



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

October 12, 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 **October 12, 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 | Shelli Silver |
| Brenda Holt | Bonita Imus |
| Steve Wagner | Jaime Aguilar |
| Teresa Manygoats | Tim Dunn |
| Carol Brown, Co-Chair | |
| Bert Ijams | |
| Virginia Rountree | |
| Lisa O'Neill | |
| Barbara Marshall | |
| Staff and Guests Present (5) | |
| Mary Beals Luedtka | |
| Kainoa Spenser | |

Call to Order

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called the Governor's Advisory Council on the Aging (GACA) meeting to order at **10:00 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 with a quorum met.

Approval of Minutes

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested a review of the **August 12, 2022** meeting minutes.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, asked for 2 revisions, one on pg.6 and one on pg.8. Revisions were acknowledged and changes made.
 - **Bert Ijams** moved to accept the **August 12, 2022** minutes with the revisions.
 - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **10:07 a.m.**

Early Voting

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Dana Lewis**, Pinal County Recorder. Ms. Lewis spent eight years in the military as a personalist and security forces augmentee, leaving as a Staff Sergeant, and is now an Air Force veteran. She moved to Arizona in 2013 and ran her own small business before joining Pinal County

as an Elections Specialist in 2019. A resident of Casa Grande, she is a Certified Election Official for the State of Arizona and working to receive her Certificate in Election and Registration Administration from Auburn University. She is the mother of two grown children, Jack and Shelby, and is a Board Member for the Coolidge Veterans Commission and the Casa Grande Historic Preservation Commission. She is also a member of the Signal Peak branch of Toastmasters.

- **Dana** began by discussing the framework of her presentation and who can vote early in elections. Two of the main points made are that a person must be registered to vote in the county 29 days before the election and one does not need a reason to participate in Early Voting in Arizona. There are many reasons why one would vote early, such as one can avoid the potential long lines at the polls, one can still vote even if one will be out of town on Election Day, or have the ballot mailed to a temporary address and one has time to review all the various candidates, propositions, and referendums thoroughly in the comfort and privacy of the home.
 - There are 5 Pinal County Recorder Offices for residents of Pinal County to drop their ballots at.
- There are multiple early voting request processes that one has the option to proceed with if they are not already signed up for early ballot voting.
 - If not yet signed up for the Active Early Voting List, one has the ability to reach out to either their early voting department or the Recorder's Office and request 93 days before the election to have a one-time early ballot sent.
 - There is also a system in Arizona called the 90-day request. If one is on the Active Early Voting List, there is the ability as an independent voter going into the primary election to request a partisan-style ballot, and determine the mailing status. Also, again, being signed up for the Active Early Voting List means that one is automatically going to receive an early ballot mail to their residence.
- To request an early ballot one must reach out over the phone, over mail, or through an [online portal](#) no earlier than 93 days prior to the election and no later than 11 days prior to the election. There are also forms available at your County Recorder's Office for in-person requests.
- The Active Early Voting List means that no matter what's going on, one has requested to receive a ballot that they are authorized to vote for. Once they fill out a request to be on the Active Early Voting List, they will automatically be mailed an early ballot 27 days before any election in which they are eligible. There is no need to contact the Recorder's Office each election to have an early ballot mailed.
 - This address must be within Arizona.
- Early voting ballots are mailed out starting 27 days before the election. After that, ballots are usually mailed out within 48 hours of receiving a request. One may have their ballot mailed to another address than their residency but one must inform the Early Voting Department that they want their ballot mailed to their temporary address as soon as possible.
 - Election mail may not be forwarded and if the postman sees a forwarding address they will return it to the post office to start the address change system process. The Recorder's Office is required to then state that they had election mail returned and start the process over. It is one of those precautions to save democracy.
- The following options are available when an early ballot is damaged or not received:
 - Call the Recorder's Office requesting another ballot stating how one has damaged the early ballot that was mailed. Another ballot will be mailed immediately and the original ballot will be canceled.
 - Go into any of the Early Voting Sites and vote early in person
- There's also the need for special election boards for voters of Arizona. This special election board is a bipartisan team of couriers who have been appointed by the political parties in the county to work on citizens' behalf to ensure that voting ballots get to home-bound citizens.
- After an Early Ballot is completed, the affidavit is signed, put a phone number on the ballot affidavit envelope, it is sent back to the County Recorder's Office. All returned ballots go through the following process:
 - Returned ballots are kept in a secure area with restricted access.
 - Early ballot affidavit envelopes are checked to ensure they are sealed and signed by the voter.

- If not signed, voters are contacted to cure their affidavit. This must be adjusted no later than 7 P.M. on Election Night.
- Signatures are verified by comparing the signed affidavit envelope to the signature of the voter on record in our office.
- Voters with affidavits that have non-matching signatures must be cured within 5 days after the election.
- Early ballots are entered into the voter registration system as being returned.
- Early ballots remain sealed in the affidavit envelope at all times.
- Early ballots are submitted to the Elections Department for tabulation.
- These processes are put in place to ensure that the democratic process is secure. There is a complete anonymity of a person's name throughout the entirety of the process.
- **Dana Lewis** stated that one of the best sites to keep up with one's own voting status and registration is on the [Service Arizona](#) website.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked **Dana** for the presentation and asked if there were any questions from Council members.
- **Lisa O'Neill** asked what percent of the population in Arizona participates in early voting. **Dana** responded that she is only able to speak for Pinal County, and that there are approximately 280,000 registrants with about 180-185,000 signed up for Active Early Voting. It's typically two-thirds of the population who are signed up for Active Early Voting.
- **Steve Wagner** asked during the signature confirmation process when the voter is getting called, what happens to the ballot if the voter doesn't answer the phone. **Dana** stated that they have multiple ways that they reach out to voters. They have been most successful with a simple phone call. If that doesn't work, the non-matching signature goes into a log and it's monitored. Not only do they reach out via phone call but also via email and send a letter if it's in the early part of early voting. A new process that is just going into effect that they are piloting during the general election is reaching out to voters via text to let them know that they have a non-matching signature. This allows the voter to reach back to us and share their ballot by resigning the affidavit.
 - **Steve Wagner** followed up by asking what happens to the ballot despite the efforts to cure the signature. Are there any statistics on previous elections as to how many of those voters never had their ballot cured? **Dana** stated she doesn't have any direct statistics. When it comes to early ballot affidavits that don't have a signature, they're required to have a signature by 7 PM on election night. For non-matching signatures, they have until five days after the general election to get a current signature. If it's not cured, then they go into a system and reject that ballot. So if the person reaches out to them, there will be a note that they were not able to cure that signature as well as how many attempts they made to get in touch with them to try to fix it.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, asked when the tabulation starts happening for those early ballots that have come in. **Dana** responded that it depends on the county in which they reside. Speaking specifically about Pinal County, it takes a couple of days after sending in the ballot before it is in the hands of the worker at the County Recorder's Office. From there, they work through the signature verification process then they are sent off in batches to the Early Voting elections board. Once they confirm it's the same number of batches that were sent and received, tabulation begins. The results of those votes are then released on election night.
- **Bert Ijams** asked how consistent are the voting processes throughout Arizona. **Dana** stated that the framework is the same across all counties due to Arizona state [statute](#) but the processes and workflows change with each county. Some of the workflow processes may look a little different depending on the vendors, the size of the county, and in some of the larger counties, you'll find that their elections department and County Recorder's Office is in very close proximity. So their processes may vary based on if they are precinct-based, module voting, or if they're a vote center module. There are hybrids across the state as well so the processes may look different depending on what the need is for the voters.
 - **Bert Ijams** asked for those who work with homebound adults who would still like to vote, how they can partner with local Recorder Offices to make sure they are aware of their access to voting.

Dana stated that for this issue voter outreach and education from trusted sources are paramount in the state of Arizona, especially for this voting block. People need to understand that they can go to [Service Arizona](#) or go to their County Recorder and Elections Departments to find out who that contact information is for special election boards. **Dana** stated the importance of creating a connection with a liaison at the local County Recorder's Office to make sure they have the contact information to disseminate across the different groups such as jails, assisted living facilities, and home-bound seniors. **Bert Ijams** stated that she would like to receive a flier with a number for someone to work with homebound seniors.

- **Dana** stated that amidst all the controversy that surrounds early voting and ballot drop boxes, stay informed from a trusted source. Another thing to look at is there have been some questions around understanding what truly ballot harvesting is. The statute says that in the event that one resides in a household or one knows next family next of kin, one has the ability to take that ballot after it has been signed and transmitted at a dropbox or the Postal Service. Additionally, if one is a caregiver, one has the ability to transport a ballot for the individual they care for.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, addressed the increase of the homeless in the older adult population, asking where they can get assistance through the special elections board or to get a ballot. **Dana** stated they have a liaison to help with the community outreach efforts and for elderly unsheltered people, and that they can absolutely use the general delivery at their local post office to receive their early ballot. They can also visit the [Arizona Clean Elections Commission website](#). In the event that they are a registered party person, the parties will also assist with getting them to early voting for the in-person sites.
- **Belinda Akes** relayed a personal story of her own election process to win Board Chair for Eloy Fire District. It was through discovering the outcome of her election that she met **Dana Lewis** when she needed this election recertified.
- **Brenda Holt** asked how many other organizations **Dana** is presenting this information to. **Dana** stated she presents to the Navajo County Democratic Party often, as well as the San Tan Valley Federated Republican Women's Queen Creek division. **Brenda Holt** asked how the County Recorder's Office plans to transition from the 2022 election to 2024? **Dana** stated that there's a process called the 180-day notice. It begins 210 days after session changes and it is when they send out information to jurisdictions that they are intending on having an election during March or May so that citizens are prepped 180 days in advance that we're going to be having elections in 2023. Utilizing new technologies, they're able to place GPS locks on their ballot boxes so they know where they are at all times and only election personnel have the RFID chip keys.
- **Bert Ijams** asked if the greatest challenge as an election official right now is to educate the public that voting early is filled with integrity. **Dana** responded that the election and election staff is filled with integrity and is transparent due to the passion of those who work in it day in and day out. Having legislation twice a year and all the changes that it brings makes it so election officials must have a great plan in communicating these changes to the public so they feel safe and secure in the voting process.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked **Dana** for her presentation on early voting and the information provided and thanked her team for all the great work they are doing. **Dana** reminded everyone that early voting started on October 12, 2022.

Walk for Alzheimer's Update - Morgen Hartford

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that as Arizona is the fastest growing state with Alzheimer's disease, and there are over 250,000 unpaid caregivers tending for someone with Dementia or Alzheimer's, it is a topic always on the Council's mind.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Morgen Hartford**. Morgen Hartford, MSW, serves as Southern Arizona Community Executive for the Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter. He leads the strategic direction and implementation of community partnerships, programs, projects, and initiatives throughout Southern Arizona. Morgen is supported in his work by hundreds of committed volunteers and dynamic and dedicated staff, all focused on leading the way to end Alzheimer's and all other Dementia by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

- **Morgen** started his presentation by stating that in the most recent [2022 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report](#), 1 in 3 seniors will die with Alzheimer's or some other form of Dementia. In the last two decades, Alzheimer's deaths have increased by 145% in comparison to a 7.3% decrease in deaths from heart disease. Alzheimer's kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined, showing the seriousness of this growing issue and one that is affecting Arizona more than other states making it the epicenter of this crisis. In Arizona, there are more than 150,000 people living with Alzheimer's over the age of 65, not including those under 65 who are living with Alzheimer's.
- There are 57,000 family caregivers in Arizona, many of whom provide unpaid care to their loved ones at an average of 38 hours per week, more than any other state. The Alzheimer's Association provides a number of services to families including support groups, education programs, and other activities that help all people navigate living with the disease. This is all thanks to donors and events like the [Walk to End Alzheimer's](#). The Alzheimer's Association has made funding research a priority in order to slow and even one day stop the disease completely. The association has granted over \$167 million to more than 500 leading international research projects working toward methods of treatment and prevention. \$2.2 million of that funding is invested in active research projects in Arizona alone. They are the leading voice for Alzheimer's disease and advocacy, as well as fighting for critical research and care initiatives both at the state and federal level.
 - It is through advocacy at an individual, familial, and legislative level that the Alzheimer's Association can reach 100% of those affected by Alzheimer's by connecting volunteer advocates to the policymakers to make a difference.
- This is not just an elderly person's disease, it affects people of all ages. About 25% of caregivers are a sandwich generation where they're not just caring for an aging parent, but they're also caring for children under the age of 18 who are under the same roof. In 2021, more than 11 million Americans provided 16 billion hours of unpaid care valued at more than \$271 million. It's a financially devastating disease that if unchecked by 2050, is set to cost the nation as much as \$1.1 trillion.
- It is not only a family issue, but also one of the workplace as 57% of employees unpaid caregivers had to go in late, call in sick or take time off due to their caregiving duties while neglecting their own care. The best way to support efforts is to get involved in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, the association's annual event that's held in more than 600 communities nationwide. It is also their signature fundraising event that supports all the support services and research. Individuals can find a walk near them: alz.org/blog
 - **Morgen** showed a video showcasing the Walk to End Alzheimer's and the personal impact it has on all of those who take part in it.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked **Morgen** for his presentation and asked if anyone had any Council members had questions.
- **Brenda Holt** stated that the African American community has higher numbers of Alzheimer's and asked if they are reaching that community and if these numbers are true. **Morgen** responded that African American communities are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's. They are making concerted efforts to reach out to the African American communities through local and national partnerships such as utilizing local church communities which are critical to reaching communities.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, relayed the profound and personal impact it has on all of those who take part in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, how her planning team at [WACOG](#) continues to grow and fundraise for the event, and how volunteers are needed.
- **Morgen Hartford** relayed the heavy need for volunteers and fundraising, and it's an open door to anyone that wants to help.
- **Lisa O'Neill** asked if there is a walk in Tucson and **Morgen** relayed that it is happening on [October 22, 2022, at 900 S. Randolph Way Tucson, AZ at 8:00 AM](#).
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked **Morgen** for his presentation and relayed the incredible and profound show of support at the event.

Workgroup Update

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Brenda Holt** for an update on the Aging in Community (AIC) Workgroup. **Brenda** shared three updates:
 - The Walk to End Alzheimer's is taking place over the coming months and is excited to see one in the [West Valley](#).
 - The APS training that has been developed is going on right now.
 - Requested for members of the [Task Force Against Senior Abuse \(TASA\)](#) to give an update.
 - **Steve Wagner** gave an update regarding TASA stating that it is largely deferring work until after the November election to see who the new Attorney General will be and the direction they will take. **Steve** reiterates the work of the Health & Safety Committee under TASA will be around the reduction of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults, as well as encouraging and increasing mandatory reporting of abuse and neglect. There has been significant discussion about the formation of a legislative committee within TASA. **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated that there is still one more meeting of TASA in November to review a handbook that will be given to the new Attorney General on the work and goals of TASA.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, relayed that the AIC Workgroup Chair doesn't have to be a council member, and when thinking of recruitment for this position, look for individuals within each of the council members' respective agencies. Any recommendations can be submitted to **Brenda Holt**.

Council Member and Liaison Roundtable

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, began with her update by sharing some results that came out of the anti-amyloid monoclonal antibody phase three clinical trial test for treatment to slow the deterioration of the brain caused by Dementia or Alzheimer's. The trial found to have slowed the cognitive decline of an individual in the early stages of Dementia or Alzheimer's by 27%. 27% is considerable and encouraging for results, indicating that this treatment may give people more time, at or near their full abilities to participate in daily life, remain independent, and make future healthcare decisions.
 - **Terri** stated the Alzheimer's Association piloted the Go Purple business breakfast in southern Arizona for employers to help develop resources like employee resource groups, share different dementia-related resources, and be a resource with education. At the first business breakfast, there were 65 attendees, and there will be one in Maricopa County in the spring at Arizona State University (ASU).
 - **Terri** also mentioned that the Alzheimer's Association is partnering with ASU to host a Blackman's Brain Health Conference in 2023. The target population will be men who have played football or participated in sports that might have led to brain injuries and who, further down the line, will likely develop some form of cognitive decline. The goal is to open the conversation around the Super Bowl to share information about best health practices and make sure they're getting routinely checked.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Barbara Marshall** to give an update on any individuals who have had an injunction against harassment. Arizona's recent change in legislation now allows for lifetime injunctions where previously, they only lasted for one year, so individuals filing would have to keep going back to court and renewing them. For lifetime injunctions, there is a new mechanism and if individuals are interested, reach out to **Barbara** for more information. Lastly, if one is in the east valley the weekend of Oct. 21-23 the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe is doing a holiday craft show. All crafts are made by seniors and all proceeds go to charity.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Belinda Akes**. She discussed she was re-elected to the Eloy Fire District and discussed multiple situations they covered along Interstate 10, stating she is proud of the fire team for overseeing. As the Pinal Council for Seniors Chairwoman, she discussed their Meals on Wheels team covers Apache Junction, the Coolidge Adult Center, the Dorothy Nolan Senior Center in Florence, Dorothy Pals Senior Adult Center, Casa Grande the Eloy Toltec Center, the Globe Active Center, the Hayden Senior Center, the Curry Senior Center, the Miami Senior Center, Oracle Community Center, Pace and Center Senior Center, Pine Strawberry Senior Center, San Manuel Senior Center, Superior Senior Center, Santa

Cruz, the Santa Cruz apartments, and Arizona City. The Santa Cruz Valley Food Bank had its Senior Day on October 11, 2022, and they have maxed out every month for three months with 180 boxes of food to seniors. They are hoping United Food Bank will have what they need to give out soon because a lot of seniors need it. Lastly, their Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes will be starting soon.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Bert Ijams**, who stated that the Prescott Meals on Wheels program has seen an increase in need by 15-20% from the previous years before its inception in 2020. She reviewed the services that Meals on Wheels provide as it's not just food, but a wellness check, social isolation check, and making phone calls for wellness checks from the police department. He discussed how they are addressing social isolation through their companionship program so they have people either making weekly visits or one person who serves several people per phone call. **Bert** continued by discussing the impacts of rising rent prices and how this is severely impacting seniors, relaying the importance of the issue through the telling of a situation where a senior was exploited because she has cognitive impairment and could no longer pay her rent. After multiple phone calls, working with US Veterans, and a nonprofit, they now have her in their care at a transitional housing facility. She stated it is their peak fundraising time and thanked Governor Ducey for increasing the limits on these monies several years ago. Lastly, he discussed the Walk to End Alzheimer that happened in Prescott on October 1 and how he would like to do some training so that when Meals on Wheels volunteers go into the home of somebody with Alzheimer's or Dementia they have tools to help them better communicate with them.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Brenda Holt**, for an update from the Arizona State Office of AARP. **Brenda** discussed how they filmed voting video guides for the Governor's Office, the Treasurer's Office, and Attorney General's Office, which are now live and housed on the AARP website. To view the videos please visit aarp.org/azvotes. She continued by stating that they conducted Q&A sessions with the AARP bulletin writer to Senate candidates, Blake Masters and Mark Kelly, and their responses will be in the upcoming AARP monthly bulletin. AARP will also be conducting four tele-town halls with the Secretary of State and Senate candidates, as well as some polling that will contain 60 questions regarding the older population and their thoughts about various issues related to aging. Lastly, she stated that her and AARP team members participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Prescott, and they will be participating in the October 15, 2022 West Valley walk, as well as the November 5, 2022 Phoenix walk.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, who spoke about the Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) and working with every Area Agency on Aging (AAA) on their three main pillars of focus: elder abuse awareness and prevention, falls prevention, and providing educational resources and support systems for the region around all forms of Dementia. WACOG held the first Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention seminar in September 2022 which targeted the public at large, so all the members of a family understand what elder abuse is, how to report it, how to stop it, as well as professionals who are likely to fall in the category of being a mandated reporter. Due to the success of the first event, they will be holding two more later this year. If it is found to be really successful in Yuma County, they will work to expand it into the rest of the region.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, continued her update by discussing that November is Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Awareness Month. WACOG received nine proclamations from different cities and towns within their region. Since September was Falls Prevention Awareness Month, they were able to hold two of the three Fall Fairs in Yuma County and La Paz County with the third event coming in December. She relayed a personal story that while at the Parker Fall Fair she had the opportunity to go on a ride along with the First Responder Chief of that area. While they tended to the individual needing assistance, **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, was able to talk to the family members and caregivers and discuss AAA services, fall prevention, and really advocate on their behalf in the areas.
- Through a partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, WACOG will be hosting their first roundtable discussion on October 24, 2022, titled "Alzheimer's in Arizona." The focus will be targeting caregivers and professionals, and will have Congressman Paul Gosar and Representative Tim Dunn part of the panel. **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated she is excited for the opportunity to share more with the community about where helpful support services and education exist in order to expand and elevate the conversation of the needs of caregivers.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Lisa O'Neil** who stated they received funding from the Arizona Board of Regents to develop low-cost (\$35), online certificates for physical therapy assistants, certified nursing assistants (CNAs), and EMTs for enhanced geriatric content. This is to give them extra education on geriatric content so they become more comfortable working with older adults and to help stop some of the turnovers that are happening, particularly with CNAs in assisted living. They are starting to build a curriculum with an expected launch in summer 2023 with hopes of combating the worker shortage in Arizona. The end-of-life curriculum and website for health sciences students have been developed and are in the pilot phase. The curriculum's goal is to increase their knowledge and comfort with conversations about end-of-life advanced care directives for not only older adults but across a lifespan.
 - **Bert Ijams** asked how long is the curriculum to receive the certificate and who can access it when it is launched. **Lisa** responded that it is 12 hours long and it'll be open to everyone as there are also some crossovers in industries (i.e. they think CNAs might be interested to know what EMTs do related to older adults). There will be a lot of video content so they can demonstrate the best practice of care that will lead to an increase in their skills and knowledge base. **Lisa** stated that it will be offered statewide with the help of a Health Educator in many rural and overlooked populations and hopes that the low-cost fee of \$35 will entice students to take it as well as for employers to see the benefit of it. **Bert Ijams** responded she will help spread the word.
 - **Steve Wagner** stated that as an EMT he sees great value in this so he will help disseminate it to his community and asked when it will be available to the public. **Lisa** responded that their launch date is for July 1, 2023, and gave insight as to what the curriculum might look like, stating she sees a cognition and Dementia component playing a big role within the curriculum. She also stated the University of Arizona (UA) Continuing and Professional Development Office will be the host to help make it accessible to as many people as possible.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Shelli Silver** who gave an update from the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). The agency continues to push the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) initiatives, which awarded/made available to Arizona over the next three years \$1.5 billion dollars. To date, the biggest award was done in spring 2022 when \$500 million was given directly to providers of home and community-based services, including some behavioral health outpatient providers, all of which was intended to be for retention, hiring, and at least 80% of those monies having to go directly to the frontline worker. If monies could not supplant any salaries, they were given as direct bonuses, signup bonuses, retention bonuses, insurance, etc. Another big initiative for the aging population has been the Alteryx within AHCCCS which has 70-100,000 people within it, half of whom are intellectually and developmentally disabled, with the other half enrolled in the elderly and physically disabled program. In two years, contracts with vendors of Alteryx expire which is why AHCCCS' procurement team is working on a Request for Proposals (RFP) to publish in August 2023. The proposals will go through a very robust decision-making process, ensuring at least six months of transition before new contracts come into play. This program is worth about \$1.5-\$2 billion a year making it so the agency will award annual contracts to seven vendors to continue the program that range from \$10-\$14 billion.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Steve Wagner**, who has nothing new to report.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Theresa Manygoats** to give an update on the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). ADHS has published the injury prevention profile for unintentional falls and it is now on the [ADHS website](#). The Older Adult Report is in the finalized stages and should be coming out in November or December 2022. Also preparing to implement a part of the [Arizona Health Improvement Plan](#) and two strategies will involve older adult and community partners. The first is around goal four for strategy nine. The Office Chief for ADHS' Office of Chronic Disease and **Theresa** will be leading a health promotion team to address the action steps under goal four strategy nine which encompasses the chronic disease programs, injury prevention, violence programs, as well as physical activity and nutrition programs. ADHS is planning to host the first team meeting in either late November, or early December, and more information will be shared perhaps at the November GACA meeting. Lastly, under that same plan, ADHS has contracted with the Arizona Agency on Aging Association to be subject matter experts on public health pieces and provide support to the caregiver population.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Jenny Rountree**, who gave a few updates from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). The state program on aging was approved by federal partners in September 2022 and became effective October 1, 2022, and is posted on the [GACA website](#). The AAA partners are in the process of working on their area plans and specific initiatives, as well as how those plans tie into the state plan. DES is already planning for the 2023 World Elder Abuse Conference Day taking place in June 2023 and if anyone is interested in participating in the planning or perhaps doing a presentation during breakout sessions, please get in contact with **Jenny** and she'll send it over to the DES Aging and Disability Programs Administrator. The U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) released its fiscal year (FY) 2021 [National Adult Maltreatment Report](#), its sixth report. The National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System is the only comprehensive national reporting system for state APS programs. It's a voluntary reporting system that collects data from all the states, including the District of Columbia. This year's report includes a special chapter of focus on the impact of COVID-19. APS Investigator Academy launched new training for internal staff, or APS investigators. The new curriculum is an eight-week intensive training with over 275 hours of content to prepare investigators for fieldwork, including content from the Alzheimer's Association. Previous APS investigators only had a week or two of training.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Mary Beals-Luedtka** who gave an overview and highlighted the different program successes and challenges from the Regions of AAA. The full region program highlights and challenges can be found [here](#).
 - AZ Aging is in the process of rebranding from the Area Agency on Aging Association of Arizona to AZ Aging. AZ Aging members continue to work hard to represent the rights and needs of Arizona's older population and anticipate the launch of their new website and logo later this month.

Upcoming Meeting

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reminded Council members that their next meeting is on December 13, 2022, at 10 AM in a hybrid format, with in-person and virtual options available, but is HIGHLY recommended to attend in person.

Adjournment

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.
 - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, moved to adjourn.
 - **Brenda Holt** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes and the meeting adjourned at **11:58 P.M.**

Dated 12 of October 2022
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
Respectfully Submitted By:
Kainoa Spenser
GOYFF