



**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING**  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A general meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging was convened on October 20, 2020 at 1 pm remotely, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (12)	Members Absent (1)
Lisa O'Neill	David Spelich
Barbara Marshall	
Belinda Akes	
Brenda Holt	
Cameron Johnson, proxy for Wanda Wright	
Carol Brown	
Jaime Aguilar	
Shelli Silver	
Steve Wagner	
Virginia Rountree	
Terri Spitz	
John Stiteler	
Wayne Tormala	
Staff and Guests Present (5)	
Maria Fuentes	Nicole Colyer
Kristin Sorensen	Grace Applebe
Kim Brooks	

**Call to Order**

- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, called the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) meeting to order at 1:00 pm. with 13 members present and 1 member absent.

**Welcome**

- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, welcomed everyone and asked all members to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, requested a review of the June 3, 2020 minutes. She reminded Council members that they received a copy prior to the meeting and asked members to take a few minutes to review and see if revisions were needed.
  - **Carol Brown** moved to approve the 06/03/20 minutes.
  - **Belinda Akes** seconded the motion.
    - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

#### **Maria Fuentes, Director, Governor's Office of Youth Faith and Family**

- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, welcomed **Maria Fuentes**, Director of the Governor's Office of Youth Faith and Family.
- **Director Fuentes** welcomed Council members to the first council meeting staffed by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF).
- **Director Fuentes** shared that GOYFF's work evolves based on the priorities of the Governor. Through a trauma-informed lens, GOYFF develops programs, coalitions, strategies, and initiatives to support Governor Doug Ducey's priorities related to substance abuse prevention, human trafficking, sexual & domestic violence, juvenile justice, and child well-being. Several of the GOYFF focus areas intersect with the work of the Council and the population it addresses. GOYFF also oversees nine of the Governor's Appointed Councils or Commissions.
- GACA membership now includes representation from state agencies that interact significantly with the aging population to strengthen the public and private partnership within voting membership of the Council. Meetings will be held every other month and materials for the Council will be housed on the GOYFF website on the Aging Council page.
- **Director Fuentes** shared information regarding the mask distribution program facilitated by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA). Originally, the program started with distributing free cloth masks to Arizonans ages 65+ and vulnerable communities. Recently, the program was expanded to students and staff of schools. Cloth masks are shipped directly to residential addresses. More information to complete this order can be found at: [www.azdhs.gov/OrderMasks](http://www.azdhs.gov/OrderMasks).

#### **Conflict of Interest Training**

- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, welcomed and introduced **Nicole Ong Colyer**, Deputy General Counsel to Governor Doug Ducey.
- **Nicole** presented Conflict of Interest Training with the goal of the presentation to make members aware of the Conflict of Interest Laws in Arizona and any red flags to look out for while serving on the Council.

#### **Councilmember introductions and Agency Updates**

- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, stated that prior to this meeting, each Council member was contacted, requesting that they take a moment to introduce themselves to the Council and provide a short organizational update.
- **Barbara Marshall**, Prosecutor, Maricopa County Prosecutor's Office. **Barbara** was the first Elder Abuse Prosecutor and now oversees several functional units in the office, including the group that handles both financial fraud and physical abuse of the elderly.
- **Belinda Akes**, Chair & Board member for Pinal/Gila Senior Citizen Council, President of the Santa Cruz Valley Foodbank, Chair for the Eloy Fire District, Economic Development Group of Eloy (EDGE). **Belinda** shared that the Pinal/Gila Senior Citizen Council runs the Meals on Wheels

program and has repurposed property in Eloy for an additional kitchen to serve meals to seniors in need.

- **Brenda Holt**, Arizona State Office of AARP. **Brenda** stated that all services have been transitioned into a virtual space to continue to grow and partner with other organizations, increasing overall engagement on all social platforms. AARP has been reaching out to younger individuals to be poll-takers instead of the older generations that have traditionally served in the polls. During their annual day of service in September, AARP partnered with the VA hospital to provide lunches to 575 first responders and employees. AARP also sponsors a fraud-prevention initiative with no-contact shredding.
- **Cameron Johnson**, proxy for Director Colonel Wanda Wright, represented the Arizona Department of Veteran Services. As a recent Airforce Retiree from Luke Force Airbase, Cameron supports programs for two State Veteran Homes in Phoenix and Tucson, with two additional homes opening in 2021 in Yuma and Flagstaff. **Cameron** shared that Veteran Benefits Counselors are active within the community and work with a full spectrum of veterans to file pensions and compensation claims on the veteran's behalf. The Veteran's Services Departments also oversee small and large grants.
- **Carol Brown**, Program Development Manager of Western Arizona Council of Governments, under which the Area Agency on Aging operates for the region. **Carol** serves on the Western Chapter of Fall Prevention Coalition, Arizona State Chapter of Fall Prevention, works with the Alzheimer Association on their Regional Leadership Council, Local Elder Abuse Awareness Coalition, works at the state level with CASA and Age-Friendly Arizona. Chair of the Ambassador Team for County Chamber of Commerce – provides education and outreach of aging needs. **Carol** shared that AAA has been incredibly busy since the beginning of COVID in delivering meals on wheels safely for the elderly isolated at home, seeking ways to reach out to seniors to offer support, focusing on caregivers in the home that are increasingly stressed.
- **Jaime Aguilar**, President of the Southeastern Arizona Governments Area Agency on Aging (SEAGO), Region 6. **Jaime**, a twenty-four year veteran of law enforcement, worked as a criminal investigator with a focus on vulnerable adult abuse, child molestation and narcotics as well as working for the Arizona Prosecuting Office in Graham County. He shared that the Director of Area Agency on Aging Region 6, Laura Via, has gone above and beyond to help the elderly populations within the community assisting and encouraging them to get free COVID testing through the Medicare Program.
- **Lisa O'Neill**, Chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging for the last four years. She has worked for the last twelve years for the University of Arizona Center on Aging as the Associate Director of Research, teaching Geriatric education to an inter-professional audience. **Lisa** also sits on the Board of the Arizona Caregiver Coalition.
- **Shelli Silver**, Deputy Director for Health Plan Operations at Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), where she has worked for twenty-two years. **Shelli** shared that prior to COVID, AHCCCS had 1.9 million members, growing to 2 million members throughout the pandemic. Congress has made available temporary additional federal Medicaid Program funding to support Arizonans. AHCCCS has increased abilities to deliver services via Telehealth and expanded benefits for long term care members.
- **Steve Wagner**, President and Founder of the Rite Care Foundation. Right Care Foundation, an Arizona nonprofit organization, advocates for best practice care and improving quality of life for older Arizonans. He has been an active duty FireFighter Paramedic for the City of Phoenix for nineteen years, leading him to become engaged in the Attorney General's Task Force Against Senior Abuse and the Attorney General's Health and Safety Committee. **Steve** serves on the Health Current Health Information Advanced Directive Workgroup, a cooperative of

organizations working to create an electronic registry that makes advanced directives available for first responders before they arrive on the scene.

- **Virginia (Ginny) Roundtree**, Deputy Director of Community Services and Manage Care with the Department of Economic Security (DES). DES' response to the pandemic has been extensive with over \$70 million dollars distributed through the CARES Act and State Emergency Funding. The funding has been distributed to a variety of community partners to support the expansion of services to Arizonans in need. The Department of Developmental Disabilities, a managed care plan contracted through AHCCCS, has distributed \$120 million dollars into the networks, most of which has gone to providers to purchase PPE and necessary cleaning supplies.
- **Terri Spitz**, Executive Director for the Alzheimer's Association in Desert Southwest. The Alzheimer's Association has a mission of leading the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia by accelerating research, driving risk reduction, early detection, and maximizing care and support. The Alzheimer's Association is a volunteer powered organization. As a result, when COVID hit, community education and support groups were moved to a virtual platform, adding education based on the feedback from the 24/7 helpline.
- **Wayne Tormala**, Bureau Chief of the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) overseeing the Prevention, Detection and Management of the eight Leading Causes of Death in Arizona. COVID has consumed AZDHS as it is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death in Arizona. ADHS has created a Healthy Aging Program that focuses on caregiver support for Alzheimer-related dementia and fall prevention. ADHS is planning to launch a new 5-year Arizona Health Improvement Plan in January 2021, with a focus on improving mental health and well-being for Arizonans, diving deeper into social isolation and how it ties into the opioid epidemic, suicide etc.
- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, thanked all of the Council members for their work, looking forward to hearing more in the future.

#### **Arizona Long Term Care Taskforce**

- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, called on **Ginny Roundtree**, a member of the Arizona Long Term Care Taskforce, to provide a brief overview of the task force. **Ginny** thanked **Lisa** for the introduction and provided the following information:
- On July 28, 2020, Governor Doug Ducey formed the Long Term Care Task Force through Executive Order with a purpose of developing recommendations and metrics regarding visitation of long term care facilities as well as steps that facilities could take to help residents and their loved ones maintain contact while maintaining social distancing. The Task Force is made up of 31 members that include individuals and stakeholders such as Arizona State representatives and legislators, providers, state agencies, and family members whose loved ones are in long-term care facilities.
- The Task Force has provided guidance which went into effect onto October 1, 2020. Feedback is being collected from stakeholders to make adjustments and to provide further clarification on certain guidelines.
- One of the most recent adjustments, the identification of a designated essential visitor was discussed, allowing a resident in the facility to identify one or two visitors that they would like to have come on a regular basis. Focus of the next meeting will be to discuss off-site visits due to the upcoming holidays.
- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, asked the Council members if there were any questions regarding the Task Force and thanked **Ginny** for the update.

#### **Community and Legislative Partnership**

- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, introduced **Kim Brooks**, Commission Coordinator for the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family. **Lisa** explained that **Kim** has been working to maintain a supportive role with the Community and Legislative Partnership meeting and asked for her to provide a brief overview.
- **Kim Brooks** stated that as the Aging Council has been one of the key partners in the Community and legislative partners in aging meetings, GOYFF is continuing to partner with the current legislative sponsors to help support the facilitation of these meetings. Since moving to remote platforms, attendance has continued to grow as the remote platform has enabled stakeholders from all over the state to participate. The next meeting will be held on zoom, Tuesday, November 17th, spotlighting the Alzheimer's Consortium.
- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, asked Council members if they had any questions for **Kim** and finished by thanking her for the overview.

### Future Meeting Dates and Topics

- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, requested that Council members mark their calendars for the next meeting on 12/16/2020 at 10 am which will be held via Zoom.
- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, opened the floor to the Council to propose any potential presenters for future meetings.
- **Carol Brown** asked about Subcommittees vs Workgroups and if the workgroups will take place within the 2 hour Council meetings. **Kim** provided guidance on the operations of the workgroups and **Lisa** stated that a concrete plan will be established and shared as soon as possible.
- **Carol** suggested that the December meeting be focused around the landscape of COVID.
- **Belinda Akes** asked if liaisons will report out to the members on the Council. **Lisa** stated that most agencies with liaisons have been appointed to the Council, as a result, will not be necessary to provide reports as an addition to the agenda.
- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, suggested having Dr. Nayeri from the Fall Prevention Coalition present, as well as the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as to how they are navigating COVID & providing services virtually.
- **Ginny Rountree** recommended an Adult Protective Services (APS) presentation, an overview of the work and educational opportunities that they offer as well as how they have been impacted by COVID.
- **Barbara Marshall** mentioned previously scheduled presentations pre-COVID, including Courtney Bennett from the Attorney General's Office, to discuss Advance Directives. **Steve Wagner** suggested a Mini Panel/experts regarding Advance Directives from the New Health Information Exchange.
- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, announced future meetings dates which were also provided on the agenda.

### Adjournment

- **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**, thanked Council members for their attendance and requested a first and second motion to adjourn the meeting. **Carol Brown**, motioned to adjourn with **Wayne Tormala** seconding the motion
  - Motion passed with no dissenting votes and the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:  
Kim Brooks  
Commissions Coordinator, GOYFF