



GOVERNOR’S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

May 8, 2024, 10:00 AM

1802 North Central Avenue, Terrace Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004

A general meeting of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging convened on **May 8, 2024**, in a hybrid format, notice duly given.

Members Present (9)	Members Absent (4)
Terri Spitz, Chair	Senator Lela Alston
Carol Brown, Vice Chair	Bert Ijams
Representative Tim Dunn	Bonita Imus
Belinda Akes	Brenda Holt
Teresa Manygoats	
Rebecca Clayton (Proxy for Virginia Rountree)	
Teri Kennedy	
Lisa O’Neill	
Steve Wagner	
Staff and Guests Present (4)	
Latrisha Centers, Staff	Travis Price, Presenter
Chantel Hutchinson, Staff	Vinay Singh, Presenter

Call to Order

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

Chair’s Remarks

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, welcomed everyone and thanked them for understanding the schedule change related to the postponed planning session. She stated that the GACA Annual Report is in progress and commented that she believes it will be the best yet due to all the activities accomplished this past year.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, praised **Executive Director Centers** for her hard work coordinating the recent Listening Sessions. She mentioned attending the Dunbar Pavilion Tucson Listening Session as a scribe and found it insightful, expressing her excitement at hearing from attendees who felt their voices heard.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked the Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith, and Family (GOYFF) Team for prioritizing feedback about their well-being as older adults. Additionally, she appreciated the presence of Cabinet Executive Officer (CEO) Hamilton and Deputy Director Carver, who attended the event in person.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested approval of the **February 14, 2024** meeting minutes.
 - **Teri Kennedy** moved to accept the **February 14, 2024**.
 - **Teresa Manygoats** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Introduction of New Deputy Director

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked **Executive Director Centers** to introduce the new GOYFF Deputy Director, **Ann Carver**.
- **Executive Director Centers** stated that CEO Hamilton has hired **Ann Carver** as the GOYFF's new deputy director, who brings a wealth of experience and skills to the position. She expressed her excitement about joining the team.
- **Deputy Director Ann Carver** also expressed excitement about joining **Executive Director Centers** and other staff in her new role. She thanked the members serving on the GACA and highlighted how their support and work impact Arizona's older adults' well-being.
- **Deputy Director Carver** stated that through her recent experience conducting focus groups on behalf of the [Maricopa County Community Health Needs Assessment](#), she became aware of the importance of caregiver support, healthcare, housing, transportation, and physical activity, which are all crucial in reaching the Governor's vision of an Arizona for everyone. She shared her extensive experience in State service, including the [Superior Court of Arizona's Maricopa County Juvenile Probation](#), the [Arizona Department of Economic Security \(DES\)'s Division of Developmental Disabilities](#), the [Arizona Department of Child Safety \(DCS\)](#), and [Arizona State University \(ASU\)'s School of Social Work](#).
- **Deputy Director Carver** discussed her hospital social work experience working with the aging population who are isolated, unsheltered, and need long-term care services. Lastly, she mentioned her status as a doctoral candidate at ASU and her research concerning African American women transitioning out of the foster care system.

GACA Budget Update

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Travis Price**, Compliance and Procurement Manager for the Arizona Office of the Governor.
- **Travis Price** began by expressing his appreciation for the council's support for older adults before discussing how the GACA budget was transferred from the DES to the GOYFF in 2020. The GACA and GOYFF have a strong partnership and are responsible for managing funds to ensure they reach citizens and support Governor Hobbs' vision of an Arizona for everyone. He shared an overview of how the GOYFF manages the three-part budget, further explaining the breakdown of line items and the use of donated funds, all to support GACA: Federal Funding—\$150,000; State General Funds—\$50,000; and Donated Funds—\$37,000.
- **Travis Price** expressed gratitude for the council's attention and pledged support.
- **Belinda Akes** asked about the fundraising process for donated funds.
 - **Travis Price** responded that the Governor's Office has a donor intent form for those who want to donate to the fund. He will give members a packet with all the information needed to complete the process. He explained that the governor has one overall donated fund with sub-funds, one of which is the GACA Donated Funds. When seeking donations, a system is in place to avoid soliciting funds from the same group of people.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, asked about the type of account holding the donated funds and whether the account earns interest.
 - **Travis Price** stated that was a great question and that he would check into this.
- **Lisa O'Neil** stated that historically, funds would require full council approval before withdrawal. When did this process change?
 - **Travis Price** stated that two trustees, the CEO and the chief legal council, approve of using funds. However, the GACA has the authority to propose suggestions for approval to progress with its work.

- **Deputy Director Carver** added that members requesting recommendations must provide a rationale, as this will assist the GOYFF staff and policy advisor during the vetting process.
- **Lisa O'Neil** asked about using state funds for travel instead of donated funds.
 - **Travis Price** responded that he thinks using state funds instead of donated funds for travel is allowable, but he would look into this to confirm.
- **Teri Spitz, Chair**, asked if there is a process to track in-kind services.
 - **Travis Price** responded that there is neither a formal process nor a requirement, but they can develop a system of tracking in-kind services if needed.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, stated it was the best budget presentation ever. The members agreed that the council would receive an annual budget report.
- To view **Travis Price's** presentation, [click here](#).

Guardianship/Conservatorship Presentation

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Vinay Singh** and **Jessica Gonzalez**, Senior Investigators at the [Maricopa County Public Fiduciary Office](#).
- **Vinay Singh** began by sharing an overview of the presentation, covering topics like alternatives to restrictive guardianships, who may require a guardian or a conservator, who has priority for guardianship or conservatorship, the duties and responsibilities of guardians/conservators, as well as the benefits that are available to vulnerable adults. He discussed the criteria and examples for each one, explaining this helps families make informed decisions when caring for their loved ones. After thanking the council members for their time, he opened the floor for questions.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, asked how they help those with no payer source for the fiduciary.
 - **Vinay Singh** responded that assisting those cases is difficult without a payer source.
- **Lisa O'Neil** asked if there was any recourse for caregivers of older adults who have issues with guardianship abuse, fraud, and challenges.
 - **Vinay Singh** stated that a private fiduciary is needed. The fiduciary or guardian must inform the court about the case status, complaints, and any lack of information that may affect the client's welfare. Although a family member can file a petition, complete self-service forms, and be appointed guardian or conservator, the current guardian or conservator remains in their position until the petition is approved.
- **Steve Wagner** stated that a client's condition could change rapidly and asked if **Vinay** could speak about guardianship's responsibility and liability regarding caring for clients.
 - **Vinay Singh** explained that assessing a patient's needs is regulated by statute and involves determining the level of care required. In addition, guardians must receive training, and social workers must monitor the clients' needs and care with regulatory assessments conducted at least four times yearly.
- **Steve Wagner** asked if the public fiduciary quarterly assessment is sufficient or not.
 - **Vinay Singh** suggested more frequent client assessments were needed due to the high number of cases in the office, which stands at 1,900, with 75-90 cases assigned to staff. However, he emphasized completing client assessments before discharge to ensure they are ready to leave the hospital.
- To view **Vinay Singh** and **Jessica Gonzalez's** presentation, [click here](#).

GACAs Alzheimer's Subcommittee Report

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, explained the importance of bringing back the subcommittee to work on activities/projects that support the GACA's priorities. The first meeting occurred on April 12, 2024, and members discussed the subcommittee's expectations and priorities. She stated they are working to identify a subcommittee chair. Members who want to serve on the subcommittee can email **Executive Director Centers**.

Liaison Updates (AAA/Veterans Services)

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, explained that neither liaison could attend the meeting and did not send reports to **Executive Director Centers**.

Council Announcements

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that members have confirmed attending the planning session on May 23, 2024, from 10 AM to 1 PM.
- **Teri Kennedy** shared that she and **Terri Spitz, Chair**, are part of a remote technology evaluation focus group coordinated by the [Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System \(AHCCCS\)](#).
- **Teresa Manygoats** stated that the [Arizona Department of Health Services \(ADHS\)](#) has formed workgroups to finalize the draft plan for the 2024 Alzheimer's State Plan. She added the Media Funds Contract with the [Alzheimer's Association, Desert Southwest Chapter](#), is signed.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, shared two upcoming events hosted by the Alzheimer's Association, to which she will email the flyers: Walk to End Alzheimer's and Alzheimer's Association Town Hall.
- **Representative Dunn** stated he was pleased to share two bills Governor Hobbs has signed related to caregiver support, regulations, and oversight of assisted living facilities.

Future Meeting Dates/Topics

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked members to consider future agenda items and send any ideas to **Executive Director Centers**.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reminded members that the next meeting is on **August 14, 2024, at 10:00 AM**, in a hybrid format for members to attend in person or virtually.

Adjournment

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked for a motion to adjourn.
 - **Teri Kennedy** moved to adjourn.
 - **Belinda Akes** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes, and the meeting adjourned at **11:45 AM**.

Dated May 9, 2024
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
Respectfully Submitted By:
Latrisha Centers
GOYFF