



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
August 9, 2023, 10:00 AM
340 East Palm Lane, Suite #230, Phoenix, AZ 85004

A general meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging convened on **August 9, 2023**, in a hybrid format notice duly given.

Members Present (12)	Members Absent (1)
Terri Spitz, Chair	Bonita Imus
Carol Brown, Co-Chair	
Bert Ijams	
Belinda Akes	
Brenda Holt	
Lisa O'Neill	
Molly McCarthy (Proxy for Virginia Rountree)	
Representative Tim Dunn	
Senator Lela Alston	
Steve Wagner	
Teri Kennedy	
Teresa Manygoats	
Staff and Guests Present (4)	
Kainoa Spenser, GOYFF	Nicole Baker, AZDVS
Maddy Bynes, AZAging	Nisha Dorsey, AZDVS

Call to Order

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) meeting to order at **10:00 A.M.** with **12 members**, one staff, and three liaisons present. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reviewed the procedures of a virtual meeting and welcomed all individuals present.

Chair's Remarks

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed new GACA member **Teri Kennedy**.

Roll Call

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, conducted a roll call and reached a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested approval of the minutes from **June 14, 2023**.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated on page 5: change "this" to "Awareness Campaign."
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated on page 5: add "on behalf of Nicole Baker."
- **Teresa Manygoats** stated on page 5, bullet 4: change "DES" to "ADHS."
 - **Brenda Holt** moved to accept the **June 14, 2023**, minutes with revisions.
 - **Carol Brown** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

By-Laws Discussion

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, moved to potential By-Law revisions and opened the floor for discussion as she reviewed the edits in the provided draft By-Laws.
- **Bert Ijams** asked if the Council is in line with what its membership composition requires.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated it is working to achieve this. **Bert Ijams** expressed the need to have geographical representation.
- **Bert Ijams** asked how the Council advises the Governor and other state agencies.
 - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated the administration of the Council through the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) allows them to work with the Governor's Policy Advisors on aging-related issues.
- **Bert Ijams** asked how the Council monitors the [Arizona State Plan on Aging](#).
 - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated that the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) reports at quarterly meetings on the progress of implementing the State Plan.
- **Bert Ijams** inquired about the removal of "...and advocate for such" related to the development of legislative priorities on page 2.
 - **Kainoa Spenser** responded this allows members more accessibility and flexibility moving through their work.
- **Bert Ijams** inquired about how the Council is submitting recommendations as discussed in the 'Responsibilities' section on page 2, Part D.
 - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, responded that the Council's Annual Report includes recommendations and is submitted annually per state statute.
- **Lisa O'Neill** asked if the Council is still sending its annual report to the Arizona House and Senate.
 - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, responded she would verify this.
- **Teri Kennedy** requested revisions to page 4 regarding changing the word "senior" to "older adult." She requested this revision across the document.
 - **Kainoa Spenser** responded yes.
- **Bert Ijams** stated regarding promoting public understanding and acceptance of programs and services relating to the well-being of the state's older adults referenced in Section 4, Part E: the Council is not currently doing this, and a goal they are working to achieve.
- **Teresa Manygoats** inquired about the status of an Executive Director of Aging and the structure of the role.
 - **Kainoa Spenser** stated the status is still pending.
 - **Lisa O'Neill** added this position serves at the will of the Governor, the same as other State of Arizona employees.
- **Bert Ijams** asked more about the Executive Director position.
 - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, and **Representative Tim Dunn** stated position responsibilities reflect requirements in state statute [A.R.S. 46-183](#).
- **Bert Ijams** stated regarding committees and workgroups referenced in Section 8, Part A: it will be beneficial to have members from the community outside the Council participate in the work.
 - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated this allows more involvement from and at a community level and provides additional flexibility to the Council and its members.
 - **Teri Kennedy** asked if the word "victims" could be changed in state statute so it can be changed and reflected in the By-Laws.
- **Lisa O'Neill** asked if the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Committee would be limited to working on projects and activities related to Alzheimer's; **Bert Ijams** added who is in the Executive Workgroup.
 - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Committee is statutorily required to focus on this issue. The Executive Workgroup is Council leadership and the chairs of committees/workgroups.
 - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked if the proposed language in Section 8, Part B is reflective of such. **Bert Ijams** responded no since historically, the Aging in Community (AIC) Workgroup operated as a standing committee. **Bert Ijams** proposed changing the language from "There shall be one standing workgroup." to "There shall be one or more standing workgroups."
 - **Bert Ijams** motioned a vote on language revision.
 - **Steve Wagner** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.
- **Bert Ijams** inquired about removing Section 9, Part E relating to all decisions and/or recommendations

being made by a majority vote of the Council.

- **Kainoa Spenser** responded it is redundant as the Council operates under [Open Meeting Law](#).
- **Lisa O'Neill** asked for revisions to the following language relating to the development of meeting agendas referenced in Section 9, Part I: "Council agenda is developed by the Executive Director and approved by the Council Chairperson after input is received from the Council members. Others may propose agenda items by contacting the Executive Director at least one month before the meeting." Proposed language: "Council agendas are developed in consultation between the Executive Director and the Council Chairperson after input is received from the Council members. Others may propose agenda items by contacting the Executive Director or Council Administrator at least one month before the meeting."
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked Council members for their time and dedication in reviewing the By-Laws.

Workgroup Discussion

- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, transitioned to the Aging in Community (AIC) Workgroup discussion. She stated that due to the discussion of the By-Laws, workgroup meetings are on hold, but efforts to build community partnerships will continue. **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated the new Dementia Care Coordinator at ADHS would be a great addition to the AIC Workgroup. She added the possibility of this position also serving as the chair for the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Committee.
 - **Lisa O'Neill** expressed this might limit the scope of what the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Committee can cover in its work.
- **Bert Ijams** stated the need to discuss the strategic goals of the Council and its committees/workgroups. She requested to have this added as an agenda item to discuss at the next meeting.
 - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, responded yes. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated the Council would address this once the By-Laws are final.
- **Representative Tim Dunn** asked about the efforts of the AIC Workgroup and the possibility of sunseting.
 - **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, responded no, the AIC Workshop will not sunset; the chair position is vacant, but Council members are currently at capacity. Once filled, AIC Workgroup meetings will resume.

Liaison and Council Member Roundtable

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Maddy Bynes** to report on behalf of the [Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging \(AZAging\)](#). Find the full report [here](#).
 - **Representative Tim Dunn** asked if the \$60 million in funding received during COVID-19 was a one-time payment or distributed over three years.
 - **Maddy Bynes** responded over three years; the majority came from the [CARES Act](#) and [ARP Act](#) funds.
 - **Lisa O'Neill** stated Council members would benefit from having a quick fact sheet to reference when talking with different state legislators and local organizations.
 - **Maddy Bynes** stated since this is a national concern, they are committed to working with federal partners.
 - **Bert Ijams** highlighted how Mary Beals Luedtka and **Maddy Bynes** of AZAging created a state fiscal fact sheet that Council members can utilize.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Nicole Baker** of the Arizona Department of Veteran Services (ADVS). She stated their Veteran Yuma Home had reached its max capacity of 80 beds and had opened a second unit. Their Veteran Flagstaff Home will open on August 10, 2023. Lastly, they have started the developing phases of a Veteran Mohave Home.
 - **Representative Tim Dunn** asked if ADVS has secured funding for the new home in Mohave County.
 - **Nicole Baker** responded that ADVS has secured state funding but still needs to secure federal match funding and the land.
 - **Nicole Baker** stated new legislation provides funding to support programs that focus on veterans experiencing homelessness and suicide prevention.

- o **Nicole Baker** discussed their partnership with ADHS on their Tribal Connectivity program. She stated the two state agencies currently work with three Tribal Nations and will soon expand to eight. She highlighted the program's growth from its original design to battle social isolation into a digital literacy program.
- o **Nicole Baker** stated she is transitioning out of her position and introduced **Nisha Dorsey**, the new ADVS liaison to the Council. **Nisha Dorsey** is currently the State Veteran Homeless Program Administrator at ADVS.
 - **Brenda Holt** asked what the bed capacity is at the Veteran Flagstaff Home.
 - **Nicole Baker** responded it has an 80-bed capacity, and 20 are dedicated memory care beds.
- o **Representative Tim Dunn** praised the design of Veteran Homes and added the need to replicate its model statewide.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, shared the Alzheimer's Association has developed advisory roundtables with different marginalized populations for insight into experiences. She added the organization is looking to develop a rural roundtable group.
 - o Medicare now covers Biogen and Eisai's Leqembi (the brand name for lecanemab), a drug that treats individuals with Alzheimer's.
 - o Thanked **Representative Tim Dunn** for sponsoring the Public Awareness Campaign to accomplish this.
 - o Shared that the Alzheimer's Association is preparing for their national and statewide Alzheimer's Walks.
 - **Bert Ijams** asked if they could receive a flier of all the walk dates. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated she would send it out to Council members.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Belinda Akers**, who stated [Santa Cruz Valley Food Bank](#) is working to create water relief centers in their service areas and will continue serving food through the Pinal/Gila Senior Citizen Council's Meals on Wheel program through the rest of the summer. Since the last meeting, she has attended the 2023 Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement, the 2023 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference (WEAAD), and the Fire District Semi-Annual meeting.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Bert Ijams**. She stated she left her position as Executive Director of Prescott Meals on Wheels but continues to engage with the community by attending the [Prescott Community Health Improvement Plan \(CHIP\)](#) meetings in Yavapai County. **Bert Ijams** stated calling [211 Arizona](#) does not work well in Yavapai County and suggested utilizing [mohelp.org](#) for available resources. [Click here](#) for the Inclusion and Exclusion Policy. In 2022, Meals on Wheels in Prescott and Prescott Valley served 74,000 meals. So far in 2023, they have served 105,000 meals.
 - o **Bert Ijams** acknowledged **Brenda Holt's** spotlight in [AARP's Bulletin](#), where Governor Katie Hobbs is also quoted about efforts to make Arizona "an age-friendly and dementia-friendly state."
 - o **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked **Bert Ijams** for her dedication and service to her community.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Brenda Holt**, who stated AARP is focusing efforts on issues related to affordable housing, homelessness, and rising utility costs. She relayed AARP's excitement around the signing of [Proposition 400](#). She added AARP's Bulletin is the most-read publication in the United States.
 - o In partnership with [OATS](#), the AARP Foundation is developing a pilot program to leverage volunteers to provide training on iPads to low-income, socially isolated older adults; 896 people have already signed up.
 - o AARP published a [Heat and Safety resource guide](#).
 - o AARP recently lowered its admission age to 18.
 - **Terri Spitz, Chair**, commented this is a great way to recruit members to AARP.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, who stated she attended and presented at the 2023 WEAAD Conference, speaking on behalf of the Yuma County Elder Abuse Prevention Task Force. She thanked the Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) staff who continue their annual water donation drive each summer, adding the need for events/spaces for community members to learn more

about developments around Advanced Directives. **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, discussed the collaboration between the Veteran Yuma Home and WACOG's Health and Wellness classes/activities.

- o **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated September is Falls Prevention Awareness Month, and Falls Prevention Day occurs on September 22. She relayed a personal story from the 2022 Falls Prevention Day.
- o **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated that WACOG speaks on the radio in rural Arizona every other week to connect the public to local resources.
- o **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, discussed with a member of the Yuma City Council the critical need for an Older Adult Center in the City of Yuma.
 - **Nicole Baker** stated previous discussions with the City of Yuma Mayor regarding work outside the Council and suggested using this avenue to further discussions around bringing an Older Adult Center in the City of Yuma to life.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Lisa O'Neill**, who stated the University of Arizona Center of Aging (ACOA) offers an [Advanced Care of Older Adults Certificate](#) geared towards Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), Physical Therapist Technicians, and Long Term Care Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). It provides opportunities for health professionals to expand their Geriatric knowledge and critical skills to improve care for older adults. The 12-hour online course is \$35 to attend and \$25 for a continuing education unit (CEU).
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Senator Lela Alston**, who stated the Community and Legislative Partners in Aging (CLPA) meetings are on a summer hiatus and looking to begin in-person events again soon. She relayed her excitement about the new Area Agency on Aging funding and thanked Maricopa County Treasurer John Allen for his help. She added if anyone would like to discuss policy or legislation, do not hesitate to contact her office.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Steve Wagner**, who stated the [Task Force Against Senior Abuse \(TASA\)](#) is still on hold. [The Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition](#) has agreed to move forward with a Falls Prevention program, thanking ADHS and DES for their continued collaboration to help end older adult abuse and neglect. **Steve Wagner** discussed the 24-25% increase in calls to first responders from 2022. He stated he met with [Contexture](#), the organization that provides oversight of the information tracked at the [Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System \(AHCCCS\)](#). **Steve Wagner** explained in Arizona, they currently cannot honor people's wishes such as a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) or other specific health documents.
 - o **Steve Wagner** stated this change would provide critical information to first responders en route to a call.
 - o **Representative Tim Dunn** asked if a DNR needs to be given to a first responder when they arrive.
 - **Steve Wagner** responded yes, it is a requirement by statute for first responders. He stated the passage of [Senate Bill 1157](#) reaffirmed the need to provide medical history and a DNR to first responders when called to an assisted living center, assisted living home, or behavioral health residential facility.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Representative Tim Dunn**, who stated he is working across the aisle with Representative Jennifer Longden and will work with the Council to grow its connections through outreach with legislators.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Teresa Manygoats**, who stated the Caregiver Summit is on November 8, 2023, and will send out more information as it becomes available. ADHS received funding for a Dementia Care Coordinator and a Public Awareness Campaign. They are working on the procurement process for the Public Awareness Campaign.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Molly McCarthy**, a proxy for **Virginia Rountree**, who highlighted the success of the 2023 WEAAD Conference with 250 attendees. DES is looking to streamline the process for reporting Elder Abuse and is conducting a study of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA). They will be under contract with [Health Management](#) for the 12-month duration of the study. DES will submit recommendations to federal partners on potential regulation changes set by the Older Americans Act.
 - o Waiting to receive aging plans from two AAAs.

- o Funds received through the ARP Act, AHCCCS was able to do a roadshow of county events showcasing [SpeakUpAZ.org](https://www.speakupaz.org).
- o Although federal funding supporting older adult housing efforts concluded, state funding from the Governor's Office is currently covering this.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Teri Kennedy**, who relayed her excitement about returning to the Council representing the Green Valley area and the "snowbirds." Reviewed resources regarding [Age-Friendly Public Health Systems](#), [Age-Friendly Health Systems](#), [Telepractice Toolkit: A Resource for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice](#), and [the Reframing Aging Initiative](#).

Upcoming Meeting

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reminded members the next meeting is on **October 11, 2023**, at **10:00 A.M.** in a hybrid format, with in-person and virtual options available.

Adjournment

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked for a motion to adjourn.
 - o **Belinda Akes** moved to adjourn.
 - o **Representative Tim Dunn** seconded the motion.
 - o The motion passed with no dissenting votes, and the meeting adjourned at **12:00 P.M.**

Dated August 9, 2023
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
Respectfully Submitted By:
Kainoa Spenser
GOYFF