



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, September 21, 2023

Proceedings: The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council: Regular meeting of Thursday, September 21, 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
AJ Gaddis
John Hernandez
Paul R. Monarrez
Virginia Ward
Manuel Sanchez**
Patricia A. Thompson**
Helen Lopez
Daniel Romero**
Oreda Chin
Raquel Camacho
Sedalia Sanders*
Patricia Burnworth

Representing Sector:

District 1
District 3
District 4
Disabled Interests
League of Cities
Senior Advocate
Service Provider
CSL – Senate
CSL - Assembly
Senior Organization
HICAP
At-Large
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
Karla Flores ICAAA Long-Term Care Ombudsman Coordinator
Shawn Angulo ICAAA Information & Assistance Volunteer
Andrew Briseno County of Imperial, Counsel
Marisol Enriquez Catholic Charities, Senior Nutrition, Case Manager
Apolinar “Polo” Salazar Catholic Charities, Senior Nutrition, Program Manager
Jacell Murguia Calxico Wellness Center, Outreach
Jennifer Zapata Calxico Wellness Center, Outreach Medical Assistant
Flor De Alba Dept. of Social Services, In-home Supportive Services

Absent:

Cheryl Viegas Walker District 2
Benjamin J. Horton District 5
Supervisor Mike Kelley County of Imperial
Mike Lara Senior Advocate
Javier Moreno Law Enforcement
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. AJ Gaddis led the Advisory Council in the Flag Salute. Roll call was completed. Quorum was established. Guests introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Monarrez/Gaddis (M/S/C) to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2023, Advisory Council meeting as presented.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Karla Flores provided an update on the upcoming National Senior Citizen's Day event which will take place on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, including information on transportation to the event.

John Hernandez made the following remarks:

- He has noticed an issue with vandalism and lack of maintenance of senior apartments, he would like to know who oversees the upkeep of senior apartments.
- He requested an update from staff on the Niland storm and its impact on seniors.
- He announced that the Brawley Senior Center had a new coordinator.

Sarah M. Enz, ICAAA Director, addressed some of his concerns and provided an update on the Niland situation.

Karla Flores provided an update on the Pioneers Memorial Skill Nursing that recently transitioned its residents back after having to close their doors due to a fire.

Helen Lopez commented that the new COVID-19 vaccine was already being administered.

Polo Salazar, Catholic Charities Senior Nutrition Program Manager, provided an update on the congregate sites and delivery routes being provided.

No other public comments were received.

IV. PRESENTATION:

a) Public Administrator Services Overview

Sarah M. Enz, Imperial County Public Administrator / Guardian / Conservator/ AAA Director provided information on the services provided by the Public Administrator Department and described the department's mission and goal when helping clients. She answered questions from members as she described each of the services.

V. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a) Chair to appoint an Ad-hoc Policies and Procedures Committee of not less than three (3) Advisory Council members to develop policies and procedures to compliment the Advisory Council By-Laws

Chair Oreda Chin appointed the following members to the committee:

1. Helen Lopez
2. Cynthia Alba
3. Patricia Thompson



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4. AJ Gaddis

b) 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. John Hernandez commented that this was implemented to ensure participation from seniors living in the outermost cities such as Bombay Beach, Salton City, Winterhaven, Ocotillo, or others. Everyone thought this was a great idea. Nothing further was discussed.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Chair Chin had nothing new to report.

Legislative Committee: Committee Chair Lopez stated that an update was provided in writing and emailed to all members of the Advisory Council. She also reported that she was working with staff to hold a meeting soon.

Nutrition Committee: Chair Chin had nothing new to report.

Transportation Committee: Committee Chair Gaddis reported that she sent out an email letting everyone know that she was working with staff to coordinate a meeting soon.

Social & Health Committee: Chair Sanchez had nothing new to report. He commented he will be reaching out to Helen Lopez to get updates on some upcoming changes in Legislation.

VII. INFORMATION:

Chair Chin reminded members to review informational items: Member Attendance Roster, Advisory Council Roster, Committee Membership Roster, Advisory Council Meeting Schedule, Advisory Council By-Laws, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Coordinator Reports, and Senior Citizens Day Event Flyers.

VIII. AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Sarah M. Enz provided an overview of the SCAN Project and their findings which were presented in the book – "Stories of a Movement: Lived Experience Matters Advancing Health Equity in Aging – September 2023". Ms. Enz pointed out stories of our county and shared her experience in assisting with this project. She then answered some questions. This concluded the Director's Report.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Chair Chin opened the floor for announcements.

Patricia Thompson announced that John Lenderman, a local attorney, was hosting monthly programs to assist Veteran's to apply for benefits. The events are taking place at the American Legion located on Broadway in El Centro. She will send out additional information on this.

AJ Gaddis announced that she recently became a Master Gardener. She, along with some of her colleagues, is partnering with Farm Smart to set up gardens at local senior apartments.

Helen Lopez requested an update from staff on the vacant positions. Director Enz provided the update.



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John Hernandez stated that he would like to see any monitoring or audit findings presented to the Advisory Council. Ms. Enz agreed to bring any findings to the Council and provided an update on the upcoming monitoring and audit the State has planned.

Daniel Romero announced that he was grateful to be back and thanked the Advisory Council for their patience as he dealt with some issues in his business.

Oreda Chin announced that San Diego State University was hosting a Meet & Greet for their Alumni and Students. The event will take place today, September 21, 2023, at 5:30 pm at SDSU's Art Studio.

This concluded the announcements by members.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Member AJ Gaddis requested an update on the hospital situation as a future agenda item. Chair Chin provided an update on the current situation and encouraged members to read the article in the local newspaper on AB 918 that will provide additional details on what is planned for the local hospitals. Currently, this bill is at the Governor's desk awaiting signature. Helen Lopez added that the Governor has until October 14, 2023, to take action or it will automatically become law. Chair Chin that until we find out what is decided nothing new can be reported.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Oreda Chin adjourned the Advisory Council meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Sarah M. Enz
Public Administrator / ICAAA Director

Monica Veliz De Leon
Recording Clerk