



SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

Advisory Council on Aging Agenda

DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2026

TIME: 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

In-person @

Benson Hospital Conference Room 450 South Ocotillo Ave. Benson, Arizona 85602

or

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 210 264 060 476 9

Passcode: v9v2b3EM

<p>I. CALL TO ORDER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pledge Allegiance b. Introductions c. Roll Call 	<p>PRESIDENT MONTOYA</p>	
<p>II. PROGRAM PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Long Term Care Ombudsman 	<p>SHI MARTIN</p>	
<p>III. ACTION ITEMS*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approval of January 15, 2026, meeting minutes b. Open floor for nominations to vacant seats c. Election of Officers 	<p>PRESIDENT MONTOYA PRESIDENT MONTOYA PRESIDENT MONTOYA</p>	<p><u>Page No.</u> 1 4 8</p>
<p>IV. INFORMATION ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. AAA Programs & Area Plan Update b. AAA Legislative Update 	<p>CELESTE VASQUEZ CELESTE VASQUEZ</p>	<p>11 16</p>
<p>V. MEMBER/STAFF INFORMATION EXCHANGE</p>	<p>PRESIDENT MONTOYA</p>	
<p>VI. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING July 16, 2026</p>	<p>PRESIDENT MONTOYA</p>	
<p>I. ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>PRESIDENT MONTOYA</p>	

*Agenda items requiring action by the Advisory Council on Aging. NOTE: All agenda items are subject to action by the Advisory Council on Aging. Individuals with disabilities who require special accommodation may contact Michele Miller at (520) 432-2528 extension 220 at least 72 hours before the meeting to request such accommodation.

MINUTES

Unincorporated Santa Cruz County (1):

One (1) seat for the City of Nogales

One (1) seat for County Unincorporated

There is currently one (1) member who's successful second three-year term expired on November 10, 2025. We have not received any interest from other community members; therefore, once the seat has been vacant for 90 days, the previous member is eligible for appointment if they wish to retake the seat.

Cochise County:

Mr. Gary Clark, representing the City of Douglas

Jaime Aguila moved to reappoint Gary Clark, representing City of Douglas, to another three-year term. Arnold Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously by those present

There are currently two (2) members whose successful three-year term is due to expire on February 24, 2026. The following members may be reappointed for a second three-year term. Eva McElroy has decided not to have another term.

Cochise County:

Ms. Eva McElroy, representing the City of Sierra Vista

Graham County:

Ms. Susan Lange, representing the City of Patagonia

Susan Lange will commence her term on the date approved and appointed by the SEAGO Executive Board, which is scheduled for February 20, 2026.

Lisa Lane moved to reappoint Susan Lange, representing Santa Cruz County, for another three-year term. Motion seconded by Arnold Lopez. The motion passes unanimously by those present

III MEMBERS/STAFF INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- Lisa Lane announced the Gila Valley Veteran Services 11th Annual Veteran's & Families Resource Fair, will be held March 20, 2026.
- Stephanie Nabor reported on the Giving Machines they installed December 12, 2025, to January 1, 2026. Donors are assured that their donation will go to charity or cause, of their choice. The LDS church sets up the machines and pays the set-up fees, 100% of the donations go to local charities. They will know in March what has been donated. These funds will allow SEACUS to do more for the community. For MLK day they are setting up for donations of non-perishable food donations. They expect to collect around 250 boxes of stable shelf donations. This will help with food donations at the three congregate sites. Staff



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING PACKET

MEMO TO: ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
FROM: CELESTE VASQUEZ, AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR
DATE: APRIL 16, 2026
SUBJECT: NOMINATIONS FOR VACANT COUNCIL MEMBER SEATS

Background

The Advisory Council on Aging's (ACOA) revised bylaws, dated **February 21, 2025**, establish the Council's composition, membership requirements, and term limits.

Article III – Composition and Membership, Section A.1. specifies that the ACOA shall consist of eighteen (18) members allocated as follows:

- Cochise County – eight (8) representatives
- Graham County – four (4) representatives
- Greenlee County – three (3) representatives
- Santa Cruz County – three (3) representatives

Section A.1.a. further requires that at least ten (10) members be sixty (60) years of age or older and that every effort be made to ensure representation of individuals with the greatest economic or social need, minority individuals, and participants in services funded by the Agency.

Section B.4. states that members appointed by the SEAGO Executive Board shall serve three-year terms and are limited to two (2) consecutive terms. A previous member may be reappointed only if a vacancy cannot be filled within ninety (90) days. The Advisory Council on Aging may submit a member to the Executive Board for reappointment for an additional term when eligible.

Current Vacancies

There are currently **six (6) vacant seats** on the Advisory Council on Aging. Members are selected to represent incorporated cities, towns, and unincorporated areas within each county. The current vacancies are as follows:

Cochise County (4 Vacancies)

- Huachuca City – one (1) seat
- City of Sierra Vista – one (1) seat
- City of Willcox – one (1) seat
- County Unincorporated – one (1) seat

A motion to approve the appointment of Betty "Ann" Peschka as the ACOA representative for the City of Nogales, and Jorge Maldonado as the ACOA representative for Santa Cruz County Unincorporated, to the SEAGO Executive Board.



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING PACKET

MEMO TO: ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
FROM: CELESTE VASQUEZ, AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR
DATE: APRIL 16, 2026
SUBJECT: ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Description

The Advisory Council on Aging's (ACOA) revised Bylaws, **Article IV.A – Titles**, establish the Officer positions of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Secretary.

Article IV.C.2-4 – Nominations and Terms states that:

- Officers shall be seated upon the conclusion of the meeting at which they are elected.
- Nominations shall be made from the floor at the April meeting, with the nominee's consent.
- The President shall not serve more than three (3) successive one-year terms.
- No term limits are specified for the remaining officer positions.

ARTICLE IV.B – Duties of Officers

- **President:**
Presides at all Advisory Council meetings; coordinates and constructs meeting agendas with Agency staff; performs duties pertaining to the office, including limiting debate, filling officer vacancies, and calling special meetings.
- **First Vice President:**
Performs all duties of the President in the President's absence.
- **Second Vice President:**
Performs all duties of the President in the absence of both the President and the First Vice President.
- **Secretary:**
Acts as President in the absence of the President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President, and designates another Member as Secretary Pro Tempore.

Current Slate of Officers

**A motion to elect officers for the Advisory Council on Aging for State Fiscal Year 2026,
in accordance with Article IV of the ACOA Bylaws, with nominations taken from the
floor.**

Case Management:

The Case Management Team is now fully staffed, and all new case managers have successfully completed their probationary periods. We are fortunate to have onboarded individuals who are highly committed and deeply mission-driven.

Family Caregiver Support Program:

Our Program Supervisor delivered a presentation in Sierra Vista on caregiver burnout and the importance of self-care. She has since been invited to deliver the same presentation to the Douglas community in May.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program:

1.2B – 1.2C - Our coordinator is making significant progress in community outreach, successfully recruiting enthusiastic volunteers for the Tai Chi and A Matter of Balance programs. Our primary goal is to build a strong base of dedicated volunteers who can support and empower our rural communities.

2.1 C - In Region 6, we are fortunate to have two passionate Tai Chi volunteers and three committed A Matter of Balance volunteers serving Santa Cruz County. In addition, Greenlee County has two A Matter of Balance volunteers, while Cochise County has three volunteers currently onboarding for the program. Together, these dedicated individuals position us to make a meaningful and lasting impact across our communities.

Information & Referral/ Central Intake:

Top 3 Ways I&R Received



Phone
74.7%

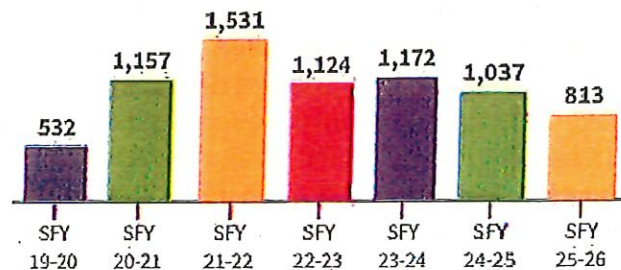


Email
19.8%

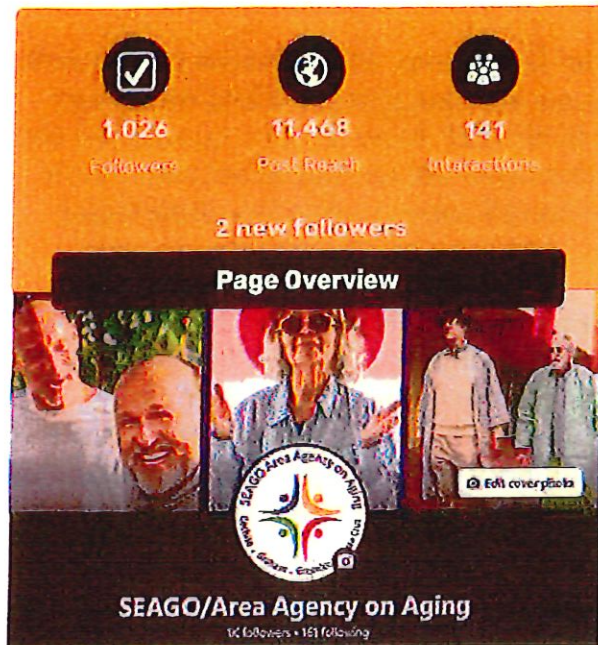


In-Person
1.6%

I&R Calls Per SFY



Social Media:



State Health Insurance Program and Senior Medicare Patrol:

1.2B; 1.2C; 1.3B Efforts to reach a broad number of beneficiaries across Region VI have resulted in increased referrals and the establishment of strong connections with community organizations, including Seniors Helping Seniors, Northern Cochise Community Hospital (NCCH), Nogales Chamber of Commerce, SEACUS, and Greenlee Meals on Wheels. These organizations have agreed to assist in promoting current events and available services throughout Region VI.

The SHIP-SMP program continues to actively collaborate with existing community partners while developing new partnerships to raise awareness of Area Agency on Aging (AAA) services in local communities. Outreach efforts include the use of social media, newsletters, and collaboration with libraries, senior centers, community leaders, and health clinics.

The overarching goal of these initiatives is to leverage community and political engagement to disseminate information about AAA services and increase awareness among seniors. This includes partnering with elected officials and public entities such as the Attorney General's office, local police departments, mayors, and other well-known community stakeholders. Currently, SEAGO AAA is in the process of scheduling an introductory meeting with the Mayor of Willcox, facilitated through an introduction by existing partner NCCH. This meeting is scheduled for April and represents an important step toward expanding AAA's presence and impact in the Willcox community.

2.1A; 3.1C Central Intake has experienced a 75% increase in calls from beneficiaries seeking assistance with Medicare, Medicaid, medication costs, and fraud reporting. Many callers have expressed concerns regarding significant delays in their Medicaid, AHCCCS, and Medicare Savings Program (MSP) applications. In some instances, beneficiaries have



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING PACKET

MEMO TO: ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
FROM: CELESTE VASQUEZ, AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR
DATE: APRIL 16, 2026
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Federal Update:

On April 3, 2026, President Trump released his Administration's FY 2027 Budget Proposal. The proposal mirrors many of the reductions advanced in the FY 2026 budget and calls for an overall 10 percent reduction to Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD) funding.

The proposal again includes elimination of several major programs, including the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Title VI of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

All other Older Americans Act programs were protected from cuts, with most aging and disability programs under the Administration for Community Living (ACL) level funded. These include the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs).

Additional Budget Notes

- **Elder Abuse and Elder Justice Programs:**
OAA Title VII elder abuse prevention and elder justice funding (including national technical assistance centers and Adult Protective Services) received small proposed increases. However, these increases are minimal and are not expected to result in a meaningful local impact.
- **Prevention-Related Program Cuts:**
Proposed cuts to ACL's falls prevention and Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative, as well as the elimination of the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program funding source, stem from the Administration's decision not to utilize the Affordable Care Act Prevention and Public Health Fund. These proposals were also included in the FY 2026 budget and were ultimately rejected by Congress.
- **Proposed ACL Reorganization:**
The budget again assumes that ACL would be transferred to the proposed

the appropriations process, which is now underway. As demonstrated during the FY 2026 cycle, Congress frequently does not adopt the Administration's proposed funding levels.

Attachments: none

Action Requested:

Information Only

Action Requested Below: