



**GOVERNOR’S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING**

**April 12, 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 **April 12, 2023**, in a hybrid format, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (11)	Members Absent (2)
Terri Spitz, Chair	Senator Lela Alston
Carol Brown, Co-Chair	Representative Tim Dunn
Barbara Marshall	
Virginia Rountree	
Belinda Akes	
Brenda Holt	
Teresa Manygoats	
Bert Ijams	
Lisa O’Neill	
Bonita Imus	
Steve Wagner	
Staff and Guests Present (4)	
Mary Beals Luedtka	Jakenna Lebsock
Kainoa Spenser, GOYFF	Katie Skvarce

**Call to Order**

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) meeting to order at **10:04 A.M.** with **11 members**, and four staff and guests present. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reviewed the procedures of a virtual meeting and welcomed all those present.

**Roll Call**

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, conducted roll call and quorum was met.

**Approval of Minutes**

- **Lisa O’Neill** asked for a revision on page one and page five of the **January 22, 2023** minutes. Revisions were acknowledged and changes made.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, asked for a revision on page six of the **January 22, 2023** minutes. Revisions were acknowledged and changes made.
- **Bert Ijams** asked for a revision on page four of the **January 22, 2023** minutes. Revisions were acknowledged and changes made.
- **Teresa Manygoats** asked for a revision on page five of the **January 22, 2023** minutes. Revisions were acknowledged and changes made.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested approval of the minutes from **January 22, 2023** as amended.
  - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, moved to accept the **January 22, 2023** minutes with the revisions.
  - **Lisa O’Neill** seconded the motion.
  - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

### Chair's Remarks

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, began by welcoming everyone to the meeting. She discussed some of the talking points from the meeting with the [Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family \(GOYFF\)](#) Director Tonya Hamilton, Finance and Procurement Manager Travis Price, and the Human Services Policy Advisor, Andrew Sugrue. She stated that over the next 90 days, the chairs and GOYFF staff will be working to update the council's by-laws.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, continued by discussing the need for a GACA-specific Program Administrator. Previously, this position allowed the council to have senior listening sessions and assist with council-related event planning. A review of the potential scope of work will be based on the current needs of the council. During the discussion of funding, it was stated there was a need to develop a process when it comes to requesting sponsorships on behalf of GACA. For the council, the first half of the year getting the pieces together and reorganizing to be best set up for the second half of the year which will focus on impactful forward-facing work. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked Director Tonya Hamilton for taking the time to meet with them.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, asked if "Aging" would be added to the name "Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family" as discussed at the meeting. She stated the addition would bridge the gap of confusion for those looking for aging resources and which office/agency provides those services or connections.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that Andrew Sugrue shared some of the [Governor's priorities](#) which include long-term care, elder abuse, housing, and Arizonans facing homelessness and experiencing aging for the first-time. The council is looking to bring in speakers who are able to share more around the topic of the aging population entering homelessness.
- **Virginia Rountree** asked about the potential GACA-specific Program Administrator and if they would report to GOYFF.
  - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated yes.
- **Teresa Manygoats** asked for clarification if the word "Aging" was requested to be placed in the full title of "Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family" or somewhere else.
  - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, confirmed that it would be in the name of the "Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family".

### Medicaid Estate Recovery Program

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Jakenna Lebsock**, Assistant Director in the Division of Health Care Management at the [Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System \(AHCCCS\)](#). Jakenna has been involved in Medicaid and Managed Care for the last 17 years. The majority of this time focused around ensuring quality care for Arizona's most vulnerable populations, building strong relationships with partners and stakeholders, and working to ensure transparency with policies/regulatory guidance that supports Medicaid beneficiaries to achieve optimal health/well-being.
- **Jakenna Lebsock** started the presentation with an overview of the [Medicaid Estate Recovery Program](#), stating it is a federally required program and seeks to recover payments AHCCCS has made on behalf of members enrolled in the [Arizona Long Term Care System \(ALTCS\)](#). Individuals are made aware that AHCCCS may collect the cost of care for services from their estate or real property during the enrollment process while also filing claims and liens on member estates and real property - up to the amount of ALTCS payments made. There is a delay/waiver collection if the member or heir has a reasonable statutory exemption or verified undue hardship, commonly known as a Hardship Waiver.
- **Jakenna Lebsock** continued by discussing who this program serves, what property is impacted, and when it is implemented. She also reviewed the recent year's recoveries graph showing the dollar amount the program has recovered since State Fiscal Year 2020.
  - She included additional information and resources around understanding this program better:
    - [Medical Assistance Eligibility Policy Manual](#)
    - [Medicaid Estate Recovery Program Overview](#)
  - The full presentation can be found [here](#).
- **Bert Ijams** asked how far back AHCCCS goes in the transfer of assets when determining eligibility for the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program.

- **Jakenna** responded that she believes it goes back five years.
- **Bert Ijams** asked to explain the relationship between AHCCCS and United Healthcare (UHC) in regard to long-term care.
  - **Jakenna** responded that since AHCCCS is the state Medicaid program, the federal government authorizes and regulates the program in the State of Arizona. In turn, Arizona utilizes [Managed Care](#) as its primary model of service delivery allowing it to contract with healthcare companies such as UHC to implement service needs.
- **Lisa O'Neill** thanked **Jakenna** for her time and stated she had been the one to request information on how the process was conducted in Arizona after reading an [NPR article](#) discussing the hardships families have faced regarding Medicaid Estate Recovery. She asked how Arizona collects this debt?
  - **Jakenna** stated that there is staff dedicated to collections.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, suggested having **Jakenna** back as a follow-up conversation so council members can receive a deeper understanding and can share best practices around this program with their communities.
- **Mary Beals-Luedtka** stated that [Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging \(AZAging\)](#) has Care Managers that help people apply for this program as it is difficult, expensive, and inaccessible to many. She added that spouses and families often face challenges and hard situations around spousal impoverishment.

### Alzheimer's Association 2023 Facts and Figures Report

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Katie Skvarce**, Communications Director at the [Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter](#). In this role, Katie handles media relations and marketing efforts across Arizona and southern Nevada. She also acts as Research Champion for the Chapter, speaking about Alzheimer's and dementia research and scientific advancements. She is passionate about the families the Association serves and enjoys helping others by spreading awareness through storytelling.
- **Katie Skvarce** started her presentation by stating this is both a national and state-by-state report that gives an in-depth look at statistics surrounding trends of Alzheimer's disease in America. Some major trends include:
  - Arizona has the fastest growth rate for Alzheimer's disease in the country.
  - 150,000 Arizonans are living with Alzheimer's disease and 261,000 Arizonans are caring for a friend or family member with dementia.
  - Arizona caregivers provide 511,000,000 hours of unpaid care per year valued at \$10,814,000,000 in care provided. This gives insight into why Arizona has the 2nd highest average number of hours per unpaid dementia caregiver.
  - Arizona will need a 294.6% increase in geriatricians by 2050 to meet this demand.
  - Nearly 10% of Arizona caregivers are in poor health themselves with 53% of Arizona dementia caregivers living with chronic conditions.
- **Katie Skvarce** stated that the Alzheimer's Association released a new special report, [The Patient Journey in an Era of New Treatments](#) revealing key takeaways:
  - The impact of the two new FDA-approved early treatment drugs emphasize the importance of raising cognition discussions with physicians early on so the patient can still qualify for treatment.
  - Racial and ethnic groups shared their unique journeys within their communities and the battle to combat stigma around reaching out for help.
  - Primary Care Physicians (PCP) are not being proactive in asking about their patient cognition level or if they are having cognitive issues. This can be increased by doctors including cognition tests at regular checkups.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated that the report data does not include people living with undiagnosed or early on-set Alzheimer's, emphasizing there are a lot more people living in Arizona with Alzheimer's than what the report shows. This brings awareness to the importance and need of promoting early detection cognition tests more regularly.
  - **Katie** responded that this is true and that external factors such as genetics or ethnicity can impact a patient's decision-making that are out of their control. There are lifestyle changes such as early

intervention and treatments that help to slow the disease and move the process of living with Alzheimer's forward.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that the era of treatment allows for those in the early stages of Alzheimer's and dementia to have more time with their family. The treatments allow people not to become one of the 2,000 people nationally that move from the treatable stage to the next of Alzheimer's disease due to the quick progression.
- More information can be found at [alz.org/facts](https://alz.org/facts)
- Read and download the [2023 Alzheimer's Statistics - Arizona](#)

### Workgroup Discussion

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, transitioned the discussion to the workgroups of the council. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that the Aging in Community (AIC) Workgroup will be convening in June. While the council searches for a new workgroup chair, **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, will assume the responsibilities.
  - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated the work and action items from the previous year would continue while the workgroup moves forward with crafting new objectives. It will still heavily focus on Alzheimer's and dementia-related issues per state statute. She reminded that part of being a council member is attending events such as Alzheimer's State Day at the Capitol, Caregivers State Day at the Capitol, and [Alzheimer's Association Walk](#).
  - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated that the Arizona Attorney General [Taskforce Against Senior Abuse \(TASA\)](#) would be continuing and will have a date for the next meeting sent out soon.
  - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, discussed the many ways that council members could be involved outside of just attending these events. She added that if members would like to be on the AIC Workgroup, they should plan on attending the June meeting. Additionally, council members should share with community members/organizations who serve their local aging population.
  - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, for stepping into this role and if anyone is interested in joining the AIC Workgroup, please reach out to **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**.

### Liaison and Council Member Roundtable

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that the Alzheimer's Association held a press conference at the State Capitol to share the information from the above mentioned report, as well as highlight the bills they are advocating for. Both [SB 1220](#) and [HB 2087](#) are in a waiting period while in a budget negotiation process.
  - SB 1220 establishes appropriation of \$300,000 to incorporate the Arizona Alzheimer's State Plan into state statute and establish dementia-specific positions within the [Arizona Department of Health Services \(ADHS\)](#).
  - HB 2087 establishes appropriation of \$500,000 to create an Alzheimer's awareness campaign targeting rural communities.
  - The Alzheimer's Association is working with nine different healthcare systems to help implement changes and processes for the early detection of dementia-related diseases. They have also set a goal of increasing their reach of educational resources by 20% by June 30, 2023. She thanked **Bert Ijams** for the collaborative efforts of providing Alzheimer's education to the individuals served through [Meals on Wheels](#).
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Barbara Marshall**, who stated she had no updates for the council.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Belinda Akes** who relayed a personal story of being able to connect a man in need to a Meals on Wheels Assistance program. She added that she attended a conference hosted by [Saint Mary's Food Bank](#) where she learned about the different programs they offer and how they are caring for the aging community.
  - **Belinda Akes** requested that their Agency Development Lead speak about their services for the senior community at an upcoming council meeting.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Bert Ijams**, who shared how grateful she is for the Alzheimer's Association's recent presentation on the facts and figures report at Meals on Wheels and thankful for the partnership between the two organizations. She asked members how the organizations that serve the aging population

and on the council can best advocate and provide aid to those who are home-bound, alone, and living with dementia.

- o In 2022, Meals of Wheels served 74,000 meals and is estimated to serve over 100,000 by the end of 2023.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Brenda Holt** and her team at [AARP](#) who stated they are working to advance their homelessness and transportation initiatives, aligning with Governor Katie Hobbs' priorities. She continued to discuss that they recently met with the Governor's staff that stated they are in support of HB 2087 and SB 1220.
  - o [HB 2387](#) allows for immediate assistance and increases allowable moving expenses for those living in mobile homes who are forced to move.
  - o [HB 2197](#) allows for people who are present during the electronic signing of a will to act as electronic witnesses.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Lisa O'Neill** who gave an update on the [Arizona Caregivers Coalition's](#) Family Caregiver Day at the Capitol, held both virtually and in-person. She stated she will send necessary resources to council members that include:
  - o [Arizona Caregivers Coalition Fast Facts](#)
  - o [Arizona Caregivers Coalition Highlights](#)
  - o [Arizona Caregivers Coalition Press Release](#)
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, who discussed her participation in a press conference with the Alzheimer's Association. She stated she also attended the [2023 Alzheimer's Impact Movement \(AIM\) Advocacy Forum](#) in Washington D.C. where she had the opportunity to advocate and educate on why early detection and fast action follow up is critical for Alzheimer's and other dementia-related diseases. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, added she is working with state legislators to educate them on the differences in need that this community faces and the necessary resources to address those needs.
  - o The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) will be hosting the [World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference](#) on June 15, 2023.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Teresa Manygoats**. She stated that ADHS will be releasing its Healthy Aging Report later this week and requested they present at a future meeting. Additional updates given include:
  - o The [National Association of State Health Policy](#) Inter-Agency Learning Collaborative between ADHS, AHCCCS, and DES are exploring avenues for the potential expansion of solutions for direct care workforce of those caring for the aging population. Also, they identify sustainability best practice which would include increasing provider rates as incentives.
  - o The first state Caregiver's Summit planning committee will take place on April 25, 2023, and if council members are interested in participating in an advisory capacity, please contact **Teresa Manygoats**.
  - o Partially funded through [Proposition 303](#), ADHS has began the planning process for their upcoming campaign, *Early Detection and Risk Reduction*.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Virginia Rountree** who stated that DES's [Adult Protective Services \(APS\)](#) caseload per investigator continue to decline due to a shift in the agency's focus around incorporating specific organizational needs into internal processes/procedures and external recruitment efforts. As of April 2023, Arizona's average caseload per APS Investigator sits at 39, down from 48 in January 2023 with a target of reaching 25 cases per investigator.
- Through funding distributed to AHCCCS from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), DES and AHCCCS have chosen [ON Advertising](#) as the vendor for the upcoming Abuse and Neglect campaign, a project recommended by the [Abuse and Neglect Prevention Task Force](#). Funding will aid in stakeholder engagement when facilitating feedback on best practices for reaching rural and other typically hard-to-reach communities/populations. The Taskforce would like to collaborate with GACA on this so they will be reaching out with dates in the future.
  - o Arizona was one of six states recently selected to participate in the [National Academy for State Health Policy \(NASHP\) Aging Policy Academy](#). Arizona's team is composed of agency leads from ADHS, AHCCCS, and DES that will work to with other states and national experts to identify ways

to improve elements of older adults' homes and community-based services, nursing homes, and the direct care workforce system through hands on technical assistance provided through the Academy.

- o **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked her for the work taking place.
- o **Belinda Akes** asked the location of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference. **Virginia Rountree** stated it will take place at the [Desert Willow Conference Center](#).
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, gave an update on behalf of **Steve Wagner** on the progress of the [Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition](#), and state statutes [A.R.S. 36420](#) and [A.R.S. 420.01](#) that relate to fall and lift assist trainings. Coalition members have provided insight, facilitated a practice session with leadership council, and need to make a few more updates before being released to the public. A general certificate with no national accreditation will be issued once the training is complete as well.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Mary Beals-Luedtka**, Board Chair of [AZAging](#), who updated council members on the overview of their legislative positions, recruitment and retention challenges, and a review of the regions that can be found [here](#).
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated that a draft of an Older Americans Month proclamation language has been sent to Kainoa Spenser for review and potential approval for the month of May.

#### Upcoming Meeting

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reminded members that the next meeting is on **June 14, 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.
  - o **Bert Ijams** moved to adjourn.
  - o **Belinda Akes** seconded the motion.
  - o The motion passed with no dissenting votes and the meeting adjourned at **11:43 P.M.**

Dated 13 of April 2023  
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Kainoa Spenser  
GOYFF