



### GOVERNOR’S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

August 14, 2024, 10:00 AM

1700 West Washington Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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

Members Present (13)	Members Absent (1)
Terri Spitz, Chair	Senator Lela Alston
Carol Brown, Vice Chair	
Representative Tim Dunn	
Belinda Akes	
Teresa Manygoats	
Rebecca Clayton	
Teri Kennedy	
Lisa O’Neill	
Steve Wagner	
Brendon Blake	
Leslie Moore	
Dr. Nelly Clotter-Woods	
Gwen Relf	
Staff and Guests Present (2)	
Latrisha Centers, Staff	
Chantel Hutchinson, Staff	

#### Call to Order

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) meeting to order at **10:06 AM**. **Thirteen** members and **two** staff/guests were present.

#### Chair’s Remarks

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. She announced the addition of four new members to the roster since the last meeting and invited them to introduce themselves and provide a brief overview of their professional backgrounds.

#### Roll Call

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

#### Approval of Minutes

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested a review of the **May 8, 2024**, meeting minutes before requesting a motion to approve as drafted.
  - o **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, moved to accept the meeting minutes.
  - o **Teri Kennedy** seconded the motion.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called for a vote, and the **May 8, 2024**, meeting minutes were approved as drafted with no dissenting votes at **10:12 AM**.

### Approval of Bylaws Amendment

- **Latrishia Centers, the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF)'s Executive Director on Aging**, shared that upon reviewing the bylaws, the GOYFF staff noticed that the quorum requirement for holding a special or regular meeting needs to change from eight members to nine. She reminded members that they have a 30-day timeline to review this proposed amendment according to the bylaws.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, requested a review of the amendment to the bylaws before requesting a motion to approve.
  - **Brendon Blake** moved to approve the amendment of the bylaws.
  - **Belinda Akes** seconded the motion.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called a vote, and the motion passed with no dissenting votes at **10:17 AM**.

### National Aging Conference Presentation

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, to share her experience and feedback regarding [USAgings's 49th Annual Conference and Tradeshow](#).
- **Carol Brown, Vice Chair**, began her presentation by stating that it was an excellent conference with many topics and focus areas related to aging. She noted her presentation is available in member packets, and for the sake of time, the conference highlights include:
  - The [Older Americans Act \(OAA\)](#) is undergoing a reauthorization process. However, because it is an election year, it will undergo continuing resolution for several months until the new administration is in place.
  - The OAA will include more transparent language for better oversight and use of funds by [AZ Aging](#).
  - It is essential to understand the OAA and its emphasis on preventing falls. There is a movement to change the language used to describe aging adults from terms like seniors, frail, and elderly to the more respectful term "older adult." This change helps to show that older adults are valuable members of society.
  - Lastly, there is an upcoming White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) in 2025 for GACA Members, which she will provide more details about once they are available.
- To view **Carol Brown's** presentation, [click here](#).

### Affordable Housing Presentation

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Kerwin Brown**, executive director of [Tanner Community Development Corporation \(TCDC\)](#).
- **Kerwin Brown** began his presentation by sharing the following statistics regarding older adult housing status within the City of Phoenix.
  - As of April 2023, the population of Phoenix exceeded 1.6 million, including 179,000 individuals aged 65 or older.
  - At that time, the average monthly cost of assisted living in Phoenix was \$4,217. Arizona had around 1,400 assisted living communities.
  - In January 2024, Maricopa County announced \$2 million in funding for affordable housing for older adults in the City of Goodyear and committed \$130 million in ARPA funds to create more affordable housing opportunities in the local community.
  - Arizona is the 12th most populous state for people 65 and older in the United States.
  - The older adult population has experienced the fastest growth since 2010, with a national increase of 34.2% and 48.4% in Arizona.

- **Mr. Brown** provided an overview of TCDC's affordable housing program, discussing housing options and future projects. He highlighted the Tanner Thomas Village for Veterans Tiny Homes Project as a source of pride. These homes accommodate veterans and offer comprehensive support, including healthcare guidance, nutrition assistance, social services, job training, and placement assistance.
- **Brendon Blake** inquired about how middle-income residents, making up over 50% of the median income, qualify for rent.
  - **Kerwin Brown** responded that the tiny homes they produce are high-quality and efficient. He also mentioned that the cost of building tiny homes is lower than typical homes built with other materials. Additionally, they are exploring the development of triplexes and duplexes.
- To view **Kerwin Brown's** presentation, [click here](#).

### Healthy Home Project Presentation

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, introduced **Joe Seidenberg**, executive director for [Red Feather Development Group](#).
- **Joe Seidenberg** shared that Red Feather Development Group was established in 1994 and partners with Indigenous Communities to develop and implement lasting, impactful housing solutions. In addition to housing, they offer support in the following program areas:
  - Education
  - Case management
  - Home repairs
- **Mr. Seidenberg** shared that materials to make the local community's homes are cleaner, safer, and longer-lasting. The project is also part of a professional weatherization program that installs energy-saving heating and cooling systems for low-income households through a contract with New Mexico.
- **Representative Tim Dunn** asked how the group is getting funding for the project.
  - **Joe Seidenberg** responded that funding comes from 30 years of acquiring donors and from well-diversified sources such as [Wells Fargo](#), [Northern Arizona Council of Governments \(NACOG\)](#), and actor [Johnny Depp](#).
- To view **Joe Seidenberg's** presentation, [click here](#).

### Alzheimer's Subcommittee Report

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Subcommittee met on August 2, 2024. She shared a presentation about their discussion around collecting data to explain better how/what type of data the subcommittee would collect and a timeline of when they will share data reports at GACA meetings. The goal is to collect data to put into an overall report and include it in GACA's Annual Report with recommendations to the governor.
- In addition, the subcommittee will work on a project to educate first responders through a listening session series on how to identify older adults with dementia and how to interact with them appropriately.
- **Steve Wagner** stated he would assist with this effort.

### 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 **GOYFF Executive Director on Aging, Latrisha Centers**.

- **Teresa Manygoats** stated that **Tenneh Turner-Warren**, the new GACA Liaison from the [Arizona Department of Health Services \(AZDHS\)](#), could not attend the meeting, and she would provide the update on Tenneh's behalf. **Ms. Manygoats** gave an overview of **Tenneh's** professional background, roles, and responsibilities before stating that the AZDHS Alzheimer's State Plan is undergoing editing. The AZDHS will share the final version at a later GACA Meeting.

### Council Announcements

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, stated that she attended the [Alzheimer's Association International Conference](#), where at least 8,000 researchers were present to share the latest research on this topic. She described the conference as exciting and learned a lot of valuable information. She added that a handout with more details is available in members' packets.
- **Belinda Akes** shared that the [Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens \(PGCCS\)](#) has undergone a new branding and will now be called the Central Arizona Council on Aging.
- **Lisa O'Neill** mentioned that the [University of Arizona Center on Aging](#) recently awarded a substantial Geriatric Grant. The grant aims to enhance the well-being of older adults in rural areas and underserved populations, offering geriatric training for the community.
- **Representative Dunn** stated that the two bills related to caregiver support, regulations, and oversight of assisted living facilities will have a committee that will convene in mid-September to start work related to the outlined activities.
  - **Steve Wagner** thanked **Representative Dunn** for his hard work passing the two bills.
- **Gwen Relf** shared that [Rehoboth Community Development Corporation \(RCDC\)](#) has an on-site housing complex that serves older adults and an intergenerational program.
- **Brendon Blake** stated that [AARP](#) investigates Crypto Scams among older adults.
- **Dr. Nelly Clotter-Woods** mentioned that the [Arizona Caregiver Coalition \(ACC\)](#) is creating an action plan for caregivers, and she will provide additional information soon.
- **Leslie Moore** shared that she is presenting at an event celebrating National Adult Day Services (NADSA) Week, recognized from September 15–21, 2024.
- **Rebecca Clayton, an ex-officio member**, was excited to share that [Speak Up AZ!](#) - a campaign to combat neglect, abuse, and exploitation of older adults - won a Nelly Award for an innovative marketing campaign for the State of Arizona.

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

- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, asked members to consider future agenda items. Possible topics shared were a presentation on **Lisa O'Neill's** new grant, a report on the OOA, and the AZDHS Alzheimer's State Plan.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, reminded members that the next GACA meeting will be held on **November 13, 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.
  - **Representative Dunn** moved to adjourn.
  - **Steve Wagner** seconded the motion.
- **Terri Spitz, Chair**, called for a vote. The motion passed with no dissenting votes, and the meeting adjourned at **11:52 AM**.

Dated May 15, 2024  
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging  
Respectfully Submitted By:

Latrisha Centers  
GOYFF

DRAFT