



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

December 13, 2023, 10:00 AM

1700 West Washington Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85007

A general meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging convened on **December 13, 2023**, in a hybrid format, notice duly given.

Members Present (11)	Members Absent (2)
Terri Spitz, Chair	Representative Tim Dunn
Carol Brown, Co-Chair	Bonita Imus
Bert Ijams	
Belinda Akes	
Brenda Holt	
Teresa Manygoats	
Virginia Rountree	
Steve Wagner	
Teri Kennedy	
Lisa O'Neill	
Barbara Chavira (Proxy for Senator Lela Alston)	
Staff and Guests Present (2)	
Latrishia Centers, GOYFF	
Mark Clark, AZAging	

Call to Order

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) meeting to order at **10:07 AM** with **12 members** and two staff/guests present.

Chair's Remarks

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, welcomed everyone, shared her appreciation for understanding changes to the meeting format, and reviewed the procedures of a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested approval of the minutes from **October 11, 2023**.
- **Ginny Rountree** stated that on the bottom of page 3, it should read: He also discussed the process and results of the Adult Protective Services System released in September 2023 by the Auditor General.
- **Teresa Manygoats** stated on page 4 at the end of the second bullet point after the word Plan to add a period, and the following statement: Alzheimer's Disease state funding for the media and marketing awareness campaign is being routed internally through ADHS' procurement system.
 - o **Brenda Holt** moved to accept the **December 13, 2023**, minutes with revisions.
 - o **Terri Kennedy** seconded the motion.
 - o The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Approval of Bylaws

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated members received a copy of the Draft Bylaws and asked for a motion to approve.
 - o **Teresa Manygoats** moved to approve the Bylaws.
 - o **Terri Kennedy** seconded the motion.
 - o The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Speak Up AZ! Campaign

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Molly McCarthy** from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) to introduce Ron Merritt of On Advertising. She shared that this advertising agency created [Speak Up AZ!](#), a campaign based on recommendations by the DES Abuse and Neglect Task Force to address adult protective services concerns.
- **Ron Merritt** gave an overview of the campaign, stating the public education campaign takes a proactive approach to addressing older adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation, which are on the rise in Arizona. The \$2.5 million budget covered three areas: one-time services such as research, brand creation, and website production; ongoing services including social media, roadshow events, and media relations; and statewide amplification through television advertisements, billboards, and sports partnerships.
- **Bert Ijams** asked if any strategies are in place to address questions/inquiries from the community.
 - **Ron Merritt** responded that DES addresses those on the back end.
- **Terri Kennedy** asked if the campaign addressed human trafficking as another focus area.
 - **Ron Merritt** responded it did not.
- **Ginny Rountree** added that the number of reports of abuse and neglect has increased, correlating to the campaign's success.
- To view **Ron Merritt's** presentation, click [here \(Part 1\)](#) and [here \(Part 2\)](#).

Choose Your Person Campaign

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Carla Sutter**, senior healthcare directives operations manager at [Contexture](#).
 - **Ms. Sutter** holds a master's degree in social work. She concentrated her career on end-of-life tools and has been a trainer/facilitator on advance directives. As part of Contexture, she participates in developing the Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry (AzHDR). She engages healthcare, community organizations, and consumers in enhancing goal-concordant care through advanced care planning and the resulting documents.
- **Carla Sutter** presented the importance of having an advance directive in place.
 - She discussed what the AzHDR is and how it works. The registry stores and makes viewable advance directive documents, including living wills, healthcare power of attorney forms, mental healthcare power of attorney forms, and pre-hospital medical care directives.
 - **Ms. Sutter** provided information about the collaborative grant focusing on traditionally underserved populations such as Hispanic, Black, LGBTQIA+, and unhoused community members. The grant aims to hold over 100 events and train as many as 50 Community Assistors.
 - Benefits of Choose Your Person: ensuring Arizonans' voices are heard on their healthcare decisions, honoring faith and culture, training Community Assistors to support community members in utilizing the registry, and promoting conversations about healthcare within trusted community settings.
- To view **Carla Sutter's** presentation, click [here](#).

GACA Upcoming Listening Sessions

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) **Executive Director of Aging, Latrisha Centers**, who shared an update on facilitating listening sessions with a target audience of caregivers, older adults, and other designated guests to discuss the different types and gaps in services, what is working well, and areas of growth to improve support for older adults. The goal is to conduct four throughout 2024, each 1.5 to 2 hours long. The first area is in Parker and tentatively scheduled for February 22, 2024. The second location is in Tucson, with an approximate date of the end of March/April. The information from the sessions will help contribute to the overall content and recommendations for the Alzheimer's State Plan.

Liaison Updates (AAA / Veterans Services)

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, shared that Nisha Dorsey could not attend the meeting but provided her update to Executive Director Centers, who will share it with members afterward. meeting. She then introduced **Mark**

Clark, [Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging \(AZAging\)](#) Board Chair, who updated the work at the different Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). He discussed the cut in funding levels, impacting meals and other services for older adults. He also shared that agencies are being strategic in filling open positions. He added his colleague who supports the various AAAs, Maddie Byner, is moving out of state but will help support the organizations until her replacement is confirmed.

- **Bert Ijames** asked about the total amount of cuts statewide.
 - **Mark Clark** responded that he did not know that adding each association's budget is different.
- **Terri Kennedy** asked what the process is to reach individuals with higher food insecurity.
 - **Mark Clark** responded they are using a waitlist tool and formalizing it to serve those in need better.
- **Ginny Rountree** clarified that there are no cuts in funding levels; they are expiring due to a lack of COVID-19 funds available.
- **Steve Wagner** asked if **Mark Clark** is part of Region 1.
 - **Mark Clark** responded yes, adding the only AAA not part of a region is the Navajo Nation.
- To view **Mark Clark's** presentation, click [here](#).

Council Announcements

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, shared that on December 20, 2023, the [Alzheimer's Association - Desert Southwest Chapter](#) will hold a Listening Session, and she will have **Executive Director Centers** email the link to register.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair**, shared she will email information about the 2024 Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the State Capitol Day Event.
- **Bert Ijames** shared that she will have a Save the Date sent to all members for a Mental Health Conference scheduled for May 6-7, 2024.
- **Teresa Manygoats** shared that she will have information sent to all members on the upcoming 2024 Arizona Alzheimer's State Plan.
- **Ginny Rountree** announced that she is retiring at the end of February.

Future Meeting Dates/Topics

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked members about future agenda items to consider. She added if there are any ideas, send them to Executive Director Centers.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reminded members the next meeting is on **February 14, 2024, at 10:00 AM** in a hybrid format.

Adjournment

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked for a motion to adjourn.
 - **Terri Kennedy** moved to adjourn.
 - **Ginny Rountree** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes, and the meeting adjourned at **11:41 AM**.

Dated December 14, 2023
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
Respectfully Submitted By:
Latrishia Centers
GOYFF