



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

February 14, 2024, 10:00 AM

1700 West Washington Street, 2nd Floor, Suite 230, Phoenix, AZ 85007

A general meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging convened on **February 14, 2024**, in a hybrid format, notice duly given.

Members Present (9)	Members Absent (4)
Terri Spitz, Chair	Representative Tim Dunn
Carol Brown, Vice Chair	Belinda Akes
Bonita Imus	Steve Wagner
Brenda Holt	Bert Ijams
Teresa Manygoats	
Rebecca Clayton (Proxy for Virginia Rountree)	
Teri Kennedy	
Lisa O'Neill	
Senator Lela Alston	
Staff and Guests Present (3)	
Latrisha Centers, Staff	Nisha Dorsey, AZ Department of Veterans' Services
Mark Clark, AZ Aging	Dean Scheinert, Presenter

Call to Order

- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, called the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) meeting to order at **10:05 AM** with **nine** members and **four** staff/guests present.

Chair's Remarks

- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, welcomed and wished everyone a Happy Valentine's and Arizona Statehood Day, commenting on how busy the State Capitol was to celebrate Arizona's birthday.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, thanked the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) **Executive Director of Aging, Latrisha Centers**, for giving each member bags with GACA branding as a token of appreciation for participating in the council. Attendees of the Listening Session on February 22, 2024, will also receive a bag. She expressed her excitement about the location being in Parker to hear from the rural community of the state.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, shared that the council has two vacancies and encouraged members to contact those interested to continue working for Arizona's older adults.

Roll Call

- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, conducted a roll call and reached a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, requested approval of the **December 13, 2023** meeting minutes.
 - **Teri Kennedy** noted her name's single 'R.'
 - **Brenda Holt** moved to accept the **December 13, 2023**, minutes with revisions.
 - **Teri Kennedy** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Justa Center

- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, introduced **Dean Scheinert**, executive director of [Justa Center](#).
 - **Dean Scheinert** has extensive non-profit, development, and management experience. Following a 30-year portfolio and asset management career in New York City and Connecticut, Mr. Scheinert and his family moved to Phoenix, where he began his work in Arizona's non-profit community as a member of multiple boards and as a full-time executive. In addition, he held development roles for the Musical Instrument Museum and the Western Spirit, Scottsdale's Museum of the West.
- **Dean Scheinert** began his presentation with an overview of Justa Center's programs and services exclusively for older adults aged 55 and older who are experiencing homelessness. The Day Center provides a safe and welcoming environment for members to find respite and hope, replicating the feeling of being at home. Trained nurses are available at the Nurses Clinic to address a member's specific needs, such as understanding how to take their medications, obtaining reading glasses, caring for a wound, and more. Digital Skills Training ensures members have the necessary skills to seek employment.
- **Dean Scheinert** explained how staff assist members in navigating the complex process of finding housing while inspiring them to overcome challenges and holding them accountable. After the members find housing, staff continue providing ongoing support to ensure sustainability. He commented that volunteers from the community and the [Arizona Department of Economic Security \(DES\)](#) assist in delivering free services to members.
- **Dean Scheinert** discussed the organization's efforts to increase community awareness through branding and invited anyone who would like a tour.
- **Rebecca Clayton, Proxy for Virginia Rountree**, inquired about the number of members served on a given day.
 - **Mr. Scheinert** responded about 100; services are provided seven days a week from 6:30 AM to 8 PM with extended hours in the summer.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, asked about the geographical areas served.
 - **Mr. Scheinert** responded that about 75% are in the Phoenix metropolitan area, and about 25% come from other parts of the country looking for a job or moving to live with a relative.
- **Nisha Dorsey, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) Liaison**, asked if he has connected to the [Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System's \(AHCCCS\) Housing Program](#).
 - **Mr. Scheinert** responded that Justa Center tries to connect with those programs to help with transitional housing.
- **Nisha Dorsey, ADVS Liaison**, asked if staff coordinates to obtain members' medical services.
 - **Mr. Scheinert** responded no.
- **Nisha Dorsey, Veterans Services Liaison**, asked if he works with the [Arizona Long Term Care System \(ALTCS\)](#) within AHCCCS.
 - **Mr. Scheinert** responded no.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, inquired about the reasoning behind focusing on the demographic receiving services being 55 and older.
 - **Mr. Scheinert** responded that the mid-50s is when many older adults experience age-related problems.
- **Nisha Dorsey, ADVS Liaison**, asked if they'd considered connecting with [Regional Behavioral Health Authorities \(RHBA\)](#).
 - **Mr. Scheinert** responded yes; Justa Centers has a budget of \$1.5 million but wants to bring in as much funds as possible for the program.

- **Rebecca Clayton, Proxy for Virginia Rountree**, asked if there are any restrictions to being a member and if there is a cap on the number of people served.
 - **Mr. Scheinert** stated members can not have weapons, drugs, or alcohol, and there is a cap of 100 people seen a day.
- **Senator Lela Alston** shared having the opportunity to visit Justa Center, commenting on how active it was with members and how it had an uplifting atmosphere. She added it was apparent that members enjoyed their time there.
 - **Mr. Scheinert** affirmed her comments and added that 13 staff with lived experiences enjoy their work.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, encouraged the use of 'older adults' rather than 'seniors' to align with the national messaging after being identified as a negative reference to adult abuse and discrimination.
 - **Mr. Scheinert** responded he and his team are meeting soon and will bring that up to consider changing the terminology.
- To view **Dean Scheinert's** presentation, [click here](#).

2024 GACA Planning Day Update

- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, explained that the planning day is an opportunity for the council to discuss their priorities to set goals and objectives for the following year. 2024 recommended priorities are: 1. Caregiver Support and Resources; 2. Alzheimer's and Related Diseases; and 3. Housing. Historically, council members spent time in subcommittees/workgroups to develop their goals and objectives, prioritize activities, and establish timelines on the same day as the GACA Meeting.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, recommended that the planning day be added as an agenda item to facilitate during the regularly scheduled meeting on May 8, 2024, from 10 AM to 1 PM, and requested council members' approval; all members agreed to attend on the recommended day and time.

GACAs Alzheimer's Subcommittee

- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, introduced the GOYFF **Executive Director of Aging Latrisha Centers** to provide an update on the status of the Alzheimer's Subcommittee.
- **Executive Director Centers** emphasized the importance of reinstating the subcommittee as members will engage with workgroups and efforts to implement the goals and objectives of the council and the Arizona Alzheimer's State Plan.
- **Executive Director Centers** requested members consider serving, or if they knew of community members who might be interested, they could relay their contact information to her via email; she will also send out a survey to assess member interest.

Liaison Updates (AAA/Veterans Services)

- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, introduced **Mark Clark**, [Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging \(AZ Aging\)](#) Board Chair, who updated the work at the different Area Agencies on Aging (AAA).
- **Mark Clark** began his update by congratulating Rebecca Clayton on her new position with DES before sharing that the federal government published revised regulations for the [Older Adults Act](#) and that agencies have until October 2025 to implement the new regulations.
- **Mark Clark** continued by explaining in fiscal year 2023, the Legislature passed a bill, and Governor Katie Hobbs signed a budget that included an increase of \$10 million, \$5 million for a housing assistance pilot program, and \$5 million for ongoing services and support for AZ Aging to address

inflation and the direct care workforce shortage. He commented that it is unfortunate the Governor's Office could not continue prioritizing those funds in her proposed budget this year.

- **Mark Clark** concluded that in anticipation of budget reductions for the 2024/2025 fiscal year, workload is top of mind for all AAAs.
- To view **Mark Clark's** report, click [click here](#).
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, introduced **Nisha Dorsey**, AZ Department of Veterans Services ([AZDVS](#)), State Veteran Homeless Program Administrator, who shared that the Maricopa Veteran Stand Down Dates are March 21- 22, 2024, at the state fairgrounds. For more information and volunteers to sign up online, [click here](#). She also shared that a newly hired liaison, Julia Romero Gussec, will be introduced at the next council meeting.
 - **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, asked if the Flagstaff State Veterans Homes will open soon. Ms. Dorsey stated that because there were no patients, they had to lay off workers; therefore, they could not open.

Council Announcements

- **Teresa Manygoats** shared she will send information about the upcoming 2024 Arizona Alzheimer's State Plan. So far, there have been six plus listening sessions from January to February 2024 to gather information and data to create the overall state plan. The leadership team will meet next Friday, February 23, 2024, to review the listening sessions' content.
- **Brenda Holt** shared there is a resource guide in their meeting packets that addresses caregiver resources.
- **Rebecca Clayton, Proxy for Virginia Rountree**, shared there is an upcoming World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference and will send updated information to **Executive Director Centers** to distribute to members.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, shared that planning efforts for the Walk to End Alzheimer's Events are underway, and she will send a more detailed flier to **Executive Director Centers** to share with council members.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, announced **Ginny Rountree's** retirement, expressing her value as a council member and her passion for serving older adults, and wished her well.

Future Meeting Dates/Topics

- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, asked members to consider future agenda items and send them to **Executive Director Centers** if they have any ideas.
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, reminded members the next meeting is on **May 8, 2024, at 10:00 AM** in a hybrid format for members to attend in person or virtually.

Adjournment

- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, asked for a motion to adjourn.
 - **Lela Alston** moved to adjourn.
 - **Teri Kennedy** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes, and the meeting adjourned at **11:09 AM**.

Dated February 15, 2024
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
Respectfully Submitted By:
Latrishia Centers
GOYFF