



**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING**

**October 11, 2023, 10:00 AM**

**1700 West Washington Street, Suite #230, Phoenix, AZ 85004**

A general meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging convened on **October 11, 2023**, in a hybrid format, notice duly given.

Members Present (12)	Members Absent (2)
Terri Spitz, Chair	Lisa O'Neill
Carol Brown, Co-Chair	Senator Lela Alston
Bert Ijams	
Belinda Akes	
Brenda Holt	
Bonita Imus	
Teresa Manygoats	
Virginia Rountree	
Representative Tim Dunn	
Steve Wagner	
Teri Kennedy	
Staff and Guests Present (4)	
Kainoa Spenser, GOYFF	Latrisha Centers, GOYFF
Mark Clark, AZAging	Nisha Dorsey, AZDVS

**Call to Order**

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) meeting to order at **10:05 A.M.** with **11 members**, two staff, and two liaisons present. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reviewed the procedures of a virtual meeting and welcomed all individuals present.

**Chair's Remarks**

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated she was excited about GACA's future, thanked members for their hard work, and welcomed the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF)'s new Executive Director of Aging, **Latrisha Centers**.

**Roll Call**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested approval of the minutes from **August 9, 2023**.
- **Steve Wagner** stated that on page 5, '2020' needs to be changed to '2022.'
  - o **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, moved to accept the **August 9, 2023**, minutes with an amendment.
  - o **Steve Wagner** seconded the motion.
  - o The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

**GACA Bylaws Update**

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that members have received a paper copy of the Draft GACA By-Laws that will be voted on at the meeting in December.

**Welcome of New GACA Liaisons**

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Nisha Dorsey**, the state veteran homeless program coordinator of the [Arizona Department of Veteran Services \(ADVS\)](#), as ADVS' new GACA Liaison. She is an advocate who

coordinates federal, state, and local initiatives to identify and mitigate contributing factors around veteran homelessness.

- o **Representative Tim Dunn** stated he would like to learn more about the causes of homelessness and unhoused veterans and to reach out to his office.
- o **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, asked about the numbers and data regarding the unhoused population. **Nisha Dorsey** responded that specific numbers and data for each county are available on the county-based coalitions.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Mark Clark**, [Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging \(AZAging\)](#) Board Chair, to provide an update on the work at the different Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). Find the full report [here](#).
  - o **Representative Tim Dunn** asked how AAA's housing assistance program is allocated and distributed.
    - **Mark Clark** responded that funds are based on and can be used for each region's "Needs Plan."
  - o **Bonita Imus** asked if the housing repair funds apply to those living on the reservations.
    - **Mark Clark** responded yes, it can help with those repairs; this would happen through their AAA programs in the [Navajo Nation](#) and the [Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona](#).
    - **Virginia Rountree** confirmed this allocation, stating the funding is broad and built with a flexible definition.
  - o **Steve Wagner** asked if they have contacted the faith community to help with the looming fiscal cliff.
    - **Mark Clark** responded yes, but faith communities are experiencing the same issues.

#### Introduction of the Executive Director of Aging

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Conrad Lindo**, GOYFF Deputy Director, to introduce the agency's new **Executive Director of Aging, Latrisha Centers**.
- **Executive Director Latrisha Centers** thanked **Deputy Director Lindo** for the introduction and began her presentation.
  - o Gave a synopsis of her personal and professional history. Find her full presentation [here](#).
  - o **Representative Tim Dunn** stated he would like insight into how best to incorporate his office's work into GACA's efforts and would like to set up a meeting with **Executive Director Centers**.
  - o **Bonita Imus** thanked **Executive Director Centers** for joining the team.

#### Presentation of Legacy Corps for Veterans and Military Families

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Sandi Gorley**, [Legacy Corps for Veterans and Military Families](#), or Legacy Corps, National Project Director, an AmeriCorps-funded project housed on the Arizona State University (ASU) Downtown Phoenix campus in the Center for Urban Innovation.
  - o Her professional experiences are diverse, including serving as a unit director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley, working as a K-12 partnerships Executive Coordinator at Access ASU, and teaching introductory statistics and psychology courses for Rio Salado College.
- **Sandi Gorley** discussed serving the older adult veteran community through the ASU Legacy Corps. The main takeaways shared:
  - o According to AARP, 1 in 5 adults across America are caregivers; approximately 5.5 million are military caregivers; of those military caregivers, 10-16% have been providing 10+ years of care.
  - o In 2009, AARP estimated the economic value of family/informal caregivers is \$450 billion annually, more than double the total rate spent on home care and nursing homes.
  - o Legacy Corps AmeriCorps members serve veteran and military families' caregivers across five states.
  - o The essential services provided include but are not limited to in-home respite, information on medical conditions, transport in certain situations, caregiver transitional services, and emergency response programs.

- **Nisha Dorsey** asked if they have previously partnered with the VA medical services as they are looking to fill the gap in respite care. **Sandi Gorley** responded ASU provides information to Legacy Corps about what programs offer, and no proof of military affiliation is needed to participate.
- **Bert Ijams** asked if they only operate in Phoenix. **Sandi Gorley** responded they also provide services outside the Phoenix area.
- **Executive Director Centers** asked if they have any partnerships with the City of Phoenix. **Sandi Gorley** responded no.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, asked if an organization is interested in whom they contact. **Sandi Gorley** responded they can reach out to her through email.
- **Teri Kennedy** asked if AAAs distribute the funding. **Sandi Gorley** responded she needs to connect with **Mark Clark** with AZAging to learn more.
- Find the presentation [here](#).

#### Liaison and Council Member Roundtable

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Belinda Akes**, who gave an update on the turnout and impact of the multiple events she participated in in Eloy. She will attend the [4th Annual Senior Spotlight](#) hosted by [Pinal-Gila's Council for Seniors](#) on October 17, 2023, and the [Alzheimer's Association - Desert Southwest Chapter's 'Walk to End Alzheimer's'](#) on November 4, 2023.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Bert Ijams**, who stated she shared information with the Yavapai Community Coalition regarding [continuing education](#) resources offered by the [University of Arizona \(UA\) Center on Aging](#). She discussed the transportation set up in Prescott Valley for older adults to receive the necessary transport. Lastly, she became a board member of [Horses With Heart](#), a non-profit that serves all individuals with a focus on veterans living with PTSD and assimilating back into society, and therapeutic horsemanship programs for older adults.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Brenda Holt**, who stated Brendon Blake is the new state representative for AARP. AARP has resumed their Caregiver Happy hours for respite, and AARP will participate in the Alzheimer's Association November walk. She also shared the AARP's Innovation and Opportunity: Long-Term Services and Supports Arizona 2023 Scorecard [here](#).
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Bonita Imus**, who gave an update from the [Arizona Indian Council on Aging \(AICOA\)](#). The next AICOA meeting will occur on November 2, 2023, at 10:00 AM. Find her full report [here](#).
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, who stated that November is National Family Caregiver and Alzheimer's Awareness Month. She reviewed her presentation to the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce. She stated that elder abuse is a priority of the Attorney General and the office has crafted a Elder Affairs Unit focused on stopping and preventing elder abuse. The [Arizona Attorney General's Office Task Force Against Senior Abuse \(TASA\)](#) reconvened on September 26, 2023, and will be split into two stakeholder groups. She stated to have a representative from the Attorney General's Office come and share about these developments. **Bonita Imus** asked about the work of the Elder Affairs Unit inquiring about if they would be involved in situations where grandchildren must stay home from school and help take care of their grandparents. **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, responded that AAAs will work with the grandparents specifically on that issue and to contact her local AAA for more information.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Steve Wagner**, who stated that the medical director of the City of Phoenix approved two new mandatory continuing education courses; one regarding senior care and one for mandated reporter training for EMS staff. The [Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition](#) identified that falls cause most of the Older Adult hospitalizations in Arizona, second is car crashes. Fall incidents are doubling that of car crashes, and the best way to mitigate this issue is with education around Healthy Aging tips. **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, stated that public awareness messaging needs to include language for older adults.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Representative Tim Dunn**, who stated he discussed how ongoing state budget constraints impact Arizonans with the appropriations committee. He also discussed the process and results of the [Adult Protective Services \(APS\)](#) audit at the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) released in September 2023 to find the gaps in service so legislators and policymakers know how to serve Arizonans better. He wondered if someone could present on this audit at an upcoming GACA meeting.

**Virginia Rountree** asked who gave the presentation he received. **Representative Tim Dunn** responded that an individual from the Auditor General's office and two consultants who worked on it.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Teri Kennedy**, who relayed thoughts for the Jewish community during this time. She noted the rise of COVID-19 cases across Arizona and spoke about vaccine availability. As there is a general lack of confidence in the healthcare system, trust is needed, as seen in a report released by the [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HERSA\)](#).
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Teresa Manygoats**, who gave a reminder that the [Arizona Caregiver Summit](#) is taking place on November 8, 2023. The Population Health Program Administrator and Program Manager for Alzheimer's and Dementia-Related Diseases positions are filled at the [Arizona Department of Health Services \(ADHS\)](#). ADHS, through the Arizona Cancer Coalition, is currently working on drafting a new Arizona Cancer Control Plan, an update to the [2020-2024 Arizona Cancer Control Plan](#), and procurement for media and campaign awareness of the new plan.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Virginia Rountree**, who highlighted all AAA Needs Plans are approved. She stated receiving a quarterly update from the [DES Division of Aging and Adult Services \(DAAS\)](#) would be helpful and the Spanish mandatory reporter training from DES is officially live. She added the potential of receiving a presentation on the public awareness campaign on Elder Neglect and Abuse by [OnAdvertising](#). **Representative Tim Dunn** stated that they can work on putting together a space to facilitate this presentation on the APS audit and learn more about how to serve older Arizona residents. **Teresa Manygoats** suggested consolidating all the resources discussed, such as the continuing education training, into a handout.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, shared that it is walk season for the [Alzheimer's Association - Desert Southwest Chapter](#), and the next Walk to End Alzheimer's will be on October 14, 2023, in Cottonwood and the West Valley, on October 28, 2023, in Tucson, and on November 4, 2023, in Yuma and Phoenix.

#### Upcoming Meeting

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reminded members the next meeting is on **December 12, 2023, at 10:00 A.M.** in a hybrid format.

#### Adjournment

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked for a motion to adjourn.
  - **Teresa Manygoats** moved to adjourn.
  - **Belinda Akes** seconded the motion.
  - The motion passed with no dissenting votes, and the meeting adjourned at **12:07 P.M.**

Dated October 16, 2023  
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Kainoa Spenser  
GOYFF