



**GOVERNOR’S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING**

**January 22, 2023, 10:00 AM**

1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A general meeting of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging was convened on **January 22, 2023**, in a hybrid format, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (10)	Members Absent (7)
Terri Spitz, Chair	Senator Lela Alston
Carol Brown, Co-Chair	Representative Tim Dunn
Barbara Marshall	Jaime Aguilar
Virginia Rountree	Bert Ijams
Belinda Akes	
Brenda Holt	
Teresa Manygoats	
Steve Wagner	
Lisa O’Neill	
Bonita Imus	
Staff and Guests Present (5)	
Mary Beals Luedtka	Nicole Baker
Brandon Baxter	Emily Litchfield, GOYFF
Kainoa Spenser, GOYFF	

**Call to Order**

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) meeting to order at **10:05 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.

**Chair’s Remarks**

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, started the meeting by welcoming everyone back after the holidays. She stated she was excited about working with Governor Hobbs’ administration to address the needs of the aging community and how they align with the priorities of the Governor. She relayed that one of the priorities for both her and **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, is bringing back initiatives that were conducted in the past that made an impact on the aging community. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that there are two vacancies on the council and are looking to have a diverse group brought to the table that reflects the demographics of Arizona. If anyone has any questions or suggestions for these vacant positions, please contact Kainoa Spenser at [kspenser@az.gov](mailto:kspenser@az.gov) to learn more.

**Roll Call**

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, conducted a roll call of the Council, and quorum was met.

### Approval of Minutes

- **Brenda Holt** asked for a revision on page four of the **December 13, 2022** minutes. Revisions were acknowledged and changes made.
- **Virginia Rountree** asked for a revision on page two of the **December 13, 2022** minutes. Revisions were acknowledged and changes made.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested approval of the minutes from **October 12, 2022**.
  - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, moved to accept the **October 12, 2022** minutes.
  - **Lisa O'Neill** seconded the motion.
  - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested approval of the minutes from **December 13, 2022**, as amended.
  - **Belinda Akes** moved to accept the **December 13, 2022** minutes with the revisions.
  - **Virginia Rountree** seconded the motion.
  - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

### State Plan on Service Presentation

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Emily Litchfield**, Director of [AmeriCorps/Service & Volunteerism](#) at the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family to review the three-year State Plan on Service and particularly the addendum on engaging aging Americans in volunteer work efforts.
- **Emily Litchfield** started the presentation by laying out the federal statutory guidance for developing the State Plan on Service as a whole. It needs to be "a three-year, comprehensive national and community service plan and establishment of State priorities" and must have a supplemental plan for adults age 55+. She reviewed the minimum requirements for the State Plan on Service highlighting the need for it to be developed in an open and public manner, reach out to a diverse group of people, "Set forth the State's goals, priorities, and strategies for promoting national and community service", and ultimately approval by the Governor. The 55+ supplemental piece would include recommendations for policies to increase service for adults, civic engagement, and multigenerational activities. **Emily Litchfield** went over the timeline and workgroups that will be giving recommendations. She relayed that they are looking for a diverse group of adults over 55+ or organizations that are engaging in the aging and volunteerism communities to give recommendations, emphasizing recruiting feedback from rural and tribal areas. The full presentation can be found [here](#).
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked **Emily Litchfield** for her presentation and clarified that **Emily Litchfield** is looking for GACA members to be a part of the 55+ workgroup to give recommendations on how to increase volunteerism in the 55+ communities.
  - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, asked what time frame, commitment, and total number needed for recruitment. **Emily Litchfield** stated the total number of individuals needed is five and they don't all have to be from the council. Participation would be a monthly meeting held until July 2023 that will act as a brainstorming session to establish five recommendations.
  - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked if the purpose is to help find the barriers facing the 55+ community in entering volunteer service. **Emily Litchfield** responded that they are not just focusing on that but on marketing and outreach to the aging community for available opportunities. Even recommendations on how to better engage, support, and work with people living with dementia and Alzheimers and the organizations supporting them.
  - **Belinda Akes** asked if these could be attended via Zoom and **Emily Litchfield** stated yes, they are via Zoom.
  - **Mary Beals Luedtka** stated that she would like someone from [AZ Aging](#) to sit on this workgroup.
  - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that she or someone from the [Alzheimer's Association](#) would like to help serve on this workgroup.
  - **Virginia Rountree** stated that she would bring this back to the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) leaders and the [Division of Aging and Adult Services](#) to see if they would like to be involved.

- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, said that someone from GACA should be on the council and **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that she can be the representative.
- **Virginia Rountree** asked how would someone communicate their intent to join and **Emily Litchfield** stated the best way to reach out is to email her directly at [elitchfield@az.gov](mailto:elitchfield@az.gov) or to reach out to Kainoa Spenser at [kspenser@az.gov](mailto:kspenser@az.gov).
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked **Emily Litchfield** again for the presentation. **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, asked what the dates are for the Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement. **Emily Litchfield** first mentioned that the 20th Annual Governor's Volunteer Service Awards are taking place on April 26, 2023. Nominations are open until February 27, 2023, and the form can be found [here](#). She reviewed the different award categories and relayed a story from the previous awards ceremony. The Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement is an all-day event taking place on May 24, 2023, at the Phoenix Convention Center, and will offer a wide variety of breakout sessions, workshops, and a keynote speaker. Registration for the event will open up at the beginning of April.

### Workgroup Discussion

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, switched the discussion to look at the workgroups of the council. She reviewed the efforts that the Aging in Community (AIC) Workgroup has achieved such as the APS Dementia Training, supporting Caregivers Day at the Capitol, Alzheimer's Day, a variety of other events, and sitting on the [Taskforce Against Senior Abuse \(TASA\)](#).
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, shared specific bills that relate to dementia and Alzheimers, and the council as a whole:
  - [House Bill 2087 \(HB 2087\)](#) is sponsored by council member **Representative Tim Dunn**. This will help reduce the stigma of Alzheimer's and raise awareness of the disease specifically in diverse and rural communities. It focuses on early detection and diagnosis while also creating a public awareness campaign.
  - [Senate Bill 1220 \(SB 1220\)](#) is sponsored by Senator T.J. Shope. This bill establishes the Alzheimers State Plan be included in state statute and states the [Arizona Department of Health Services](#) will be "designated as the lead agency in this state to address Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia" and "the director shall establish a dementia services program within the department". This entails having an Alzheimer's Care Coordinator and possibly starting a new unit within the department. The bill also emphasizes the need for someone at a state level to lead the charge on Alzheimer-related issues.
- **Lisa O'Neill** asked if any money is attached to HB 2087. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that both bills have appropriations attached to them. HB 2087 has \$500,000 set aside for the public awareness campaign and SB 1220 has \$300,000 plus allocation for two full-time employees.
- **Bonita Imus** recommended that there needs to be more tribal representation in these conversations. She relayed a personal story of someone in a tribal community facing transportation barriers to receiving care for dementia as there is no close medical care in their tribal nation.
  - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, relayed that these transportation needs must be addressed for proper care and resources.

### Internal Discussion for 2023-2024 Plans

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, turned the discussion into an internal look at what can be revived from past campaigns and events. She stated that there used to be positive feedback from attendees of the listening sessions when they took place across the state and asked the council their thoughts around this idea, the council's capabilities, capacity in activating these events again, and if any members had new ideas to discuss. She asked if anyone could give a brief overview of what listening sessions are.
  - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated that they used to be called "Action Days" and from her point of view since the structure of the council has changed; the name and capabilities of the event changed along with it. Renaming the event into a "listening session" allowed the event to reflect the intentions of the council and gave members with restrictive employment the ability to attend these

- without supervisor approval. She continued by giving a quick overview of which politicians, organizations, and advocacy groups used to attend the meetings and how it was conducted.
- **Lisa O'Neill** stated they used to be every other year since it is a massive logistic undertaking and was completely coordinated by the Governor's Office on Aging which was exclusive to helping the council. She stated that the [Area Agencies on Aging](#) (AAA) have listening sessions across Arizona and interested individuals can attend one of theirs to hear what the community is discussing and to see how they run their session. **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated that they might be a little late in the AAA process to get information before the final report and **Mary Beals-Luedtka** stated that their Northern Arizona sessions are taking place right now. **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated that due to COVID-19 and the state of affairs, the AAA listening sessions may be set up in different structures, but **Lisa O'Neill** stated that it is still helpful to have a GACA member try and attend in their area. **Lisa O'Neill** said that it was only possible to pull off these listening sessions at all because of the Governor's Office on Aging coordination efforts. It supported the "Action Days" through logistical coordination, working with local leadership, and bringing together the community for these events, but again relayed that it is not possible due to how the council is set up currently.
  - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked if anyone else had ideas of events or campaigns that they would like to revive.
    - **Barbara Marshall** asked about an event that took place last year and **Lisa O'Neill** responded it was the World Elder Abuse Awareness Conference put on by DES. It will take place again on June 15, 2023, and more information can be found [here](#).
    - **Lisa O'Neill** stated that prior to Governor Brewer there used to be a Governor's Conference on Aging put together for the council and statewide partners and it is something that could be looked at it again. She stated that if anyone gets a moment with the Governor to request the Office on Aging to come back and she would personally advise on why it is important to do so. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that the majority of the conference was coordinated and planned by the Governor's Office on Aging staff. **Lisa O'Neill** concurred and stated members of the Governor's direct staff helped coordinate since the Governor attended in person, not in name, only in partnership. It was one of the few times when individuals from the Aging community can all be in the same room with lawmakers, non-profits, and government service providers.

#### Liaison and Council Member Roundtable

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Nicole Baker** to give an update from the [Arizona Department of Veterans Services \(DVS\)](#). **Nicole Baker** stated that the [Yuma Veteran Home](#) now has 20+ residents, discussed different holiday activities provided to the residents, service and mechanical companion pets, and engagement with the community. She stated they will continue accepting residents until they hit their 80-bed capacity while additionally growing closer to opening up their memory care unit. She added that they are looking to open admissions to the Flagstaff Veteran Home in April. In partnership with the [Arizona Department of Health Services \(AZDHS\)](#), they began a tribal connectivity project where laptops and tablets were sent to three tribal partners to teach them how to use different programs and tools, including learning more about veteran benefits. DVS has started a pilot program to help serve the housing needs of veterans with high-acuity needs such as medical programs, aging issues, and financial hardships. In partnership with the [Arizona Department of Economic Security \(DES\)](#) and [Arizona Housing Coalition](#), DVS is working to get more partners using the [Arizona Long Term Care System \(ALTCS\)](#) to help address this issue. Currently, DVS has nine individuals in the program and temporarily paying out-of-pocket until they get them into ALTCS or find another long-term payer source. This process is helping reveal the barriers this population faces in obtaining housing, monetary needs, and capacity constraints.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Mary Beals-Luedtka** Board Chair of [Arizona Association on Aging \(AZAging\)](#), and **Brandon Baxter**, [Family Caregiver Coordinator](#) for the Area Agency on Aging-Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG), representing the disabled and aging populations in Region III, for a review of the regions and to give an overview of their Legislative Position statement for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 which can be found here [here](#). **Mary Beals-Luedtka** stated she will be retiring in September 2023 after 13 years of service.

- o AZAging is making a request that the \$2,000,000 appropriated in FY 2023 continue to be appropriated to Area Agency on Aging in FY 2024 as an ongoing funding source.
- o AZAging is hosting five public hearings in March across Northern Arizona about their Area Plans for community members to learn more about how they can better achieve their goals.
- o Different tribal senior centers are struggling with delivering food and services due to weather and economic conditions.
- o **Mary Beals-Luedtka** gave an overview of the region updates. Region I finished conducting its needs assessment which revealed that transportation is still the greatest need with food and housing insecurity on the rise. Region II completed all the action steps to complete its Area Plan. Region III hired six new staff members. Region VII held a volunteer appreciation event.
- o **Mary Beals-Luedtka** stated the Governor's Office on Aging used to host a conference on Aging but it stopped after Governor Napolitano. AZAging took on hosting the conference but it has since been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next conference is scheduled to be held in 2024 in Tucson. She added the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging has always been supportive in a multitude of ways. Lastly, the DES World Elder Abuse Conference will take place on June 15, 2023.
  - **Lisa O'Neill** stated GACA supported the DES World Elder Abuse Conference in 2020.
- o **Belinda Akes** stated that President Carter choosing to do hospice at home is shining a light on people wanting to age at home and the social isolation that the aging community faces.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Virginia Rountree** stating the caseload for the investigators of Adult Protective Service is down to 48 per investigator versus the previous 60, with the goal of reaching 25 cases per investigator. In regards to the Mandatory APS Dementia Training for investigators, attendees will now receive a printed certificate starting February 27, 2023. DES and the [Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System \(AHCCCS\)](#) began working on recommendations from the 2022 Statewide Abuse and Neglect Taskforce, which launched an Arizona-based neglect and abuse awareness campaign. Funding for this campaign has been secured through AHCCCS and the [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#). They have started soliciting marketing and will consult with GACA to make sure the resources reach all different areas of Arizona. **Virginia Rountree** stated the collaboration that has taken place between AAA and AHCCCS to provide a toolkit to AAA's to help better understand how to navigate eligibility and benefits in a post-COVID-19 landscape.
  - o **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, asked if the Mandatory APS Training has been translated into Spanish. **Virginia Rountree** stated it is in the translation process. **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, thanked her for getting the certification process approved.
  - o **Virginia Rountree** stated that their staff are starting to feel the caseload lighten up with the increased collaboration. **Brandon Baxter** stated that caseload management, referrals between agencies, and waitlists are all linked; stated the need for the \$2,000,000 sustained appropriation from the legislature for AZAging to keep waitlists down.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Teresa Manygoats** who stated that AZDHS is finalizing its *Healthy Aging Report*, a section that is part of the State Aging Plan, is in the vetting process and looking to be released in the next two weeks. The AZDHS' Bureau of Chronic Disease and Health Promotions' Healthy Aging Program met with [Region 9](#) of the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#). They discussed healthy aging at a federal level and know there is much work to be done in Region 9. AZDHS has developed an [Arizona Health Improvement Plan](#) in collaboration with 200+ statewide partners that includes five different action plans. This improvement plan has two workgroups around implementing best practices for healthy aging and family caregivers. Both of these teams are being led by [Madeline Bynes](#) and if any GACA members would like to participate please reach out to **Teresa Manygoats** or Madeline Bynes. **Teresa Manygoats** continued her update by stating they are in the beginning stages of planning a Health Summit for Caregivers to take place in June and stated that if any GACA members would like to participate please reach out to her. She discussed the need to pass [House Bill 2087](#) and [Senate Bill 1220](#) which were discussed by **Terri Spitz, Chair**, earlier. Lastly, she discussed the success of DES, AZDHS, and AHCCCS

in re-engaging healthy aging-related partners at a program level and has applied for an [Aging Leadership Academy](#) with the National Academy for State Health Policy.

- o **Brenda Holt** stated that she would like information on the Health Summit for Caregivers and her email is [bholt@aarp.com](mailto:bholt@aarp.com). **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked if the summit is specific for the aging community and **Teresa Manygoats** stated she does not know yet as it would include caregivers and those living with chronic diseases but will lean on the planning committee to handle logistics.
- o **Lisa O'Neill** stated that the Arizona Caregiver Coalition would like to be involved if they are not already and emphasized a hope that the summit would involve all ages of caregivers.
- o **Brandon Baxter** stated that they would include kinship care and caregivers in the summit.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Steve Wagner** to give an update regarding the [Arizona Fall Prevention Coalition](#) pursuant to [A.R.S Title 36-420](#) and [36-420.01](#). The Arizona Fall Prevention Coalition is working closely with Dr. Jonathan S. Lee-Confer and the University of Arizona to develop training modules for the fall prevention and recovery portions of the training. They are in the process of developing the website and the Coalition will be able to start the training by the end of March. **Steve Wagner** mentioned that GACA would benefit greatly from hearing the presentation by Dr. Lee-Confer on the biomechanical impacts of falls and fall prevention. Dr. Lee-Confer's research can be found [here](#). **Steve Wagner** reminded GACA members that he sits on the [Arizona Attorney General's Task Force Against Senior Abuse \(TASA\)](#) and stated they have a potential meeting in March.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Lisa O'Neill** who relayed a request on behalf of the [University of Arizona - Arizona Center on Aging](#). The organization is working on short training programs and modules for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA), Physical Therapist Assistants (PTA), and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) that will cost \$35 and is 12 hours long. With the program launch date of July 2023, they are looking for a venue and/or events to set up a table to spread the word. To learn more about this program please reach out to **Lisa O'Neill** at [loneill@aging.arizona.edu](mailto:loneill@aging.arizona.edu).
  - o **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated that a [Healthy Aging Expo](#) will be held in Parker, Arizona on April 2, 2023, and **Lisa O'Neill** replied that she would reach out for more information.
  - o **Virginia Rountree** asked if she had reached out to other partners and **Lisa O'Neill** stated yes she has, as well as paid partners to help spread the word about the program.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, who relayed the story of the [Western Arizona Council of Governments \(WACOG\)](#) being able to donate a mechanical companion pet to the DVS Yuma Veteran Home. She continued her update by discussing the continuation of their pilot program to provide an Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention seminar in communities to share resources for both the aging community and service providers. Additionally, she stated how WACOG has been fully involved in the advocacy process for [House Bill 2087](#) and [Senate Bill 1220](#). **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated they are still fundraising for their mechanical companion pet program and requested for GACA members to spread the word. WACOG is providing a one-day conference in Yuma in March where a physician and **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, will come in to teach about Alzheimer's and dementia, and provide resources from local organizations.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Brenda Holt** who gave an update about AARP's top advocacy priorities for 2023; Affordable Housing and Homelessness, Long-Term Care, Utilities, and Financial Security and Retirement. She discussed how they are also following [Senate Bill 1117](#) which addresses the issue of affordable housing. As mentioned previously, [House Bill 2087](#) and [Senate Bill 1220](#) is being closely followed by AARP with their full support for passage. AARP is sponsoring a [Fraud Forum](#) on May 6, 2023, at the Musical Instrument Museum. They will have the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Postmaster General in attendance. To learn more about this event, please click [here](#).
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Bonita Imus** who stated the [Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona \(ITCA\)](#)'s advocacy team is in Washington D.C. recruiting for the organization. ITCA AAA will be doing a monitoring visit and any members of the [Arizona Indian Council on Aging](#) are welcome to attend to hear updates ITCA will be reporting on. **Bonita Imus** stated the continuation of food distribution centers and COVID-19 testing sites as a rising number of physicians are leaving the area due to a lack of housing.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Belinda Akes** who stated that the [Pinal Gila Senior Council](#) donated a Holiday box to each of the senior citizens living in their apartments in Eloy. [Meals for Wheels](#) is continuing to deliver food, highlighting the interaction of going into the home and speaking with the residents is extremely important for them. [Santa Cruz Valley Food Pantry](#) was able to hand out Holiday food care packages. **Belinda Akes** had the opportunity to join forces with the [Eloy Fire District](#) to deliver food and toys throughout their communities.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked GACA for their support of [House Bill 2087](#) and [Senate Bill 1220](#). The Alzheimer's Association is shifting its focus toward more general awareness and research presentations of Alzheimer's. These presentations not only speak to those living with dementia or Alzheimer's and their caregiver but also bring overall awareness to the general public. Switching to these types of outreach efforts has allowed them to reach an additional 5,000 individuals since July 2022. She asked if anyone would like to bring these presentations to their organizations, please share the opportunity. In partnership with the National Football League (NFL) Alumni and in partnership with [Arizona State University](#), a [Black Men's Brain Health Conference](#) brought together panels of experts to help bring forward solutions on why this specific population is disproportionately impacted and how the Alzheimer Association can work to fill the gaps. The [Desert Southwest Chapter](#) of the Alzheimer Association has put together an African-American Workgroup to hear the needs and perspectives to better serve the community. Additionally, the Alzheimer Association presented to all of the Human Resources (HR) Managers across Maricopa County to reach businesses and bigger employers to have a conversation about dementia and Alzheimers. In June 2023, they will be hosting a *Go Purple Business Breakfast* to bring together HR leaders and employers on what they are able to recognize and provide resources for support. The Alzheimer Association's Facts and Figures sheet is set to be released in March. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, would like Katie Skavarce, Director of Communications at the Alzheimer's Association, to present on it.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated she would like to collect the future dates of Community and Legislative Partners on Aging meetings and have them sent out to all of the council members. **Kainoa Spenser** responded that he will collect those dates and send them out accordingly.
- **Brenda Marshall** shared two brochures produced by the [Arizona Abuse in Later Life Partners Group](#):
  - [Maricopa County Legal Remedies and Victim Resource Guide for Elder Abuse I](#)
  - [Maricopa County Legal Remedies and Victim Resource Guide for Elder Abuse II](#)

#### Upcoming Meeting

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reminded members that the next meeting is on **April 12, 2023**, at **10 a.m.** in a hybrid format, with in-person and virtual options available.

#### Adjournment

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked for a motion to adjourn.
  - **Lisa O'Neill** moved to adjourn.
  - **Virginia Rountree** seconded the motion.
  - The motion passed with no dissenting votes and the meeting adjourned at **12:02 p.m.**

Dated 24 of January 2023  
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Kainoa Spenser  
GOYFF