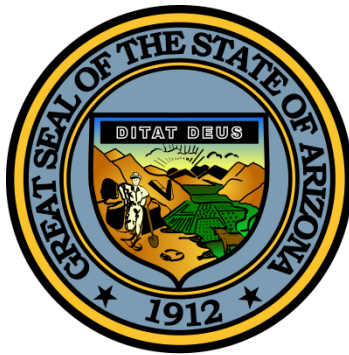


# **Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**

## **2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

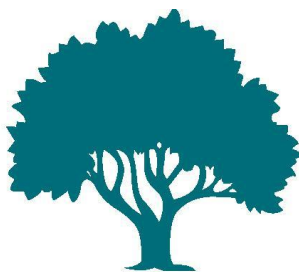


**George A. Evanoff, Chair**

# Purpose & Mission

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The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging's purpose by statute is to "advise the Governor, Legislature and all State Departments which the Council deems necessary on all matters and issues relating to aging, including the administration of the State Plan on Aging." The Council's mission is "to enhance the quality of life for older Arizonans." The Council advises policy makers and state agencies, and works with local communities, non profit organizations, private enterprises and older adults across Arizona to fulfill its purpose and accomplish its mission.



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

*George A. Evanoff, Chair*

*Joe Woods, Vice Chair*

January 13, 2012

Dear Governor Brewer, Speaker Tobin, Senate President Pierce & Older Arizonans:

On behalf of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, I present you with the Advisory Council on Aging's 2011 Annual Report.

We are pleased to report that due to the hard work and dedication of our Council members, liaisons, volunteers and staff, we continue to find ways to fulfill our purpose as the voice of older Arizonans during difficult times that have continued to impact our state and affect our vulnerable senior population.

A highlight of the Council achievements this year includes the seven Senior Action Days held around the state offering opportunities for dialogue between legislators, older adults and their advocates and generating valuable input used to develop Council's projects and priorities and provided to state agencies. In addition, the Council produced an Older Driver Safety research project; surveyed statewide One Stop Career Center staff to determine resources needed to assist mature workers struggling to find employment; initiated the fourth cycle of the Mature Worker Friendly Certification for employers; provided resource information for mature worker and employers through the Arizona Mature Worker website; recruited additional partners to address oral health needs of older and vulnerable adults; and supported the launching of the Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force – an initiative conceived by our Governor's Office on Aging to focus on Alzheimer's priorities contained within the State Plan on Aging.

Our state's population now includes more than 13% over the age of 65, and in eight short years, one in four of us will be over the age of 60. We know that our role as a non-partisan voice for older Arizonans is more important than ever.

We look forward to working with you in 2012, and appreciate your support of our efforts to enhance the quality of life for Arizona's older adults.

Sincerely,

George A. Evanoff, Chair

# Governor's Advisory Council on Aging 2011

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**George A. Evanoff, Chair**  
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(Tucson)

**Anne Morrison**  
Pima County  
(Tucson)

**Kati Bates**  
Maricopa County  
(Phoenix)

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Maricopa County  
(Tempe)

**Marilyn Johnson**  
Mohave County  
(Kingman)

**Karen Zanzucchi**  
Maricopa County  
(Phoenix)

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**The Council wishes to thank our agency liasions:**

**Melanie Starns**  
DES

**Debra Boehlke**  
Attorney General's Office

**Ramona Rusinak**  
ADHS

**P.J. Schoenstene**  
AHCCCS

**Dana Kennedy**  
AZ Area Agency Association

**Erin Klug**  
Insurance

**Dan Harrigan**  
ADOT

# Council Responsibilities

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The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (Council) was authorized by legislation in 1980 (A.R.S. §§ 46-183 & 46-184) to "advise the Governor, Legislature and all State Departments which the Council deems necessary on all matters and issues relating to aging, including the administration of the State Plan on Aging." In accordance with the state statute, the Council is comprised of 15 members appointed by the Governor. To ensure comprehensive representation, the members come from various geographic, cultural, professional, and personal backgrounds relevant to the issues facing older Arizonans.

Arizona has also designated the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging as its State Advisory Council on Aging, as set forth in the federal Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (45 CFR §1321.47). In accordance with federal regulations, more than 50 percent of the appointed members must be at least 60 years of age and include: (1) persons with greatest economic or social need, and (2) participants under the Older American Act. In this role as the State Advisory Council, the body advises the federally designated State Unit on Aging (the Division of Aging and Adult Services within the Department of Economic Security) on the development and implementation of the State Plan on Aging, and in the development and operations of policies and programs for older adults.

The Council has four (4) Standing Committees:

- The Executive Committee;
- The Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee;
- The Mature Workforce Committee; and
- The Social, Health and Alzheimer's Committee.

Goals of the Council are largely accomplished through the work of these committees. Ad hoc committees are also created for special purposes and projects. This year those have included the Older Driver Safety Report Review Committee and the Marketing & Outreach Task Force.

The Council's primary roles and responsibilities include:

- Review and approve the State Plan on Aging; monitor and evaluate implementation of the State Plan.
- Discuss and recommend actions to all state agencies on programs and policies which affect the Arizona senior population.
- Develop legislative priorities and advocate for such, both in respect to the Council's short-term and long-range plans and goals on aging.

- Actively facilitate the coordination of federal, state, local and private organizational policies and programs concerning services to older residents.
- Submit a written report of its recommendations regarding the State Plan on Aging as well as the Council's accomplishments and future goals to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Promote public understanding and acceptance of programs and services relating to the well being of the state's senior population.
- Be the official advocate for the seniors in the state and actively promote policies to further the well being of the state's seniors.

# 2011 Accomplishments

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The following are highlights of the Advisory Council on Aging's 2011 activities.

***1. Monitored and Ensured Accomplishments Set Forth in the 2011-2014 State Plan on Aging were Achieved***

As part of its statutory purpose, the Council continued to work with the DES Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) to monitor implementation of strategies and activities established in the 2011-2014 State Plan on Aging as required by federal law. At the request of the Council, DAAS provided periodic reports on the development process and enactment of the plan to the Council as part of the public meetings during the past year. In addition, the Council supported the Governor's Office on Aging's development of the Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force which is intended to bring together a wide range of public and private stakeholders throughout the State to address the growing human and financial cost of dementia in Arizona. Four work teams of more than 80 volunteers from around the state are now engaged in the work of addressing the Alzheimer's priorities contained within the State Plan on Aging.

***2. Provided Opportunities for Dialogue between Older Arizonans and Legislators***

In line with its biennial commitment, the Council offered seven Senior Action Days in communities throughout the state in 2011. These events provided opportunities for older Arizonans and their advocates to share concerns, viewpoints and exchange input with their state legislators and local elected officials. Direct input collected through this process is consistently used to help shape the Council's priorities and future directions. In addition, the information is provided to state agencies for planning purposes, as desired.

***3. Worked to Improve Oral Health Care for Frail Seniors and Vulnerable Adults***

With a focus on intervention strategies and relief of pain and suffering, the Oral Health initiative of the Council on Aging's Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee worked to promote access to affordable dental services for Arizona's frail seniors and vulnerable adults. Additional partners were recruited to advance efforts to encourage free or affordable dental services through donated care. Oral health education for caregivers and advocacy on federal, state and local oral health issues affecting Arizona's frail seniors and vulnerable adults continued to be priorities for the Sub-Committee.

***4. Provided the Legislative Update Newsletter***

The Council continued to monitor state and federal legislation that impacts older adults and reported this through the electronic, non-partisan *Legislative Update* email newsletter. The intent of the newsletter is to inform readers about the state and federal legislative process, and to help older Arizonans and aging advocates formulate their own opinions and remain informed so that they can work to ensure their voices are heard. More than 400 subscribers received the newsletter throughout 2011.

***5. Offered the Mature Worker Friendly Employer Certification***

In partnership with the Governor's Office and the Arizona Department of Economic Security, the Council launched the Mature Worker Friendly Employer Certification in 2008. The first certification of its kind in the country, the effort is intended to assist employers in recognizing the skills and expertise that are brought to the workplace by mature workers, and managing the challenges of an aging workforce while creating employment opportunities for mature workers in Arizona. The Council opened the fourth cycle of the certification process in 2011 and conducted a follow-up survey of employers certified in 2008 and 2009 to ensure recertification training developed meets the current needs of the certified employers.

***6. Continued to Develop the Mature Worker Job Bank and Resource Website***

In 2011, the Council continued to provide resource information for mature workers and employers through the Arizona Mature Worker Website [www.azmatureworkers.com](http://www.azmatureworkers.com). More than 238 events were posted in the first 11 months of 2011 and in the first nine months, the website received more than 130,000 visitors and more than 360,000 page views. The Council continues to coordinate blogs as part of outreach efforts to mature workers and employers.

***7. Surveyed One Stop Center Staff to Identify Employment and Training Needs of Mature Workers.***

As a priority for the Mature Workforce Committee, the Council established a Sub-Committee to research employment and training services available to Arizona's mature workers. An initial and follow up survey were conducted with staff of the One Stop Career Centers throughout the state to identify best practices as well as needed resources. From the input received, the Sub-Committee proposed the creation of a toolkit of resources for One Stop Career staff and those they serve.

***8. Ensured Continuing Education Opportunities for Council Members***

In an on-going effort to help Council members build awareness or enhance their knowledge of aging related initiatives, special presentations were provided at 2011 Council meetings. Topics included: how a bill is created and becomes law; the Arizona Center on Aging and Health Science College programs and new models of care; end of life and health care decisions; and the development and implementation of the State Plan on Aging. In addition, Council members were invited to a special presentation by the Executive Director of the National Center on Senior Transportation hosted by the Governor's Office on Aging.

***9. Created a Marketing & Outreach Task Force***

A new Task Force was developed by the Council to address the marketing and outreach needs of the Mature Workforce Committee and other Council Committees. One of the first mandates of the Task Force is to help translate information received from the survey of One Stop Career Center staff into a tool kit.

***10. Launched an Older Driver Safety Research Project***

As a priority of the Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee (LPCC), the Council researched older driver safety programs to compare legislation from various states impacting older drivers, determine best practices and consider legislative recommendations. During the



process, the Council offered educational presentations related to older driver safety at the 2011 LPCC meetings.

***11. Supported the Arizona Caregiver Coalition's Development of the Respite Care Network***

The Council on Aging promoted the Coalition's efforts to host the National Lifespan Respite conference in 2011 and supported the Coalition's efforts to build one point of contact for respite resources and information.

***12. Continued to Support Educational Outreach Efforts***

The Council continued to support the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) efforts to disseminate resources related to hearing loss aimed at educating both service providers and older consumers. Updated materials were posted on the Council's website resource page and provided through the Council's email announcements and newsletter. In addition, the Council continued to support the mission of the Arizona Fall Prevention Coalition to reduce the risk of falls by older Arizonans and provided updates on fall prevention education, awareness, and outreach by the Coalition at the Council's Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee meetings.

***13. Initiated a Study on Rural Health***

In an effort to identify programs in rural health to potentially replicate, the Council launched a review of best practices for medical care and transit in rural America.

***14. Provided Input to the Governor and Legislature on Aging Issues***

In accordance with the purpose of the Council, the Council continued to offer information and insights to the Governor and Legislature on the needs and interests of older Arizonans.

## 2012 Future Directions

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The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging remains committed to enhancing the lives of older Arizonans and will continue to work at leveraging resources and building partnerships to accomplish their goals. The Council intends to work on the following activities in 2012:

**1. *Monitor the 2011-2014 State Plan on Aging***

As part of its statutory purpose, the Council will continue to work with the DES Division of Aging and Adult Services and the Association of Area Agencies on Aging to monitor activities established in the 2011-2014 State Plan on Aging as required by federal law and to help ensure that results are in line with established plans and fiscal priorities. In addition, the Council will continue to support the Governor's Office on Aging's involvement in the Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force and its efforts to address the growing human and financial cost of dementia in Arizona through objectives and strategies of the State Plan on Aging.

**2. *Offer Consumer Education and Training***

In partnership with state agencies and community partners, the Council will seek opportunities to offer education and training through collaborative efforts that result in one-day workshops, summits or special sessions at conferences focused on older and disabled adults. The Council will continue to work with the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council on the development of summits that provide educational opportunities for consumers throughout the state.

**3. *Promote Transit Options for Older Adult Independence***

Recognizing the importance of transit options for older adults, the Council will continue to gather and disseminate information on local, regional and statewide transportation plans that promote and support independence in later life.

**4. *Assemble Stakeholder Input on Older Driver Safety and Finalize Recommendations***

In alignment with the priorities of the Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee, the Council will continue to gather input from stakeholders engaged in the Older Driver Safety Report Review Committee and consider final strategies for an older driver safety awareness campaign as well as policy or legislative recommendations.

**5. *Provide the Legislative Update Email Newsletter***

The Council will continue to monitor state and federal legislation that impacts older adults and report it through the electronic non-partisan *Legislative Update*. The intent of the email newsletter is to inform readers about the state and federal legislative process, and help older Arizonans and aging advocates remain informed so that they can formulate their own opinions and ensure their voices are heard.

**6. *Improve Oral Health Care for Frail Seniors and Vulnerable Adults***

With a focus on relief of pain and suffering, the Oral Health Sub-Committee will continue to work on accessibility of affordable dental care for Arizona's frail seniors and vulnerable adults by promoting donated dental care and advocating for oral health education.

**7. *Award Mature Worker Friendly Certification to Arizona Employers***

The Council will continue to promote mature worker friendly work environments by awarding employers with the Mature Worker Friendly Employer Certification. In addition, the Council will offer training and recertification for those employers certified in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

**8. *Upgrade the Mature Worker Job Bank and Resource Website***

The Arizona Mature Worker Website, hosted by Jobing.com and maintained by the Council's staff, will be upgraded and improved to ensure valuable information and resources are available for both mature workers seeking employment, and employers wishing to attract and retain members of Arizona's mature workforce.

**9. *Enhance Assistance to Mature Workers and Employers***

Through the efforts of the Council's Marketing and Outreach Task Force, a toolkit of resources will be developed and offered to One Stop Career Centers in support of education and training options for mature workers and employers. The toolkit will be a feature of the Arizona Mature Worker Website, [www.azmatureworkers.com](http://www.azmatureworkers.com).

**10. *Support Education and Outreach Efforts***

The Council will continue to support the efforts of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing to disseminate resources that support educational outreach efforts on hearing loss aimed at educating both service providers and older consumers. The Council intends to review health insurance practices regarding hearing aids in support of consumers. In addition, the Council will continue to support the mission of the Arizona Fall Prevention Coalition to reduce the risk of falls by older Arizonans through education, awareness, and outreach focused on three essentials of fall prevention: medication management, physical activity, and home and environment modification.

**11. *Ensure Continuing Education Opportunities for Council Members***

Educational presentations and training opportunities will continue to be a part of the Council's meetings in 2012. Open meeting law training is planned in early 2012; additional presentations are planned to help build awareness or enhance Council members' knowledge of aging related issues.

**12. *Provide Input to the Governor and Legislature on Aging Issues***

In accordance with its purpose, the Council will continue to offer recommendations and advice to the Governor and Legislature on the needs and interests of older Arizonans. From budget priorities to elders' perspectives on any type of legislation, policy makers benefit from utilizing the Council as a single, non-partisan voice on matters that affect seniors.

## Conclusion

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We are grateful to the dedicated Council members, hundreds of community partners and staff who enable the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging to fulfill its role. The Council is honored to serve as an internal, non-partisan sounding board for the Governor and the Legislature on all matters related to aging. We look forward to working with you in 2012.

If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office at:

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1700 West Washington Street, Suite 240  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

**Phone: 602-542-4710**

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