+GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
June 14, 2023, 10:00 AM
1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007
A general meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging was convened on **June 14, 2023,** in a hybrid format,
1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (10)	Members Absent (2)
Carol Brown, Co-Chair	**Senator Lela Alston**
Bert Ijams	**Terri Spitz, Chair**
Bonita Imus	
Belinda Akes	
Brenda Holt	
Representative Tim Dunn	
Virginia Rountree	
Lisa O'Neill	
Steve Wagner	
Teresa Manygoats	
Staff and Guests Present (5)	
Brandon Baxtor, NACOG	**Isaac Orona, SMFB**
Kainoa Spenser, GOYFF	**Keicha Copeland, SMFB**
Amanda Swanson, AZDHS	

Call to Order
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** called the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) meeting to order at **10:03 A.M.** with **10 members,** and five staff and guests present. **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** reviewed the procedures of a virtual meeting and welcomed all individuals present.

Co-Chair's Remarks
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** began the meeting by reading a thank you note from the Arizona Caregiver Coalition for GACA's sponsorship of their Caregiver Coalition Conference. She discussed World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) because council members will attend the WEAAD Conference on June 15, 2023, hosted by the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) of the Department of Economic Security (DES).

Roll Call
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** conducted roll call and quorum was met.

Approval of Minutes
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** requested approval of the minutes from **April 12, 2023**.
- **Lisa O'Neill** stated on page 3 that "Commission members" can be changed to "Council members."
- **Lisa O'Neill** stated on page 5 that "assets" can be changed to "resources."
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** stated on page 4 that "objects" can be changed to "objectives."
- **Virginia Rountree** stated the name can be changed from "Jakanna Lebstock" to "Jakenna Lebsock."
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** requested approval of the minutes from **April 12, 2023**.
  - o **Lisa O'Neill** moved to accept **April 12, 2023,** minutes with the revisions.
  - o **Brenda Holt** seconded the motion.
  - o The motion passed with no dissenting votes**.**

ADHS 2022 Healthy Aging Report: Leading Causes and Risk Factors of Death Among Residents 65 Years and Older

- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** introduced **Amanda Swanson.** Amanda is an Epidemiologist for the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) under the Bureau of Assessment and Evaluation. She is assigned to the Office of Chronic Disease and Population Health to perform data analyses on cancer and chronic diseases in Arizona.
- **Amanda Swanson** started the presentation by stating the State Plan on Aging is a uniform document that encompasses the actions and responsibilities of various state and partner agencies and their work to be accomplished to improve the health and well-being of older Arizonans.
    - It is housed at the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) within the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS).
- **Amanda Swanson** discussed that their data collection methods included vital records, hospital discharge data, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), and population estimates from DES.
- Arizonans 65 years and older experienced a 14% population growth between 2017 and 2021. She stated how with that comes an increased need to formulate a strategic plan for cost-effective health and social services.
- This data and report show that mortality rates are highest in Apache, Graham, and Navajo Counties.
- **Amanda Swanson** reviewed the different hospital and emergency rooms discharge trends of Arizonans revealed through the data.
- **Amanda Swanson** reviewed the limitations of this report which included:
    - A national decline in emergency department visits for all causes other than COVID-19 in 2020.
    - ADHS hospital discharge records do not capture data from Federal hospitals such as the Veterans Administration (VA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) or on Arizona residents who use a hospital in another state.
    - Possible misclassification of characteristics at the hospital level, including race and ethnicity.
    - Possible recall and social desirability bias.
    - Data in this report utilize encounters and may include duplicate cases for the same person, resulting in overestimated rates and cases.
- Some potential future directions this report allows for a closer look at include:
    - Focusing on social determinants of health such as transportation and poverty and their effect on older adults.
    - Explore data on other populations, such as LGBTQ+ communities and persons with disabilities.
    - Explore factors disproportionately affecting older Arizonans, including Alzheimer's disease and loneliness.
    - Look at caregivers and other workforce that support the aging population.
- Find the full presentation here.
- **Lisa O'Neill** asked what data or resource determines that Maricopa, Pinal, Pima, and Yuma Counties are considered "urban."
    - **Amanda Swanson** responded that they use vital records data.
- **Lisa O'Neill** asked if there is a report or a way to look at mortality rate data by poisoning specifically instead of injuries and poisoning.
    - **Amanda Swanson** responded that ADHS releases a different report on opioid use that addresses this but not by age.
- **Bert Ijams** asked if this report shows why the data is the way it is or the reasoning behind why the data is the way it is.
    - **Amanda Swanson** responded that the introduction of the report gives the reasoning behind the purpose of the report.
    - **Teresa Manygoats** stated the report's purpose is to start conversations with community partners and the council on how best to use the data provided in the report.
- **Bert Ijams** asked how the data can inform local communities and be implemented into the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

- ○ **Teresa Manygoats** stated data should establish the foundation of those discussions and provide relevant information when developing these plans.
- **Bert Ijams** asked if plans and funding are available to explore how to utilize data.
  - ○ **Amanda Swanson** stated there are plans but parts of the data collection process make it difficult.
  - ○ **Teresa Manygoats** stated this report provides a way to begin discussions about utilizing funds correctly.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** asked that since falls are in a different report, how can one find all the different ADHS Reports?
  - ○ **Teresa Manygoats** stated ADHS is looking to put all of these different reports together and look at them through a lens based on different age populations. This solution is in the State Plan on Aging, and **Teresa Manygoats** offered that ADHS can put together a 1-pager of all the different reports.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** asked why they chose 65 and older to define "Older Arizonan" for this report. **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** asked this question because the [Older Americans Act](#) states the term "older individual" means an individual who is 60 years of age or older."
  - ○ **Teresa Manygoats** stated she does not know specifically; ADHS has always used 65+ as their definition.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** wants GACA to utilize this data and to be a mechanism for moving this conversation forward. Looking to 2024, she wants to bring back ways to hear the concerns of Older Arizonans and connect with county health departments.
- **Representative Tim Dunn** stated he would be happy to help facilitate conversations in rural areas and counties.
- **Bonita Imus** asked if it is possible to break down this data by tribes.
  - ○ **Teresa Manygoats** stated that ADHS hired a Tribal Liaison focusing on data sovereignty and renewing data-sharing agreements. As of now, ADHS cannot break down data by tribes.
- **Bonita Imus** raised the issue and importance of addressing when members of tribal communities go out of state to receive healthcare and pass away that it takes weeks to get the deceased back, impacting traditional burial practices.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** and **Teresa Manygoats** thanked **Amanda Swanson,** offering that GACA is here to help in any way they can.

St. Mary's Food Bank Senior Food Program

- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** introduced **Isaac Orona** and **Keicha Copeland. Isaac Orona** is [St. Mary's Food Bank (SMFB)](#) Agency Development Lead and has been with SMFB for approximately six years. As Agency Development Lead, he maximizes agency development through programmatic operations, equipment management, and agency sustainability.
- **Keicha Copeland** is the Agency Services Training Manager and has been with SMFB for approximately six years. She is responsible for the Network Administration of the client intake and reporting website used by all four Arizona State Regional Food Banks, Link2Feed. She is also responsible for onboarding new partner agencies for all United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs, facilitating new employee orientation, administering food safety training to ensure compliance with all partner agencies, and increasing the SNAP initiative for SMFB.
- **Isaac Orona** discussed the history and mission of SMFB, stating the organization works to alleviate hunger by gathering and distributing food while encouraging self-sufficiency, collaboration, advocacy, and education.
  - ○ SMFB serves over 13 counties, works with 900+ partnering agencies, and covers 81,000 square miles of territory.
  - ○ The Commodity Senior Food Program is a monthly distribution of shelf-stable commodities, accompanied by a 2-pound cheese block for seniors that qualify.
    - ■ To qualify, the person must be 60+ years old, meet the USDA income guidelines, and be an Arizona resident.

- ○ **Keicha Copeland** stated SMFB is the only food bank in Arizona to contract with DES for their Commodity Senior Food Program. In their most recent grant renewal, they received an additional caseload of 18,000 clients because they reached their target metric.
- By partnering with third-party Home Delivery and Older Adult Living Facilities vendors, SMFB can service an average of 4,800 households monthly.
  - ○ **Isaac Orona** stated their "Home Delivery" was only supposed to be temporary but grew out of the COVID-19 pandemic into a permanent program due to the sustained need. He stated that the person needs to meet one of the three qualifiers: risk of COVID-19 or other major illnesses, prolonged illness/disability, or lack of reliable transportation to a food source.
  - ○ By working with Older Adult Living Facilities, SMFB was able to set up group distribution centers.
- SMFB offers "Mobile Food Pantry" trucks parked in different parts of the state. Find their calendar of locations [here](#).
- Stated that one could use [firstfoodbank.org](#) or [azfoodhelp.org](#) to provide feedback on the distribution process, nearby food distribution sites, and recipe resources.
- Find the full presentation [here](#).
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** asked if all the services discussed are available at the different partner locations.
  - ○ **Isaac Orona** stated the "Home Delivery" program is only in Coconino, Maricopa, and Pinal Counties due to staffing shortages.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** asked how one proves their qualifications for the "Home Delivery" program.
  - ○ **Isaac Orona** stated no self-declaration or proof is required.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** asked if there are options for those who do not feel comfortable with technology.
  - ○ **Isaac Orona** stated staffing is needed to do this program because the growth is taking place to meet these needs. **Keicha Copeland** stated they conduct surveys via paper as well.
- **Belinda Akes** thanked them for their efforts and affirmed it is a team effort serving communities.
  - ○ **Isaac Orona** stated that they are in the process of establishing a partnership with inter-state food banks to serve the needs of those at the border. They are also working with 60 tribal communities through their mobile distribution sites and starting to purchase from local producers, a product of listening to the community and hearing their needs.
- **Bonita Imus** asked how long the canned food in the boxes lasted.
  - ○ **Isaac Orona** stated that to learn more about the food through their websites or app.
  - ○ **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** thanked and is grateful for connecting with partners across the state.
- **Bert Ijams** asked how the data on food insecurity influences SMFB's programming.
  - ○ **Keicha Copeland** stated they rely on information from DES and see an influx of needs for food by older Arizonans.
  - ○ **Isaac Orona** stated they provide technical assistance to their partners at DES to work on having access to the funds and programs needed to serve this increased need.

Workgroup Discussion
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** transitioned to the Aging in Community (AIC) Workgroup discussion. She stated she will serve as the interim chair until one is found; reaffirming her comments at previous GACA meetings that recruitment is critical for finding members of the workgroup and a new workgroup chair. To best serve Arizona's aging population, the workgroup seeks statewide representation. Workgroup members do not need to be council members themselves.
  - o The workgroup will participate in the 2023 Alzheimer's Association "Walk to End Alzheimer's," taking place across Arizona. Find the calendar [here](#).
  - o The workgroup will continue participating in the Arizona Caregivers Coalition meetings. The "Task Force Against Senior Abuse" has not had the opportunity to meet yet; there are no updates.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** stated moving forward, the foundation for their workgroup initiatives will be Education, Advocacy, and Outreach.

Liaison and Council Member Roundtable

- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** gave updates on behalf of **Terri Spitz, Chair. Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** shared the progress of the Alzheimer's Association's advocacy efforts. She reviewed the achievements made in legislation and funding, found here.
  - o One of the new positions crafted through this will be a Dementia Coordinator in ADHS. She thanked **Representative Tim Dunn** for his efforts to get the Awareness Campaign passed.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** introduced **Brenda Holt.** She stated AARP is participating in all of the Alzheimer's Association walks and attending the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) Conference.
  - o **Brenda Holt** stated AARP supports the signing of Senate Bill 1157. AARP is closely watching the situation regarding affordable housing as Prop 400 passes.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** introduced **Lisa O'Neill,** who attended a training on homelessness and issues impacting older adults and would like to have one of them come and speak.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** introduced **Teresa Manygoats.** She thanked the Alzheimer's Association and **Representative Tim Dunn** for helping with the state allocations for Alzheimer's and dementia-related diseases. They are developing the scope of work for the new ADHS Dementia Coordinator and are planning the Arizona Family Caregivers Summit with a potential date in November.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** stated she's speaking on a panel at the WEAAD Conference and received the proclamation from **Representative Tim Dunn** regarding World Elder Abuse Day. Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) is providing community members in Yuma with information about the different food delivery resources available.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** introduced **Belinda Akes.** She attended the 2023 Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement and thanked the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) for putting the event together. As for their Meals on Wheels Kitchen, it is now serving over 400 meals a day.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** introduced **Bert Ijams,** who stated their Meals on Wheels program is understaffed and needs a capacity-building assessment as they have already served 105,000-110,000 meals this year alone. She described the success of their companion program in which they not only provide food but companionship while also providing educational opportunities for the community to learn more.
  - o The Meals on Wheels Annual Conference will be held in Phoenix on August 16-19, 2023. Find more information here.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** introduced **Virginia Rountree,** who discussed the details and exciting speakers featured at the WEAAD Conference. Additionally, she reviewed one of the Abuse and Neglect Taskforce recommendations about creating a public awareness campaign. In partnership with ADHS and DES, the organization was awarded $2.7 million for a statewide awareness campaign regarding abuse and neglect, including video PSAs, radio, and billboard content.
  - o The website will launch on June 23, 2023, and the statewide campaign will begin on June 27, 2023, with the tagline "Speak up AZ, It's our Responsibility." It will run till March 2024.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** introduced **Bonita Imus** to give an update from the Arizona Indian Council on Aging, found here.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** gave a short update on behalf of Nicole Baker of the Arizona Department of Veteran Services in which she stated the grand opening for the Yuma Veteran Home is on June 24, 2023.
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** introduced **Brandon Baxter,** Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) Aging Interim Assistant Director**,** to report on behalf of Mary Beals-Luedtka of AZAging. Find the full report here.

Upcoming Meeting
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** reminded members that the next meeting is on **August 9, 2023,** at **10 A.M.** in a hybrid format, with in-person and virtual options available.

Adjournment
- **Carol Brown, Co-Chair,** asked for a motion to adjourn.
  - o **Teresa Manygoats** moved to adjourn.
  - o **Llsa O'Neill** seconded the motion.

      o   The motion passed with no dissenting votes, and the meeting adjourned at **12:03 P.M.**

Dated June 15, 2023
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
Respectfully Submitted By:
Kainoa Spenser
GOYFF