



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

November 13, 2024, 10:00 AM

Flinn Foundation, 1802 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004

A general meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging convened on **November 13, 2024**, in a hybrid format, notice duly given.

Members Present (11)	
Terri Spitz, Chair	Senator Lela Alston
Carol Brown, Vice Chair	Brendon Blake
Belinda Akes	Leslie Moore
Rebecca Clayton, ex-officio	Dr. Nelly Clotter-Woods
Lisa O'Neill	Gwen Relf
Steve Wagner	
Members Absent (0)	
Staff and Guests Present (3)	
Latrisha Centers, Staff	Ann Carver, Staff
Chantel Hutchinson, Staff	

### Call to Order

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) meeting to order at **10:05 AM**. **Eleven** members and **three** staff/guests were present.

### Chair's Remarks

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

### Roll Call

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

### Approval of Minutes

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested a review of the **August 14, 2024**, meeting minutes before requesting a motion to approve as drafted.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, requested three changes on page two:
  - o Change the first bullet point to state: The Older Americans Act (OOA) is up for reauthorization (due to expire 9-30-2024) and is currently being considered for language updates and funding. It is anticipated that there will be continuing resolutions passed until after the elections and possibly only once the new administration is in place.
  - o Remove the second bullet point.
  - o Add a new bullet point that states: There will be a continued focus nationwide on fall risk and reduction. Another area of focus is the need to implement language that does not reflect ageism, such as simply stating an older adult instead of the elderly, frail, or senior.
- **Senator Lela Alston** stated being present at the last meeting as she attended online and requested that her name be moved from the absent column to the present column.
- **Rebecca Clayton** stated in the announcements section that 'Nelly' should read as 'Telly.'
  - o **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, moved to accept the drafted meeting minutes with amendments.
  - o **Gwen Relf** seconded the motion.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called for a vote, and the **November 13, 2024**, meeting minutes with amendments were approved with no dissenting votes at **10:11 AM**.

### U of A Aging Grant Presentation

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Lisa O'Neill** to share an overview of the grant award received by the [University of Arizona \(U of A\) Center on Aging](#).
- **Lisa O'Neill** provided an overview of the Arizona Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program. This five-year cooperative agreement grant includes 42 grants awarded across 37 states, focusing on Tribal, Tribal Organizations, Underserved, and/or Rural (TTOUR) primary care sites/delivery systems. The grant aims to educate and train the healthcare workforce, engage patients and their families, assess gaps in care, collaborate with community partners, and integrate geriatrics into primary care to create age- and dementia-friendly environments. Furthermore, the program aims to utilize the Age-Friendly Health Systems Framework to ensure age- and dementia-friendly care.
- **Leslie Moore** inquired whether the training included culturally relevant material.
  - **Lisa O'Neill** responded yes, all training materials are culturally relevant to each audience.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, asked if regional assisted living facilities were part of this grant.
  - **Lisa O'Neill** responded that yes, they are working with various Long-Term Care sites for academic clinical rotations, the AZDES Arizona Apprenticeship Program ([AZDES Apprenticeship Program](#)), and the Arizona Health Care Association ([AZHCA](#)) to develop a CNA Geriatric Specialist registered apprenticeship program. Once finalized, the apprenticeship will be piloted in 1-2 long-term care sites.
- **Theresa Spitz, Chair**, asked if age-friendly hospitals are addressing gaps in care.
  - **Lisa O'Neill** stated yes, that the Age-Friendly Health System ([AFHS](#)) training addresses gaps in care related to the 4Ms—what matters most: medication, mentation, and mobility. We are working with the state's critical access hospitals, their associated rural health clinics, independent rural health clinics, and FQHCs to become AFHS Level 1 Participants and then progress to Level 2 Recognition. We have divided the state into 5 geographic clusters, and year 1 is focused on SE clinical sites.
- **Steve Wagner** asked if quality metrics are in place when educating the healthcare workforce.
  - **Lisa O'Neill** confirmed that evaluation metrics are always in place for all training activities.
- To view **Lisa O'Neill's** presentation, [click here](#).

### De Paul Manor Housing Presentation

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Esther Reyes-Ramirez**, program coordinator for [St. Vincent De Paul's De Paul Manor and Ozanam Programs](#).
- **Esther Reyes-Ramirez** provided an overview of the shelter and transitional housing services offered by the St. Vincent de Paul organization at both the De Paul Manor and Ozanam facilities.
  - The Ozanam facility has 60 beds, while De Paul Manor has 100.
  - Eligibility criteria include individuals 50 years or older, as well as those 18 years or older and disabled.
  - The services offered include case management, where each resident is assigned a case manager who meets with them weekly to monitor their progress toward personal goals and objectives. Nursing services are available to assist residents who are ill or may become sick during their stay.
  - The application process requires completing an application form, undergoing an income assessment, and confirming age eligibility.

- o Residents can stay on-site for up to two years, with an average stay ranging from three to nine months.
- o The organization prioritizes Individuals aged 62 and older in a fast-track process for securing housing and welcomes Veterans.
- **Gwen Relf** inquired about the referral process for individuals.
  - o **Esther Reyes-Ramirez** explained that a point system determines referrals. For instance, individuals receive one point for being a Veteran and another for being sick for six months. Referrals also come from sources such as the City of Phoenix Homeless Hotels, rehabilitation programs, and hospitals.
- **Rebecca Clayton** asked how many openings the program has.
  - o **Esther Reyes-Ramirez** shared one opening for a veteran and three for others.
- **Lisa O'Neill** asked her to define "back on your feet" in the program.
  - o **Esther Reyes-Ramirez** gave examples such as obtaining social security benefits and/or a job.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, asked if Veterans receive assistance with getting benefits.
  - o **Esther Reyes-Ramirez** responded that they did.
- **Steve Wagner** asked if they could house individuals based on 911 calls they may receive related to emergency situations.
  - o **Esther Reyes-Ramirez** stated that they get those types of referrals, but individuals still have to go through the same process as others for placement.

#### Division of Aging and Adult Services Update

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Rebecca Clayton** and **Rana Simms**, the [Arizona Department of Economic Security \(DES\) Division of Aging and Adult Services \(DAAS\)](#) Deputy Assistant Director, who provided an overview of programs and services and an update on the [Older Americans Act \(OAA\)](#) changes.
- **Rebecca Clayton** outlined the key functions of the State Unit on Aging, its leadership, and major initiatives aimed at improving access to services for those most in need.
- **Rana Simms** continued discussing the significant changes to the OAA, including an overview of the timeline from when the Act was signed into law to the final rule updating OAA regulations to comply by October 2025. The DAAS is in a good place to comply with regulations. Still, more work is needed to be fully compliant by the deadline.
- **Rana Simms** stated that the intrastate funding formula was last revised in 2010; therefore, work will be done to update it soon.
- **Rana Simms** concluded the presentation by discussing the recent ruling that requires expanding the membership criteria for the [Area Agencies on Aging \(AAA\)](#) Advisory Council. The new criteria stipulate that more than half of the council's members must be older adults, representatives from minority groups, family caregivers, local elected officials, and community leaders. Furthermore, no members of the Advisory Council may serve on the AAA Boards.
- To view **Rebecca Clayton** and **Rana Simms'** presentation, [click here](#).

#### GACA Community Education Series Update

- **Leslie Moore** provided an update about the kick-off session for GACA's first education community awareness session, scheduled for November 20, 2024. She mentioned that the event flyer with details is in members' meeting packets.

#### Alzheimer's Subcommittee Report

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, shared that the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Subcommittee approved Brendon Blake as the new chair. She also mentioned that the subcommittee is continuing to work on new data types for the reports provided to the GACA, including recommendations for the governor as part of the council's annual report.

### Liaison Updates (AZ Aging/Arizona Department of Health Services)

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, explained that the AZ Aging Liaison could not attend the meeting and did not send a report to the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) Executive Director on Aging, Latrisha Centers.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, shared the liaison update from the [Arizona Department of Health Services \(AZDHS\)](#) on behalf of **Teresa Manygoats**:
  - Social Media posts related to November's Alzheimer's Association Awareness Month;
  - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Core Leadership Team updates on the State Plan;
  - The hiring of a new Program Administrator; and
  - Participation in the Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI) Data for Action project beginning in January 2025, a collaboration between the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the Alzheimer's Association®.

### Council Announcements

- **Latrisha Centers** shared that the amended set of Bylaws is in member packets.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, announced that Governor Hobbs issued a proclamation recognizing November as National Caregiver's and Alzheimer's Awareness Month.
- **Belinda Akes** stated that the [Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens \(PGCCS\)](#) has rebranded and will now be known as the Central Arizona Council on Aging. She also mentioned that she received the Heart in Hand Award at the [Wildfire AZ Annual Conference](#) in recognition of her efforts to improve the lives of low-income families and communities in Arizona.
- **Gwen Relf** shared that [Rehoboth Community Development Corporation \(RCDC\)](#) now has an intergenerational pilot program focusing on physical fitness.
- **Rebecca Clayton** stated that the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program has moved from the DES to the [Arizona Department of Administration \(ADOA\)](#).

### Future Topics/New Meeting Date(s)

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked members to consider future agenda items before recommending a presentation on the Alzheimer's Awareness Campaign.
- **Steve Wagner** recommended a Fall Prevention Presentation.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reminded members that the next GACA meeting will be held on **February 12, 2025, 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.
  - **Carol Brown** moved to adjourn.
  - **Brendon Blake** seconded the motion.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called for a vote. The motion passed with no dissenting votes, and the meeting adjourned at **11:40 AM**.

Revised February 12, 2025  
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Ann Carver  
GOYFF