after roll call.

### Non-Voting Attendees/Providers:

Sarah M. Enz Public Administrator / ICAAA Director  
Monica V. De Leon ICAAA Manager  
Joanna D. Zepeda ICAAA Administrative Analyst I  
Andrew Briseno County of Imperial, Counsel  
Apolinar “Polo” Salazar Catholic Charities, Senior Nutrition, Program Manager  
Jacell Murguia Calexico Wellness Center, Outreach  
Blue Guerra Calexico Wellness Center, Volunteer  
Cynthia Rodriguez Calexico Wellness Center, Marketing / Outreach Manager  
Eddie Mejorado Barbara Worth Country Club Owner  
Larry Lewis Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley, Chief Executive Officer  
Michelle Ortiz CHPIV, Sr. Director of Human Resources & Community Relations  
Karina Leon Access to Independence, Program Manager  
Eulalio Meraz Public Administrator, Deputy Public Administrator II  
Cristal Felix Desert Investments, LLC, Manager

### Absent:

Cynthia Alba District 1  
Cheryl Viegas Walker District 2  
Benjamin J. Horton District 5  
Supervisor Mike Kelley County of Imperial  
Mike Lara Senior Advocate  
Patricia A. Thompson Service Provider  
Daniel Romero CSL - Assembly  
Javier Moreno Law Enforcement  
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. Virginia Ward led the Advisory Council in the Flag Salute. Roll call was completed. Quorum was established after Public Comments. Guests introduced themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Approval of Minutes was done after Public Comments once quorum was established. H. Lopez/Ward (M/S/C) to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023, Advisory Council meeting as presented.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Public Comments Cynthia Rodriguez, Marketing/Outreach Manager from Calexico Wellness Center, invited Advisory Council to attend the Breast Cancer Awareness Health Fair on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, from 9 am to 12 pm at their clinic. She provided additional details on the event.

No other public comments were received.

**IV. PRESENTATION:**

a) Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley – Introduction & Overview – Larry Lewis, Chief Executive Officer, & Michelle Stephanie Ortiz-Trujillo, Senior Director of Human Resources & Community Relations, Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley - Imperial County Local Health Authority Commission

Larry Lewis, CEO of the Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley provided the history of the new insurance including the funding sources, the governance and oversight, the process of hiring the management team, an additional detail behind the purpose of creating the new plan. He also provided information on the transition plans for current MediCal patients. Mr. Lewis then answered questions from the Advisory Council. This concluded the presentation.

**V. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

a) **AAA Advisory Council Quarterly Mileage Reimbursement for FY 2023-2024**

Chair Oreda Chin reminded the members that they could submit a request for mileage reimbursement. No further comments were received.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Executive Committee:** Chair Chin stated that she will work with staff to organize a meeting sometime in November.

**Legislative Committee:** Committee Chair Helen Lopez stated that an update was provided in writing and emailed to all members of the Advisory Council. The update was also included in the agenda. She asked members to complete the ballot to help them select the proposed bills to support in the Legislative Session taking place later in the month. This concluded her report.

**Nutrition Committee:** Chair Chin had nothing new to report but stated that she will be organizing a meeting soon.



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**Transportation Committee:** Committee Chair Gaddis reported that a meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 30, 2023, at 11:00 am. She will have staff send out an invite.

**Social & Health Committee:** Chair Sanchez had nothing new to report.

Member John Hernandez asked Eddie Mejorado from Barbara Worth Country Club if he wanted to add anything. Mr. Mejorado stated that he was not prepared to make any comments. He explained that he was there to listen to the community needs because he had been thinking about possibly opening a long-term care facility at his hotel. This concluded his comment.

## VII. INFORMATION:

Chair Chin reminded members to review informational items: Member Attendance Roster, October 2023 - AAA Legislative Committee Report, 2023 Priority Proposal Ballot for AAA October 2023, and the California Senior Legislature – 2023 Proposal Summary

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

No Director’s Report was provided as Director Enz had to step out to another meeting. Monica De Leon, AAA Manager, reported that an offer was made and accepted for the Information & Assistance Coordinator position.

## IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Chair Chin opened the floor for announcements. No announcements were made.

## X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Chair Chin opened the floor for member requests. No future agenda items were requested.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Chin/Ward (M/S/C) to adjourn the Advisory Council meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Sarah M. Enz  
Public Administrator / ICAAA Director

Monica Veliz De Leon  
Recording Clerk