



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

April 13, 2022, 10:00 AM

1700 West Washington Street, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

A general meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging was convened on **April 13, 2022**, in a hybrid format, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (10)	Members Absent (5)
Terri Spitz, Chair	Lela Alston
Belinda Akes	Tim Dunn
Bert Ijams	Brenda Holt
Steve Wagner	Jaime Aguilar
Teresa Manygoats	Bonita Imus
Carol Brown, Vice-Chair	
Shelli Silver	
Virginia Rountree	
Lisa O'Neill	
Barbara Marshall	
Shelli Silver	
Staff and Guests Present (5)	
Kim Brooks	Molly McCarthy
Kainoa Spencer	Mary Beals Luedtka
Katie Skvarce	

Call to Order

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging meeting to order at **10:01 a.m.** with **10 members** and 5 staff and guests present. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reviewed the procedures of the hybrid meeting and welcomed all those present.

Roll Call

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, conducted a roll call of the Council and took note of Councilmember proxies with quorum met.

Approval of Minutes

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested a review of the **February 9, 2022** meeting minutes.
 - **Carol Brown** moved to accept the **February 9, 2022** minutes with the amendment.
 - **Bert Ijams** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **10:04 a.m.**

Arizona State Plan on Aging

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Molly McCarthy**, Assistant Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services at the Department of Economic Services (DES) for an overview of the proposed [State Plan on Aging for 2023-2026](#). **Terri Spitz, Chair**, shared that [Arizona Revised Statute 46-184](#) specifies that the council will advise all state departments which the council deems necessary on all matters and issues

relating to aging, including administration of the state plan on aging. The council has received a copy of this plan before the meeting for review. **Molly** began her presentation with a State Plan background, sharing that the Older Americans Act (OAA) requires each State Unit on Aging (SUA) to submit the State Plan on Aging every 4 years to support funding of the Area Agencies on Aging through the Administration for Community Living (ACL). There will be two virtual public comment meetings in April and May, which allows time to update the plan based on public comments. The plan will then be routed for the Governor's signature and become effective with the new federal fiscal year.

- The Biden administration provided priorities that were to be included in the State Plan: COVID recovery, advancing equity, expanding services with home and community services, and building caregiver infrastructure. The ACL also stressed the importance of three additional areas: social needs of specific populations, focusing on providing services to those with low economic status, and focusing on caregiver support.
- The State Plan on Aging has five goals and between two to five objectives within those goals.
 - Goal 1: Provide older adults in Arizona with access to quality care, working with case managers to support the delivery of information so that Arizonans can understand what services are available to them. Additionally, working with the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to identify gaps and integrate their feedback into what is current and what can be adapted to support Arizona's highest-need communities.
 - Goal 2: Increase awareness and understanding of aging issues. Looking at best practices for targeted outreach and promoting positive person-centered pronouns for older adults.
 - Goal 3: Increase the ability of adult Arizonans to maintain their individual well-being and safety to remain healthy, active, and independent. This is done by partnering with the Department of Health Services, AHCCCS (Arizona Health Care Cost Containment Services), and DES to connect people with resources to remain healthy and active through a variety of services. Also within this goal is strengthening efforts to prevent and respond to reports of elder maltreatment working in collaboration with the state long-term care ombudsman program for training, providing prioritization of Adult Protective Services activities, and fostering inclusion and diversity of underserved and underrepresented LGBTQ populations.
 - Goal 4: Providers for older adults in Arizona can provide an integrated and well-trained informal, paraprofessional, and professional workforce, strengthening the family caregiver support system and developing a direct care workforce sufficient to meet the growing care needs in Arizona, embracing a trauma enforced lens for the caregivers. This also includes a volunteer network, using the Arizona Respite Registry and a full provider rate analysis to determine where Arizona is with respect to wages.
 - Goal 5: Ensuring Arizona has the necessary infrastructure to deliver needed support services. This entails working to identify how Arizona can broaden ways to provide services that may have been identified through the pandemic that can continue as best practices or options for those with limited resources. Also within this goal is to identify if the State needs more of a Navigator program that would provide a warm hand-off to support Arizonans that need the additional guidance to obtain needed services.

The goals have not significantly changed year to year, the significant changes can be found within the objectives. Three themes came through the community feedback venues: caregiver shortages, gaps in service coverage in the form of waitlists and funding constraints, and rising costs versus the funding of programs.

- **Carol Brown** inquired if there is a way to include the GACA goals and objectives in the State plan. **Molly** stated that there is a potential for integration into the plan as this is still in draft form.
- **Bert Ijams** thanked **Molly** for the presentation. **Bert** inquired as to how we can identify goals and objectives that have not been met following the plan's approval. **Molly** responded that under the objectives sections of the plan, a number of the objectives are specific measures that the state is working toward meeting. A number of other objectives are researching and identifying what measures will support the data that will help determine if the efforts have been successful. **Bert** asked if the previous plan was considered in making the

future plan. **Molly** responded that yes, the plan was considered. In the current plan, many of the goals were de-emphasized due to the pandemic and the need to shift the focus of the work. **Bert further** asked if there is a budget for this Plan. **Molly** shared that the Older Americans Act funding supports administration costs, which supports her office. **Bert** shared that she will be sharing this with her constituents in the Prescott area.

- The full presentation can be found at <https://goyff.az.gov/meeting/qaca/2022/04/13>.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked **Molly** for the presentation and all of the very important work of the DES/DAAS.

Alzheimer's Association - Facts and Figures Report

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Katie Skvarce**, Communications Director from the Alzheimer's Association, Desert Southwest Chapter for an overview of the recent Facts and Figures Report distributed by the Alzheimer's Association. *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* is an annual report released by the Alzheimer's Association, revealing the burden of Alzheimer's and dementia on individuals, caregivers, government, and the nation's health care system. More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and over 11 million provide their unpaid care. The cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias is estimated to total \$321 billion in 2022.
- Specific to Arizona, dementia deaths have gone up by 17% during the COVID period, with Arizona having the highest dementia death rate in the country. There are some specific reasons as to why this took place that the Association is looking into, leaning toward social isolation which accelerates the trajectory of the disease. It is also unclear if some of the death certificates should have indicated the cause of death as Alzheimer's but were marked with COVID as the cause of death. Arizona also has the highest growth rate per capita of Alzheimer's disease for the fifth year in a row. In Arizona, 150,000 people are living with Alzheimer's Disease with 257,000 caregivers providing support to those with the disease providing \$9.6 billion in unpaid care per year and 54% of those caregivers have been diagnosed with chronic healthcare conditions. It is estimated that there will be an increase of 33.3% of people aged 65 and older diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease from 2020 to 2025.
- **Katie** shared that on June 3, 2022, the Alzheimer's Association will be hosting a Virtual Alzheimer's Education Conference in English and on June 16 in Spanish, providing updates on the latest research; gaining insights into how to make lifestyle choices to help you keep your brain and body healthy as you age; hearing from a panel of experts on dementia and the LGBTQ+ community, and learning more about end of life planning.
- **Barb Marshall** requested clarification on the number of people diagnosed with Alzheimer's. **Katie** provided clarification that one in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's. **Barb** further inquired as to the diagnosis rate at approximately 25% worldwide. **Barb** asked the average age of diagnosis. **Katie** responded that after 65, the chance of diagnosis increases significantly. **Barb** further inquired about the misdiagnosis rate. **Katie** shared that often a general practitioner does not have the specialized training and is more likely to explore anxiety as the cause of memory issues.
- The full presentation can be found at <https://goyff.az.gov/meeting/qaca/2022/04/13>.

Workgroup Update

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Steve Wagner** for an update on the Aging in Community Workgroup (AIC). **Steve** shared updates on the AIC workgroup objectives:
 - **Objective 1:** Dementia Education Training for Adult Protective Services or First Responders: The Aging in Community workgroup will support a 1-hour training once a year (total of 4) in different areas of the state utilizing the Alzheimer's Association's curriculum. Adult Protective Services has agreed to embed the Alzheimer's Association virtual training in their 12-week training program. This training will be required for APS workers. The training will roll out this summer.
 - **Objective 2:** Alzheimer's State Day at the Capitol: Ensure 3 GACA members attend the event and provide a report back to Council - 6 GACA members attended and GOYFF promoted on social media.

- **Objective 3:** Caregiver's State Day at the Capitol: Ensure 3 GACA members attend the event and provide a report back to Council - 8 GACA members attended and GOYFF promoted on social media.
- **Objective 4:** Attorney General's Task Force Against Senior Abuse (TASA): Ensure 1-2 GACA members attend scheduled meetings and provide a report back to Council. Two GACA members attended the most recent meeting.
- **Objective 5:** Alzheimer's State Plan: When this task force is reactivated ensure 1-2 GACA members would indicate interest in joining the task force and attending scheduled meetings and reporting back to Council. The Alzheimer's Task Force now has designated roles. Council members would be encouraged to apply if appropriate to serve in designated roles. Both Bills (SB1199 and SB1539 - similar language to establish an Alzheimer's Advisory Council) did not pass.
- **Steve** shared that the workgroup will be meeting immediately following the GACA meeting and invites council members to attend.

Councilmember & Liaison Roundtable

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, began with her own update from the Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter. The Facts and Figures report is out and if anyone would like more information, please connect with Terri or Katie. Starting April 1, 2022, the Alzheimer's Association is moving to in-person support groups. Some groups are remaining remote but others are excited to resume in-person attendance. In June, the Alzheimer's Association will host Alzheimer's Conferences in both English and in Spanish. To register, use the hyperlink in the flier that will be part of the meeting documents online or call the 1-800 number on the flier.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Barbara Marshall** for an update from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO). **Barbara** had no updates.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Belinda Akes**. **Belinda** shared that as president of the Eloy Food Bank, she was invited to present to the 100 Plus Group. After her presentation, a gift of \$3,300 was awarded to the food bank from this group. Regarding the Pinal Gila Council of Senior Citizens, senior centers are now back open for congregate meals, deliveries are expanding and the meal service may be expanding into Apache Junction due to a shift in provider services. **Belinda** shared a success story regarding the legal services provided by the Council on Seniors providing the tools for a senior to regain her safety after being burglarized by her boyfriend.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Bert Ijams** for an update from the Prescott Meals on Wheels. **Bert** shared that she attended both Caregiver Day and Alzheimer's Days at the Capitol. **Bert** recently met with Tina and Leslie from the Alzheimer's Association, a great deal of education was exchanged and they identified ways to collaborate to support the stakeholders in the Prescott area. **Bert** shared an experience in which through services from the Meals on Wheels program, they were able to secure shelter for an 82-year-old woman that was being abused by her husband as well as working with a woman that is experiencing mental health challenges that is self-mutilating, helping her find services in the Prescott area. This program serves 300 individuals in their homes every day and 600-700 a week for in-center dining services.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Carol Brown** for an update from the Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) Area Agency on Aging. **Carol** informed Councilmembers that through services provided by WACOG, a new program that launched last year is expanding. TruAlta is a platform that allows any caregiver that requests a login to access a variety of caregiver resources having to do with basic caregiver skills, bathing, and other services necessary. WACOG was able to secure a license that is completely open and has no limits on the number of individuals that can access the website. WACOG is also getting closer to launching an Elder Abuse Task Force Prevention Taskforce **Carol** thanked Molly for the support in order to support a state-wide endeavor. **Carol** also shared that May is Older Americans Month and the National Council on Aging has many resources on its website.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Lisa O'Neill** for an update from The University of Arizona Center on Aging. **Dr. O'Neill** was in Washington D.C. last week and has several updates regarding current federal legislation listed below:
 - [FACT SHEET: Biden Harris Administration Proposes rule to Fix “Family Glitch” and Lower Health Care Costs](#)
 - [FACT SHEET: Protecting Seniors by Improving Safety and Quality of Care in the Nation’s Nursing Homes](#)
 - **National Imperative to Improve Nursing Home Quality: Honoring Our Commitment to Residents, Families, and Staff (2022)**
 - [Senator Kelly presented “No Time to Wait: Proposals to Lower Prescription Drug Costs” to the Senate Special Committee on Aging on 4/12](#)
 - [Protecting the Health of America’s Older Adults Act, HR6302](#)
 - [Adult Day Center Enhancement Act, HR253](#)
 - [Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion for Disaster Act, HR4938](#)
 - [Improving Care for Vulnerable Older Citizen and People with Disabilities through Workforce Advancement Act of 2021, HR6149](#)
 - [Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion for Disasters Act or the REAADL for Disasters Act, S2658](#)
 - [End Diaper Need Act of 2021, S304](#)
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Shelli Silver** for an update from the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). **Shelli** started her report out with an expression of gratitude for the remote platform as this meeting begins as the AHCCCS leadership meeting ends and the virtual platform enables her to participate in both meetings. **Shelli** shared that the public health emergency (PHE) was extended one more time, ending on July 15, 2022, which is a 90-day extension. This is important to AHCCCS because they are not required to disenroll anyone. As a result of the status change of the PHE, on August 1, some Arizonans could lose their AHCCCS coverage. The AHCCCS team is working to educate members to ensure their contact information is on record to support further document requests in order to support continued services. The American Rescue Plan Act activities continue. On March 31, 2022, AHCCCS was approved by the Arizona legislature expenditure authority to provide \$500 million to managed care organizations including DDD, who now have until May 31 to turn this money around to providers for workforce retention strategies. AHCCCS and community stakeholders, including members and family members, are currently in process of creating the Arizona Olmstead Plan while reviewing the current system of care. The [Olmstead Plan Webpage](#) on the AHCCCS Website is now available for review and open for public comment by the end of April.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Steve Wagner** for an update from The RightCare Foundation. **Steve** announced that following the Contexture presentation at the last GACA meeting, the Arizona Advanced Directive Directory has made great strides in ensuring that if on file, the DNR will be moved up to be the first document seen by the EMS provider.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Teresa Manygoats**, for an update from the Department of Health Services Healthy Aging Program, Office of Chronic Diseases is working on a health profile which will include data from the systems at the department. The older adult profile aligns with the State Plan of action that the Department is tasked with completing. Arizona Health Improvement Plan, under the Pandemic Resiliency plan, **Teresa** thanked Mary Beals-Luedtka for reaching out to her colleague Anna Medina will be representing Az4A as the representative that is going to support the rollout of the Health Improvement Plan. **Teresa** shared that DHS recently hired a Healthy Program Manager, this individual has resigned and DHS will be recruiting for this position soon.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Virginia Rountree** for an update from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). **Virginia** informed Councilmembers that along with recruitment, DES seeks recruitment for Administrator on Aging to support the plan and team, another reminder that the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference June 13 and 14 at the DoubleTree.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Mary Beals-Luedtka** for an update from the Arizona Area Agencies on Aging (AZ4A). **Mary** shared that the AZ4A (Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging) has several ongoing legislative priorities. The top priority was to obtain \$1.5 Million in ongoing funding for home and community-based services through HB 2528 and SB 1536 which were received last year but had not been approved at the time of the meeting. Az4A also helped champion the Elderly Assistance Fund, HB 2477 to help seniors with back taxes owed on their homes. **Mary** shared that Area Agencies are also having challenges with recruiting employees. Working with providers to find direct care workers. The full report can be found at <https://goyff.az.gov/meeting/gaca/2022/04/13>.

Brainstorming

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, shared that moving forward, the executive workgroup will be working with the GOYFF Communications Department team to share Awareness months for the GOYFF GACA page. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, opened the floor to any council member that would like to elevate a specific topic. **Carol Brown**, as a reminder that when Katie was speaking, there is an extreme shortage of geriatricians. The only geriatrician in Yuma has recently retired. **Carol** encouraged a discussion regarding any efforts being made for the recruitment of geriatricians, and nurse practitioners. Also, the challenge of promoting the training mechanism for physicians to educate them on Alzheimer's to make a correct diagnosis to support Arizona. **Bert Ijams** recommended Dana Kennedy from AARP, to speak on the ramifications of not shoring up social security as well as the high cost of medication and implications of not addressing that issue. Additionally, **Bert** supported a presentation surrounding the Arizona Commission for the Arts intervention on social isolation and recommended that Alex Nelson would be an appropriate presenter and that she would share contact information with Kim Brooks.

Upcoming Meeting

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reminded Councilmembers to mark their calendars for their next meeting on June 25, 2022, in a hybrid format, with in-person and virtual options.

Adjournment

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - **Teresa Manygoats** moved to adjourn.
 - **Barbara Marshall** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes and the meeting adjourned at **11: 37 a.m.**

Dated 13 of April 2022
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
Respectfully Submitted By:
Kim Brooks
GOYFF