

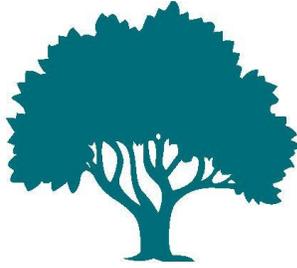
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



Purpose & Mission

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

C.T. Wright, 2013 Chair

Becky Brimhall-Lepire, 2013 Vice Chair

January 11, 2013

Dear Governor Brewer, Speaker Tobin, Senate President Biggs & older Arizonans:

On behalf of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, I present you with our 2012 Annual Report.

We are pleased to provide this narrative outlining the work and dedication of our Council members, liaisons, volunteers and staff who advocate for older Arizonans in creative, practical and cost effective ways.

A highlight of the Advisory Council's achievements this year includes the convening of an Older Driver Safety stakeholder group that considered the impact of unsafe drivers and the special challenges resulting from the decision to give up one's driver's license. Research comparing state regulations, legislation and best practices was conducted on direct care workers and input received from the statewide One Stop Career Center staff was used to create toolkits that are featured on the Arizona Mature Worker Website, a resource for mature job seekers, professional staff and employers. Ongoing efforts of the Advisory Council included the Mature Worker Friendly Employer Certification and the recruitment of additional partners to serve in the work 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 65+ population increased more than 32% over the last decade and in just seven years, one in four of us in Arizona will be over the age of 60. We are an aging society, an aging state, and the Advisory Council on Aging's role as a non-partisan voice for older Arizonans is more important than ever.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older Arizonans, and we ask for your support in 2013 to achieve our mission.

Sincerely,

C.T. Wright, Chairman

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging 2012 Roster

Joe Woods, Chair
Maricopa County
(Tempe)

Becky Brimhall-Lepire
Maricopa County
(Carefree)

Charles E. Brown
Cochise County
(Sun Sites)

Johnny Lee "Pete" Byers
Mohave County
(Kingman)

George A. Evanoff, Chair
Pima County
(Tucson)

Bernadine Hoffman, Secretary
Maricopa County
(Scottsdale)

Marilyn Johnson
Mohave County
(Kingman)

Deborah M. Lavinsky
Maricopa County
(Phoenix)

Doyle Meredith
Yavapai County
(Prescott Valley)

Anne Morrison
Pima County
(Tucson)

Allison Perrin, M.D.
Maricopa County
(Glendale)

Teresa Ramirez Lopez
Maricopa County
(Phoenix)

Trudy W. Schuett
Yuma County
(Yuma)

C.T. Wright, Vice Chair
Maricopa County
(Fountain Hills)

Karen Zanzucchi
Maricopa County
(Phoenix)

The Council wishes to thank our agency liasions:

Melanie Starns
DES

Jay Dunkleberger
AHCCCS

**Dan Harrigan &
Cydney DeModica**
ADOT

Debra Boehlke
Attorney General's Office

Dana Kennedy
Arizona Area Agencies on
Aging

Babak Nayeri
ADHS

Phyllis Antone
Arizona Indian Council on
Aging

Council Responsibilities

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 Advisory 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 Advisory Council are largely accomplished through the work of these committees. Ad hoc committees are also created for special purposes and projects. Ad hoc committees this year 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.

2012 Accomplishments

The following are highlights of the Advisory Council on Aging's 2012 activities.

1. Monitored the 2011-2014 State Plan on Aging

As part of its statutory purpose, the Council continued to work with the DES Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) and the Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AZ4A) 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 plan to the Council throughout the calendar year. In addition, the Council supported the Governor's Office on Aging's ongoing contribution to the Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force and the efforts of the Task Force to address the growing human and financial cost of Alzheimer's and related disorders in Arizona. Four work teams of more than 100 volunteers from around the state are engaged in the work of developing strategies to address specific Alzheimer's objectives connected to the goals of the State Plan on Aging. Ahead of the curve, the Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force was created and began work prior to the establishment of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and the Advisory Council on Research, Care and Services.

2. Offered Consumer Education and Training

Through the Committee and Council meetings, consumers and advocates were offered a wide variety of education and training opportunities in 2012. Topics included:

- Depression and Delirium
- Insurance Plans, Hearing Aid Coverage & Information on Hearing Loss Initiatives
- Life Care Planning
- Transportation's Impact on the Economy Presentation (from ADOT)
- Maricopa Association of Governments Transportation Updates to the Planning for the Next 100 Years event
- Elder Economic Security Initiative and the Elder Index from Wider Opportunities for Women
- Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council Transportation Project and Oral Health Report
- Professional Employment Exploration and Resource Services – PEERS
- Maricopa Workforce Connections
- Experience Matters
- Ways to Get Arizona's Mature Workers Back to Work in 2012
- AARP Foundation Workforce Initiative
- Changing the Workforce Paradigm: Independent Contracting as an Emerging Career Choice
- The Difference of Nursing Homes and Assisted Living in Staffing and Services

- “Alzheimer’s 101” – Latest Updates from the Desert Southwest Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association
- DES Division of Aging and Adult Services – Role of Legal Services and Tribal Liaison

3. *Completed the Three-Year Oral Health Work Plan*

The Oral Health Sub-Committee of the Advisory Council’s Social, Health & Alzheimer’s Committee (SHAC) concluded its three-year work plan. The members advocated for ongoing reports to the Council on Aging from the statewide oral health coalitions regarding efforts to advance dental care for vulnerable and older adults. In an effort to promote free or affordable dental services, the Council supported efforts by the Office on Aging to establish a partnership with the Arizona Dental Foundation to recognize dentists who donate their time and services benefitting older Arizonans.

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 2012.

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 in managing the challenges of an aging workforce while creating employment opportunities for mature workers in Arizona. This year, Council staff offered the fifth cycle of the certification process, and 2012 was the first year that recertification was offered. Every certified employer was surveyed to ensure that the training, as developed, met their needs. From the 2008 and 2009 certified employers there was a 78% recertification rate. More than 96 Arizona employers have been certified to date.

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

In 2012, the Advisory Council continued to provide resource information for mature workers, one-stop staff, and employers through the Arizona Mature Worker Website www.azmatureworkers.com. The website has been updated to include three new sections; *Job Seeker* Tool Kit, *Professional* Tool Kit, and *Employer* Tool Kit. Within each of the sections, sub-sections were created that include: community resources, employment resources, fact sheets/brochures/articles, quick links, newsletters, and workshops. In support of workforce development, each page was evaluated and revised with up-to-date information. A survey was added to the home page for constant feedback. The website received more than 132,000 visitors, and staff continues to coordinate blogs as part of outreach efforts to mature workers and employers.

7. Ensured Continuing Education Opportunities for Advisory 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 2012 Advisory Council meetings. Training on the Open Meeting Law was a key educational opportunity provided in March of 2012. Other continuing education focused on life care planning, hearing aid coverage, and updates relating to older Arizonans from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) on the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS), the Department of Economic Security (DES) Division of Aging & Adult Services, the Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the Arizona Indian Council on Aging, and the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

8. Created a Marketing Plan Framework

From the work of an ad hoc committee, a marketing outline was developed that offers a framework for addressing the marketing and outreach needs of the Advisory Council and the committees.

9. Drafted Recommendations from the Older Driver Safety Report Review Committee

With input from the various stakeholders engaged in efforts to promote Older Driver Safety, the ad hoc committee formulated a draft recommendation intended to promote greater awareness and better understanding of existing legislation that guides the process for reporting unsafe drivers to the Arizona Department of Transportation. The ad hoc committee developed a fact sheet for qualified medical providers on reporting unsafe drivers.

10. Supported the Arizona Caregiver Coalition's Launch of the Caregiver Resource Line

The Council on Aging promoted the Coalition's launch of the Caregiver Resource Line - created as one point of contact for respite resources and information in Arizona.

11. Continued to Support Educational Outreach Efforts

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

12. Established a Liaison from the Arizona Indian Council on Aging

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging succeeded in adding a Council Liaison from the Arizona Indian Council on Aging, a long-standing goal of the group.

13. Provided Input to the Governor and Legislature on Aging Issues

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

2013 Future Directions

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging remains committed to enhancing the lives of older Arizonans and will continue to leverage essential resources and build partnerships in order to accomplish goals. The Council has established the following priorities for 2013.

1. *Monitor the State Plan on Aging*

As part of its statutory purpose, the Advisory 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 State Plan on Aging as required by federal law and to help ensure that results are in line with established plans and fiscal priorities. The Advisory Council will explore ways to support the collection of input for the next State Plan on Aging. In addition, the Advisory Council will continue to support the Governor's Office on Aging's partnership in the Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force and efforts to address the growing human and financial cost of Alzheimer's and related disorders in Arizona through objectives and strategies linked to the goals of the State Plan on Aging.

2. *Provide Opportunities for Older Arizonans and Legislators to Share Information*

In line with its biennial commitment, the Advisory Council will offer opportunities for older Arizonans and advocates to share viewpoints and exchange input with their legislators and local elected officials in 2013 as part of the Advisory Council's traditional Senior Action Day activities held in communities around the state. Direct input from seniors collected through this process is consistently used to help shape the Advisory Council's priorities and future directions.

3. *Promote Transportation Coordination/Mobility Management*

By identifying and recognizing model programs, the Advisory Council will continue to gather and disseminate information on local, regional and statewide mobility plans that promote and support independence in later life.

4. *Finalize Recommendations on Older Driver Safety*

From the work of the Older Driver Safety Report Review Committee, the Advisory Council will share final recommendations for an older driver safety awareness campaign that includes resources for the older consumer, their family and caregivers as well as the fact sheet for medical providers on reporting unsafe drivers.

5. *Provide the Legislative Update Email Newsletter*

The Advisory Council will continue to monitor state and federal legislation that impact 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 formulate their own opinions and ensure their voices are heard.

6. *Offer Consumer Education and Training*

In partnership with state agencies and community partners, the Advisory Council will continue to offer education and training through collaborative efforts that result in workshops, summits, special sessions or conferences focused on older adults.

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

The Advisory Council will continue to promote mature worker friendly work environments by awarding employers with the Mature Worker Friendly Employer Certification. In addition, the Advisory Council will offer training and recertification for those employers certified in 2011.

8. *Enhance Resources Offered on the Mature Worker Job Bank and Resource Website*

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

9. *Continue to Review Oversight of In-Home Services by Direct Care Workers*

In tandem with efforts by the Arizona Attorney General's Office and state agencies, the Advisory Council will review oversight of in-home service workers in Arizona.

10. *Support Education and Outreach Efforts*

The Advisory 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 Advisory Council will continue to support the mission of the Arizona Fall Prevention Coalition to promote evidence-based fall prevention approaches that can enhance quality of life for older adults. The Advisory Council will continue to support the efforts of the Arizona Caregiver Coalition that advocates for family caregivers in Arizona.

11. *Ensure Continuing Education Opportunities for Council Members*

Educational presentations and training opportunities will continue to be a part of the Advisory Council's meetings in 2013. Training is planned that will 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 Advisory 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 Advisory Council as a single, non-partisan voice on matters that affect seniors.

Conclusion

We are grateful to the dedicated Council members, liaisons, community partners and staff who actively participate in the work of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The Advisory Council is honored to serve as an internal, non-partisan sounding board for the Governor and the Legislature on all matters related to aging.

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