



GOVERNOR’S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

February 9, 2022, 10:00 AM

1700 West Washington Street, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

A general meeting of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging was convened on **February 9, 2022**, in a hybrid format, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (12)	Members Absent (3)
Terri Spitz, Chair	Lela Alston
Belinda Akes	Tim Dunn
Bert Ijams	Teresa Manygoats
Bonita Imus	
Brenda Holt	
Carol Brown, Vice Chair	
Jaime Aguilar	
Virginia Rountree	
Lisa O’Neill	
Barbara Marshall	
Shelli Silver	
Steve Wagner	
Staff and Guests Present (6)	
Kim Brooks	Megan Word
Nicole Baker, AzDVS	Mary Beals Luedtka
Melissa Kotrys	Carla Sutter

Call to Order

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with **12 members** and 6 staff and guests present. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reviewed the procedures of the hybrid meeting and welcomed all those present. She shared with the Council that **Carol Brown** has been selected as Vice-Chair and with **Carol’s** transition to Vice-Chair, the leadership of the Aging in Community Workgroup is now includes **Steve Wagner** as Chair and **Brenda Holt** as Co-chair. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, expressed her gratitude to the new Executive group and looks forward to a great year with their support and leadership. Potential workgroups have been elevated to leadership. **Terri Spitz, Chair**, shared that active engagement of the Council membership is always encouraged and requested that the membership consider their network when identifying potential members for the AIC workgroup.

Roll Call

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, conducted a roll call of the Council and took note of Councilmember proxies with quorum met.

Approval of Minutes

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested a review of the **December 15, 2021** meeting minutes.
 - **Steve Wagner** moved to accept the **December 15, 2021** minutes with the amendment.
 - **Lisa O'Neill** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **10:09** a.m.

Update: Foundation for Senior Living

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced welcoming **Megan Word**, the Chief of Community Engagement with the Foundation for Senior Living (FSL) for an overview of services and an update on how the Foundation has pivoted to continue providing services to seniors over the last year and a half. **Megan** began her presentation with an overview of FSL's four key focus areas which include 27 programs designed to improve the lives of seniors and adults with disabilities as well as those that care for them. The FSL has also established a sample Caregiver house to demonstrate to caregivers different adaptations that can be made to homes to support their loved one's.
- FSL's four focus areas are:
 - Housing through affordable rental properties for those on fixed incomes
 - Nutrition through the Meals on Wheels program, congregate meals and food pantries in Wickenburg and Peoria communities
 - Health and wellness through 17 behavioral health homes, medicare certified home health, three adult day locations, and hospital to home programs
 - Caregiver support through respite programs and education in both English and Spanish.
- As a result of the pandemic, FSL has pivoted to continue as many services as possible. Senior centers and adult day programs were temporarily closed. During that time, virtual platforms were utilized to engage seniors in their homes and the ASU SHOW program created newsletters and distributed material to seniors in their homes. Instead of meals being served inside senior centers, FSL pivoted to pre-packaged drive-through meals for seniors. FSL administered approximately \$15 million in emergency pandemic-related funding. FSL pauses their in-home care programming due to staffing challenges, transitioning their previous clients to Area Agency on Aging in order to ensure continuity of services to those needing services. The full presentation can be found at <https://goyff.az.gov/meeting/qaca/2022/02/09>.
- **Barbara Marshall** inquired where hunger statistics were found. **Megan** shared that FSL uses Feeding America's data which is updated on FSL material annually.
- **Lisa O'Neill** inquired as to if there are photos of the Caregiver home online. **Megan** responded that on the website, [FSL.org](https://www.fsl.org) under Caregiver Support, there is a virtual tour on the site.
- **Carol Brown** inquired where FLS received their funding. **Megan** responded that the funding comes from several sources including fee for services, MercyCare, Medicare, grant funding, donations, AHCCCS and corporate gifts.
- **Carol Brown** inquired if FSL has plans to expand services into LaPaz County. **Megan** is unsure if there is property owned in LaPaz county but FSL continues to look for opportunities throughout the State year to year to support low income families.
- **Mary Beals-Luedtka** inquired if Area Agency on Aging is a funder for meals. **Megan** responded that Area Agency on Aging is the key funder for meals and is a very large support of the home-health and home care programming and adult day programs.
- **Carol Brown** asked how individuals connect with FSL for funding requests. **Megan** shared that there is information on their website as well as a network of other nonprofits that have the information on how to request funds.
- **Bert Ijams** inquired how many housing units are available in Prescott. **Megan** responded that there are 12 small family units in Prescott as well as a new community that was recently built in Cottonwood. **Bert** asked what the priority areas are in the state. **Megan** responded that FSL has a team that is responsible for monitoring that information.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked **Megan** for the presentation and all of the very important work of the FSL.

Health Current and Arizona Health Information Exchange

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Melissa Kotrys**, CEO of Contexture and Health Current and **Carla Sutter**, Director of the Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry at Health Current for an update on the Arizona Health Information Exchange. **Melissa** began her presentation by providing an overview of Contexture and Health Current. The mission of Contexture is to advance individual and community health and wellness through the delivery of actionable information and analysis through the Health Information Exchange (HEI). The HEI is a technology platform that allows for private and secure patient health information to be shared across different health care organizations. More broadly, HER serves as the data trustee for the community surrounding medical records, medical and mental powers of attorney, advanced directives, representing nearly 1,000 health care organizations in Arizona with data on over 14 million individuals.
- Health Current and Contexture are currently focusing on two major initiatives:
 - Community Care initiative, focusing on social determinants of health using a referral system in order to move from medically focused concepts of health and wellness to a whole person care initiative. The Community Care program provides a closed-loop technology-based referral system, to match the needs of the clients with resources in their community. Within this database, community based organizations can then see that the client was referred to their organization, provide the services and document that the services were provided. AHCCCS supports this programmatic funding, using AZ211 for a list of resources and NowPow for technology support.
 - The other initiative is the Arizona Health Care Directives Registry (AzHDR). The goals of the AzHDR are to ensure person-centered end of life care, that the AzHDR is seen as the primary data collection site for advance directive documents in Arizona, increase in the percentage of plans held within the AzHDR and increase prevalence of planning and availability for first responders and healthcare providers. The AzHDR was previously held by the Arizona Secretary of State's office and has transitioned to Health Current. To access the registry, providers register, complete onboarding paperwork and schedule training for staff. The registry allows for both submitting documents and viewing documents. User access is determined by organizational type: individual consumers, healthcare providers, first responders, legal and financial representatives, social services and faith-based organizations. The AzHDR provides a review and approval process to validate documents helping to maintain the integrity of the registry, a mechanism for distinguishing documents that have been revoked or replaced by more recent documents and supports the full range of forms under the Arizona state statute for advance directives.
- **Steve Wagner** inquired as to when the registry would be ready to be made available to EMS through their existing tools. **Carla** responded that the registry is looking at different options on ways to integrate their system with providers. **Melissa** shared that the AzHDR is considering a few options, electronic integration with the actual registry as well as current proposed legislation to support the ability for EMS providers to access the needed documents when it is needed.
- **Steve Wagner** asked what bill **Melissa** was referring to. **Melissa** stated that she would obtain and share that information before she leaves.
- **Carol Brown** requested that slides be shared with Kim to share with the Council.
- **Ginny Rountree** asked how Community Cares may be able to connect with APS in order to put referral information in the system. **Melissa** offered to work with APS to discuss options as well as to present to the staff at APS to share information on the Community Cares initiative.
- **Bert Ijams** shared that she is excited to hear this presentation and that there is tremendous potential for this program. **Bert** requested if she could connect with **Carla** and **Melissa** to discuss ways to engage the Prescott and Prescott Valley to support the community outreach in those areas. **Melissa** stated that she would be happy to connect with **Bert** with the team at Contexture.
- **Mary Beals-Luedtka** stated that she was excited to see that **Carla** could present to the Council. **Mary** encourages stakeholders to invite Carla to present to different organizations. Also shared is that there are videos on the website that will be launching next week.
- The full presentation can be found at <https://goyff.az.gov/meeting/qaca/2022/02/09>.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, began with her own update from the Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter. She reminded the Council that Alzheimer's Day at the Capitol is coming up on February 23rd, 2022 and it will be virtual. The Alzheimer's Association is supporting SB 1199 which would move the Alzheimer's State plan under the Arizona Department of Health Services and create an advisory board to support that plan. She also shared that the Alzheimer's Association nationwide had a community leaders summit. During this event, Arizona was highlighted as being number three for number of support group participants and the Arizona Phoenix walk was number fifteen in the country.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Barbara Marshall** for an update from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO). **Barbara** informed Councilmembers that there is currently a trial going on surrounding fake Viagra. Three cases are pending sentencing regarding individuals pilfering money from their aging family members. **Barbara** encouraged those that interact with seniors, if something does not seem right to elevate the concern in order to support the financial health of the seniors.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Belinda Akes** for an update from the Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizen Council. **Belinda** informed Councilmembers that Pinal County has awarded the Council for Senior Citizens I with a community development block grant to purchase two vehicles to deliver food. The Council continues supporting vaccination efforts in the area with over 1,500 individuals vaccinated and over 2,000 testing kits delivered to seniors.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Bert Ijams** for an update from the Prescott Meals on Wheels. **Bert** shared that Prescott Meals on Wheels deliver over 72,000 meals each year. Meals on Wheels provides a meal, a wellness check and companionship which supports seniors in being able to continue living in their own home. Prescott Meals on Wheels will be partnering with AARP in Northern Arizona to host a shred-a-thon to help control fraud on April 20, 2022. Recently, Prescott Meals on Wheels hosted a group of nonprofit stakeholders from western Yavapai county to meet with the Vice President of Customer Experience at APS to discuss the opportunities that APS has to support the needs of Arizonans.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Bonita Imus** for an update from the Arizona Indian Council on Aging (AICOA). **Bonita** informed Councilmembers that the AICOA Board met in January and February 2022. Updates were provided on the following topics at the board meeting: Education on 'Elder Nutrition Best Practices, ITCA-AAA Projects and Services, Upcoming Awareness Months, Information of the distribution of at-home COVID test kits and N95 masks by current administration and the announcements of recent memorials were made. The next AICOA meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2022.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Brenda Holt** for an update from the Arizona State Office of AARP. **Brenda** shared that AARP Arizona supporting the following bills: SB1129 - Housing Trust Fund, transitional housing, SB1202 – Nursing care, assisted living; continuation, SB1242 – Nursing care, assisted living; regulation, HB2085 – Nursing facility provider assessments; continuation, HB2397 – Emotional Abuse, vulnerable adults, HB2274 – Appropriation; stipend, kinship foster care, HB2393 – Adult protective services audit; appropriation, HB2468 – Veteran Housing, unclaimed property locators and HB2598 – Transportation tax, election, Maricopa County. AARP does not support SB1058 – Drive up voting prohibition. AARP Arizona has created a video detailing the current state of the Long-Term Care system and some of the biggest problems that plague it. The video can be seen at <https://youtu.be/FQg0zCwdMSc>.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Carol Brown** for an update from the Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) Area Agency on Aging. **Carol** informed Councilmembers that WACOG is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Instead of placing a great deal of resources in promoting the anniversary, WACOG is seeking ideas on how to better support the community and how to more effectively educate the community on the different services that are available through the organization. They have started seeing a shift in their extreme staffing challenges as they are starting to see applicants with anticipation of being at 50% staffing soon. At the end of March, the WACOG deputy director and **Carol** will be attending the U.S. Aging Policy Forum in Washington D.C. to advocate for their region and the State. Additionally, WACOG has been utilizing TruAlta which is a caregiver platform that offers resources to support the caregiving experience. In the WACOG area, use of TruAlta will be opening up fully soon after completing a soft launch with WACOG programming supported caregivers.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, noted that **Jaime Aguilar** who shared that Area Agency on Aging Region 6 is focusing on vulnerable adult financial abuse. The AAA Vice president and **Jaime** are joining a multidisciplinary taskforce to discuss support for victims of financial abuse. Jaime lauded the TruAlta website as well as an excellent resource for caregivers.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Lisa O'Neill** for an update from The University of Arizona Center on Aging. **Dr. O'Neill** highlighted the Arizona Caregiver Coalition Day at the Capitol which will be on March 3, with both remote and in person options.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Shelli Silver** for an update from the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). **Shelli** thanked the presenters for the information. Over the past 9 months, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), increased federal funding to \$1.5 billion to improve and expand home services. The SPEND plan was approved in January, which was a significant hurdle. Still pending is State HB 2157, authorizing significant funds which are to be spent by June 30, 2022. If the first batch of funding is not accessed by March 1, the federal funds will begin to be reduced. Public comment will be closing in early March for items elevated for heightened scrutiny. **Shelli** provided the following links for review and consideration by the Council and stakeholders:
 - HCBS Rules information including opportunity for public comment on settings with heightened scrutiny: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/HCBS/>
 - Olmstead Planning: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/AboutUs/ArizonaOlmsteadPlan/>
 - ARPA Updates: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/Initiatives/ARPA/index.html>
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Steve Wagner** for an update from The RightCare Foundation. **Steve** thanked **Barbara Marshall** for bringing forward an example of exploitation in her member report out.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Virginia Rountree** for an update from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). **Virginia** informed Councilmembers that in January, for the second consecutive month, Adult Protective Services (APS) completed over 2,000 investigations. Increased productivity is due largely to the case review team that was fully onboarded in mid-November. Despite increased productivity, the average APS caseload remains largely unchanged at approximately 56 cases per investigator with a target of 25. This is largely because of higher than projected new reports. DES submitted the required operational funding plan to Administration for Community Living for a second round of ARPA COVID funding for APS on January 31 and are awaiting approval from the Federal government. The spending period for these funds is August 2022 - September 2024. There are several bills running through the legislature that impact APS. Three notable ones are: HB2397 which would add emotional abuse to the list of types of abuse that qualify for APS investigation and potential substantiation, SB1391 transfers the Arizona State Hospital oversight from ADHS to AHCCCS and HB2386 which requires DES and ADHS (Arizona Department of Health Services) to create training materials for all individuals caring for vulnerable adults on the signs of abuse and neglect and how to report. The State Plan on Aging will be presented to GACA on April 13, 2022 for approval. The Centers for Health Care Strategies reached out with an opportunity that may be of interest to state agencies serving aging individuals and people with disabilities in Arizona, issuing an invitation to submit a brief non-binding Letter of Intent for states that may be interested in participating in a multi-state learning collaborative to advance [Master Plans for Aging \(MPA\)](#). Two bills of note: HB2477 which creates the Elderly Assistance Fund and indicates the AAAs would do eligibility processing and HB2528 which makes permanent \$1.5M of funding for FY22 to fund targeted rate increases for AAA providers.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Mary Beals-Luedtka** for an update from the Arizona Area Agencies on Aging (AZ4A). **Mary** shared that the AAA's ask is for Legislators to continue supporting the work being done statewide, by continuing level funding. **Mary** stated that the AAA's received one time funds that need to be put in the regular budget and they are meeting with the Governor's office regularly to provide data, etc. on how the one time monies were utilized. The Governor did not include these funds in the recently released budget. **Mary** informed Councilmembers that all regions are focused on vaccinations and access to them in their various regions. Region III has issued new contracts for Home Care Providers and Adult Day Care Providers. Individual regional updates were provided and can be found on the GOYFF website at <https://goyff.az.gov/meeting/gaca/2022/02/09>.

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Nicole Baker** from the Arizona Department of Veterans Services. **Nicole** shared that the department is currently focused on increasing veterans housing and homeless services with approximately 1,000 homeless veterans statewide. The Department of Veterans Services are working with state and federal partners to support veterans surrounding housing, employment and general services. The Department is hosting three events in the next month to connect veterans with resources throughout different areas of the state. Yuma is opening their Veterans home soon, currently accepting applications to fill their staff positions at that location.

Workgroup Update

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Steve Wagner** and **Brenda Holt** for an update on the Aging in Community Workgroup. **Steve** encouraged all members to stay after to attend the AIC workgroup meeting and that the Council is encouraged to engage external stakeholders to attend future AIC meetings. **Steve** shared the outcomes of the workgroup and shared that he is optimistic about the upcoming year and meeting the objectives set forth by the State Plan on Aging.

Upcoming Meeting

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reminded Councilmembers to mark their calendars for their next meeting April 13, 2022, in a hybrid format, with in-person and virtual options.

Adjournment

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - **Carol Brown** moved to adjourn.
 - **Steve Wagner** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Dated 10 of February 2022
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
Respectfully Submitted By:
Kim Brooks
GOYFF