



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

# 2016 Annual Report

## **2016 Membership**

**Becky Brimhall-Lepire, Chair** – Scottsdale, AZ

**Lisa M. O'Neill, Vice Chair** – Tucson, AZ

**George A. Evanoff, Secretary** – Tucson, AZ

**C.T. Wright, Past Chair** – Fountain Hills, AZ

**Patsy J. Gillis,** – Phoenix, AZ

**Deborah Hankerd** – Tombstone, AZ

**Diane Joens** – Cottonwood, AZ

**Doyle Meredith** – Prescott Valley, AZ

**Melinda Preston** – Tempe, AZ

**Trudy W. Schuett** – Yuma, AZ

**Steve B. Wagner** – Phoenix, AZ

Established by state law in 1980, the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) is a statewide body of fifteen members appointed by the Governor to serve three-year terms.

Purpose: "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."

Mission: "to enhance the quality of life for older Arizonans."



## **Authorization**

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.

## **Compliance with Statutory Purpose**

As required by federal law, the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging continued to work with the DES Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) to monitor the administration of the [State Plan on Aging](#). DES/DAAS staff provided updates, answered questions and discussed successes and roadblocks to progress being made at each of the 2016 GACA meetings. As requested by the Advisory Council on Aging, the DES/DAAS 2016 reporting included updates on the transition of Aging 2020 state agency partners to the work of the State Plan on Aging. The Council supports the goal of this transition which is to avoid duplication of effort and improve efficiencies between departments and agencies working to improve the lives of older Arizonans.

## **2016 Outcomes**

In compliance with its legislative mandate, the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging continued a focus on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. The Aging in Community Committee supported the [Arizona Alzheimer's State Plan](#) recommendation (Goal 3, Recommendation 3.2, Strategy A) to train professionals in non-health care fields who interface with families of people living with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders by offering two days of the Virtual Dementia Tour® (VDT), an evidence based dementia simulation program in partnership with Western Arizona Council of Government, Area Agency on Aging Region IV. GACA exceeded its goal of 80 participants by 25%. Forty-two first responders (firefighters and law enforcement) participated along with 68 staff from state agencies, nonprofits and aging network organizations. Follow-up survey responses indicate 97% of participants agreed or

strongly agreed that the VDT was beneficial to their understanding of the challenges faced by those with dementia.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging supported the expansion of the Silver Alert criteria ([SB1196](#)) to include missing at-risk individuals younger than 65 years of age who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or (another type of) dementia in Arizona. GACA provided the bill's sponsor, Senator Gail Griffin, with information received from constituents on the importance of such expansion. SB1196 was tracked and featured in issues of the *Legislative Update* and at GACA meetings during the 52<sup>nd</sup> Legislature – 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session. A [supportive statement](#) was approved, distributed and posted following the signing of the legislation, and a letter of appreciation shared with Senator Griffin.

The Council's email newsletter tracked legislation about Alzheimer's disease and offered links to current research and reports as well as the latest information on the National Alzheimer's Project Act, the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, and the *2016 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*. The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging continued to support the Governor's Office on Aging's leadership role in the Planning Group of the Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force and the launch of the [Calls to Action](#), the implementation phase of the Arizona Alzheimer's State Plan.

Through the *Legislative Update*, The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging continued to track state and federal legislation impacting older adults. The intent of the email newsletter is to inform readers about the legislative process and help older Arizonans and aging advocates formulate their own opinions and ensure their voices are heard. Each issue included a link to state legislation tracked by the Council and brief overviews of federal legislation. In addition, current information and resources were offered from local, regional, state and federal programs that comprise the aging network. Seventeen issues were circulated to a distribution list of more than 410 contacts during 2016.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging supported the Governor's FY 2017 Executive Budget recommendations protecting vulnerable, older Arizonans. Action was taken by GACA and a letter of support sent to Governor Ducey.

The Council backed efforts to provide educational opportunities about aging issues in Arizona through sponsorship of the Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AZ4A) conference. Seven of 15 GACA members participated in the two-day event in Flagstaff. In addition the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging sponsored the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day, and participated in the Tanner Terrace Senior Apartments Health Fair as well as the Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease in Tucson and Phoenix.

Financial exploitation work being done by the Taskforce Against Senior Abuse (TASA) at the Arizona Attorney General's Office was reported out at the Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee meeting by GACA members assigned to TASA. These report

outs resulted in an objective to educate on legislative protections against financial exploitation in 2017.

The City of Tempe's progress in developing a "Dementia-Friendly City" was shared by the GACA Chair who engaged in a leadership role with the financial sector of that initiative. GACA members have been invited to participate in "Dementia Friend" training in 2017.

The Aging in Community Committee continued development of fact sheets on transportation models, best practices and resources by Arizona regions for distribution and posting.

In summary, the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging completed 10 of 12 committee objectives in 2016.

In 2016, GACA members volunteered 319 hours to meetings and events specific to the Council and more than 298 additional hours of volunteer service for GACA endorsed activities at the local and regional level. More than 3,345 individuals received information or resources specific to aging trends and concerns through the GACA office.

### **2017 Priorities**

- Advance efforts to prevent/respond to elder abuse, neglect or exploitation
  1. Educate on legislative protections against financial exploitation
  2. Advocate for legislative changes that protect Adult Protective Services (APS) workers
- Assist in the development of a bipartisan work group focused on aging issues at the Arizona State Legislature
- Continue to endorse Virtual Dementia Tour® (VDT) as educational, evidence-based dementia simulation experience for first responders in support of the Arizona Alzheimer's State Plan recommendations
- Continue to advocate for long-term services and supports (LTSS) / home and community-based services (HCBS) as cost-effective ways to keep older Arizonans in their community of choice
  1. Include support for Arizona's caregivers
  2. Promote dementia-friendly, age-friendly communities
- Partner with DES/Division of Aging & Adult Services' State Plan on Aging 2019-2022 public meetings for Senior Action Days in 2017
- Educate on purpose and work of the Council through the GACA Marketing Committee.

## **Partnerships and Assistance**

Liaisons to the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging provided ongoing input and expertise as participants in the Council meetings and the annual planning process. Those partners included:

Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Region V - Olivia Guerrero;  
Arizona Attorney General's Office - Amilyn Pierce;  
Arizona Department of Economic Security/Division of Aging & Adult Services - Lynn Larson, Scott Lekan and Cindy Saverino;  
Arizona Department of Health Services - Wayne Tormala and Michael B. Nayeri;  
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System - Jay Dunkleberger;  
Arizona Indian Council on Aging - Ronald Moore; and  
Arizona Department of Veterans Services, Arizona State Veterans Home - Kristin Fray and Scott Whitney.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging is thankful for dedicated community partners who support the purpose and mission of the Council and engage in the work of the Advisory Council on Aging. Additionally, GACA is grateful to Christina Corieri; the Governor's Senior Policy Advisor who took time to meet with leadership and provide input throughout the year and to new Policy Assistant Brett Galley for his willingness to assist in the year ahead.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging is honored to serve as the internal, non-partisan sounding board for the Governor and the Legislature on all matters related to aging and is dedicated to a productive, outcome-driven year in 2017.

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