



## VENTURA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

November 12, 2025

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 am

Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) –  
Conference and Educational Services Center  
5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo 93012

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600825765?pwd=EJ4xAnkdNWwnqQakelBoyOTbk51LxR.1>

The council will be meeting in person. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom.

VCAAA Advisory Council Role – To provide leadership, input, and advocacy as facilitators between VCAAA and the community, in support of VCAAA’s mission.

VCAAA Role – VCAAA is the responsible agency to seek, serve, administer, and manage available funding to ensure resources are allocated to serve Ventura County, creating integrated community-based services where older adults and people with disabilities can age in their community with dignity and respect.

### A G E N D A

- |           |    |  |                    |
|-----------|----|--|--------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | 1. | Call to Order and Agenda Review  | Dr. Maria Munguia  |
|           | 2. | Pledge of Allegiance   | Dr. Denise Calhoun |
|           | 3. | Roll Call and Motion to Accept Online Virtual Attendance for those declaring “Emergency Circumstances” | Alisa Sanchez      |
|           | 4. | Approval of Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Minutes of September 10, 2025.                       | Dr. Maria Munguia  |
|           | 5. | Public Comments  | Dr. Maria Munguia  |

Procedure: The public is welcome to comment. All comments not related to items on the agenda may be made at the beginning of the meeting only. Comments are limited to three minutes per person.

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|--|----|--|-------------------|
|  | 6. | Consent Agenda Items – Committee Reports | Dr. Maria Munguia |
|--|----|--|-------------------|

Procedure: The Advisory Council will approve these reports all at once unless an Advisory Committee wishes to remove

a report from the consent agenda and discuss and approve it separately.

6.1 Optimal Aging Committee – 09.10.25

6.2 ADRC Committee – 09.17.25

6.3 Workforce Committee – 09.18.25

6.4 Housing & Transportation Committee – will include in next meeting's packet

6.5 Senior Nutrition & Health Committee – will include in next meeting's packet

## **ACTION ITEMS**

No Action Items at this time.

## **PRESENTATION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- |              |  |   |
|--------------|--|---|
| 7.           | Legacy Awards – <i>time certain 9:10 AM</i>                      | Alice Sweetland                                   |
| 8.           | Presentation: Notable Notes from the Workforce Development Board | Stephanie Belding                                 |
| 9.           | HSA Communications Manager Update                                | Roger Horne                                       |
| 10.          | HSA Leadership Update  | Monique Nowlin                                    |
| 11.          | Bylaws Update  | Dr. Maria Munguia                                 |
| 12.          | Other Committee Meetings:  |   |
|              | a. California Senior Legislature Update                          | Brenda Birdwell<br>Tony Gitt<br>Dr. Karen Gorback |
|              | b. VCAAA Foundation Update                                       | James Schicker                                    |
|              | c. LGBT+ Aging Coalition   | Dr. Ron Berkowsky                                 |
|              | d. Dementia Friendly Ventura County                              | Jason Sagar                                       |
| 13.          | Meeting Calendar FY 2025-2026                                    | Dr. Maria Munguia                                 |
| 14.          | Other Business   | Dr. Maria Munguia                                 |
| 15.          | Comments from the Chair  | Dr. Maria Munguia                                 |
| 16.          | Future Agenda Items  | Dr. Maria Munguia                                 |
| 11:00 am 17. | Adjournment  | Dr. Maria Munguia                                 |

VENTURA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING  
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

2901 N. Ventura Rd  
Oxnard, CA 93036  
September 10, 2025

Advisory Council Members Present:

Blair Barker (Service Provider) - virtual	Luis Mendez II (City of Port Hueneme)
Stephanie Belding (Thousand Oaks COA)	Dr. Maria Munguia (City of Santa Paula)
Dr. Ron Berkowsky (LGBT+ Population)	Carmen Reyes (Camarillo COA) - virtual
Brenda Birdwell (CSL)	Michelle Rios (Service Provider)
Alvin Brown (Simi Valley COA)	Anita Ruiz (BOS At-Large)
Denise Calhoun (BOS District 2)	Peter Schreiner (Behavioral Health Population)
Fred Chase (City of Ojai)	Martha Shapiro (Service Provider)
Tony Gitt (CSL)	Alice Sweetland (City of Oxnard)
Dr. Karen Gorback (CSL)	Sue Tatangelo (Consumer Population)
Carol Leish (Disability Population)	Sylvia Taylor-Stein (BOS District 5)
Jonnie Lisman (City of Port Hueneme)	Nita Vaidya (Thousand Oaks COA)
Gloria Massey-Chinea (City of Oxnard)	Susan Voll (Camarillo COA)

Advisory Council Members Absent:

Paul Atkinson (Veterans Population)	Lynette Harvey (Medical Provider)
Lyn Cotwright (City of Moorpark)	Maureen Hodge (Family Caregiver Population)
Smita Dandekar (BOS District 4)	Bill Miley (City of Ojai)
Carina Forsythe (City of Fillmore)	Jeanette Sanchez-Palacios (BOS District 1)

VCAAA Staff Members Present:

Roger Horne (Communications Mgr)	Jason Sagar (PEARLS Mgr)
Monique Nowlin (AAA Director)	Alisa Sanchez (Program Assistant)
Ben Rhodes (Division Manager)	Kari Verdugo (Administrative Specialist)

Members of the Public Present:

April Enriquez (Ventura)	James Importante (County Executive Office)
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Virtual Attendees:

G Bowman	Denise Noguera-Valenzuela (I&A Mgr)
Sarah Mailes	Kim Post
Sheryl Miller	Raquel Wirth

BOS (Board of Supervisors) Supervisorial Appointees:

District 1 – Supervisor Matt LaVere  
District 2 – Supervisor Jeff Gorell  
District 3 – Supervisor Kelly Long

District 4 – Supervisor Janice Parvin  
District 5 – Supervisor Vianey Lopez

- 1) **Call to Order and Agenda Review** – The September 10, 2025, Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by Chair Dr. Maria Munguia.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Luis Mendez II (City of Port Hueneme Appointee).
- 3) **Roll Call and Motion to Accept Online Virtual Attendance for Those Declaring “Emergency Circumstances”** – Alisa Sanchez called roll. Quorum was reached.
- 4) **Approval of Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Minutes of July 9, 2025.**

Motion: Approve July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Minutes

Moved by: Alice Sweetland, seconded by Al Brown

Result: Motion passed

- 5) **Public Comments** – Stephanie Belding shared that she would soon be attending the Workforce Development Board Meeting and reports that about 125 people are expected. Stephanie would like to report back on this meeting at next Advisory Council Meeting. Sue Tatangelo shared that she is a board member with the Brain Injury Center and that they are having their biggest fundraiser of the year this coming Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and reminds attendees that the center provides free services for family caregivers and people with brain injuries. Sue also noted that there are approximately 16,000 people living throughout Ventura County with brain injuries.

6) **Consent Agenda Items**

- 6.1 Housing & Transportation Committee – 07.15.25
- 6.2 Senior Health & Nutrition Committee – 07.16.25
- 6.3 ADRC Committee – 07.16.25
- 6.4 Workforce Committee – 07.17.25
- 6.5 Optimal Aging Committee – 07.23.25

Motion: Accept Committee Reports

Moved by: Sylvia Taylor-Stein, seconded by Al Brown

Result: Motion passed

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- 7) **Election of Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary) for FY 2025-2026** – The above listed election/reappointments of officers were made. Chair: Dr. Maria Munguia; Vice Chair: Martha Shapiro; Secretary: Alice Sweetland.

Motion: Elect/Reappoint Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary)

Moved by: Dr. Karen Gorback, seconded by Stephanie Belding

Result: Motion passed

- 8) **Rescheduling Advisory Council Meetings in March and May 2026** – Monique Nowlin presented a proposal to reschedule the Advisory Council Meetings in the months of March and May 2026 to secure the Board Room at VCOE for the meetings location. The new meeting dates are March 25, 2026, and May 20, 2026. The PowerPoint slide detailing these changes is attached to this meeting's agenda packet.

Motion: To reschedule the March and May 2026 Advisory Council Meetings

Moved by: Brenda Birdwell, seconded by Dr. Ron Berkowsky

Result: Motion passed

## **PRESENTATION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- 9) **Presentation: Facing Challenges with Optimism & Humor** – Chairperson Dr. Munguia gave a heartfelt introduction of Carol Leish who provided the meeting attendees with an inspirational and presentation she titled, "Facing Challenges with Optimism & Humor". The presentation shares Carol's story of encouragement and perseverance with a witty sense of humor while reflecting on her personal experience meeting both physical and emotional challenges.

- 10) **Presentation: HICAP – Medicare Open Enrollment –** Communications Manager Roger Horne presented HICAP Medicare Open Enrollment information in place of HICAP Program Manager, Sonia Vaughn, as she is attending a conference in Sacramento. Medicare Open Enrollment runs from October 15, 2025- December 7, 2025. HICAP will be doing 13 presentations on Medicare changes between October 6, 2025, and October 14, 2025. Three flyers were shared and distributed at the meeting, which include the dates, sites and times of all presentations as well as information on dates for the Open Enrollment One-Stops.
- 11) **HSA Communications Manager Update –** Communications Manager Roger Horne shared that Legacy Award nomination period closed at the end of August. The winners will be presented with the awards at the November 12, 2025, meeting. Outreach presented at 18 events in August, which included the biggest event of the year, the Ventura County Fair, as well as Ventura Pride. The Fall Prevention Forum will take place on September 26, 2025, and will be hosted by Ventura County Fire Department at the Fire Dept. Headquarters in Thousand Oaks. Carol Leish did a podcast with Camarillo Healthcare District, and it was shared on VCAAA Facebook page. Sylvia Taylor-Stein was featured in the Ventura County Star for her retirement.
- 12) **Bylaws Update –** Chairperson Dr. Munguia shared that new HSA Director Roger Robinson who came on about 2.5 months ago will now be reviewing the updated bylaws and we will wait to hear back.
- 13) **Triple-A Council of California (TACC) Update –** Chairperson Dr. Munguia provided an explanation of what TACC is --- It is the Triple-A Council of California. It is essentially a network that connects the 33 Area Agencies on Aging across California. TACC facilitates communication and sharing of information and ideas among local councils and state partners.
- 14) **New Advisory Council Meeting Location –** Monique Nowlin shared the meeting location for the Advisory Council meeting has been updated to the Ventura Office of Education and shared PowerPoint slide that is included in this meeting’s agenda packet and includes details such as the address of VCOE Conference and Education Center which is: 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo, CA 93012. The change in location is effective next meeting, November 12, 2025.
- 15) **Other Committee Meetings:**

**a. California Senior Legislature (CSL) Update** – Tony Gitt shared that of the 10 bill proposals that were submitted for sponsorship back in January, three of those were selected by elected legislators. All bill proposals can be tracked online at <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>.

**b. VCAAA Foundation Update** – James Schicker, Foundation Chair could not be present at the meeting, but he will be providing Foundation update at next meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> per Monique Nowlin.

**c. LGBT+ Aging Coalition** – Dr. Ron Berkowsky shared that the Coalition had a very successful Pride season and shared a warm thank you to VCAAA Foundation and to their coalition membership for their support and hard work over the past couple of months. As Pride season now behind them, the coalition will be shifting focus to getting word out about their LGBT+ Friendly business training. It is a 90-minute training course that is offered in-person or via Zoom. The training is designed to educate business on working with an LGBT+ older adult clientele. Please note that this training is free.

**d. Dementia Friendly Ventura County (DFVC)** – Jason Sagar shared that DFVC will meet next on October 1, 2025. Committee goal continues to be to make Ventura County more dementia-friendly and reach out to local businesses.

- 16) **Updated [Meeting Calendar](#)** – FY 2025-2026 is attached to Agenda Packet.
- 17) **Advisory Council Member Information Sheets, Bio, Photo** – Alisa Sanchez passed out member information sheets for members to provide and/or update their information. Alisa also asked members to provide 75-word biographies and pictures for the VCAAA website.
- 18) **Other Business** – Peter Schreiner, the clinic administrator of the Older Adult Program with Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) shared the mission of VCBH is to treat those in the county who are seriously mentally ill and have Medi-Cal. An important update as part of Proposition 1 is that Medicare/Medi-Cal beneficiaries with Advantage Plans will no longer be able to receive services from Behavioral Health. The time is critical to get enrolled in Medicare plans that will cover Behavioral Health services and Peter shares the importance of programs such as HICAP and meeting with a Medicare counselor to be sure you are enrolled in an appropriate plan. Sue Tatangelo shared Ventura County Credit Union, where she serves on the board, became the first dementia-friendly financial institution. VCCU incorporates dementia-friendly

training into their annual training. VCCU also educates on scams and fraud to look out for such as cyber fraud and crypto fraud.

- 19) Comments from the Chair** – Chairperson Dr. Munguia thanked council members for their patience with all of the changes and now the change of space where we are going to meet going forward. Dr. Munguia believes the move to VCOE will meet our needs.
- 20) Future Agenda Items** – Sue Tatangelo shared that Maureen Hodge would like to present on new effort, Caregiver Coalition and encourages anyone with a caregiver connection to be a part of the new movement. CSL will present at a future meeting on how a bill becomes a law.
- 21) Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 10:52. The next regular meeting for the Advisory Council will be held on November 12, 2025 at Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) Conference and Education Center located at 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo, CA 93012.

**TO:** VCAAA Advisory Council Members  
**FROM:** Alice Sweetland, Committee Chair  
**DATE:** September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** **Optimal Aging Report from September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Committee Members Present:**

Ronald Berkowsky                      Alice Sweetland  
Al Brown                                      Sylvia Taylor-Stein  
Denise Calhoun

**Committee Members Absent:**

Lyn Cotwright  
Dinah Frishling  
Susan Zirnite

**VCAAA Staff Members Present:**

Julianna Eusanio (Social Worker)  
Roger Horne (Communication Manager)

1. **Welcome-** Meeting was called to order by Alice at 11:25pm.
2. **Legacy Awards Selection Meeting-** The Committee held an in-person meeting to review and vote on the nominations for the Legacy Awards. The Committee agreed to revisit guidelines surrounding letters of support for future nomination. The committee also emphasized that the individual selected to receive the award for the community member (volunteer) award category needed to be in an unpaid position. The committee selected one winner for Dementia Friendly Business Nominations, one winner for Business/Organization and two winners for individual nominations. The award recipients will be honored at the November Advisory Council Meeting.
3. **Adjournment –** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next Optimal Aging Committee meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-3pm**

**TO:** VCAAA Advisory Council Members  
**FROM:** Tony Gitt, Chair  
**DATE:** September 17, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** **ADRC Committee Meeting**

**Committee Members Present:**

Carol Leish Al Brown Ronald Berkowsky Peter Schreiner Vanessa Acain Linda Mac Dougall Emily Bridges Michelle Rios

**Committee Members Absent:**

Tony Gitt Martha Shapiro Jennifer Griffin Blair Barker Carmen Reyes Emily Bridges Emily Bridges Lilly Grossman Keith Goslin Susan Zirnite Jim Marston Sue Tatangelo Maureen Hodge Sue Tatangelo

**VCAAA Staff Members Present:**

Denise Noguera-Valenzuela (Call Center Manager) Roger Horne (Communications Mgr)

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

- Denise welcomed attendees and facilitated the meeting in the absence of a chair.  
Reviewed the **proposed quarterly meeting schedule for FY 2025–26:** remaining meetings set for November, January, and May.
- Introduced guest Michelle Rios, who is observing to determine potential subcommittee participation.

**2. Extended Partner Engagement**

- The group discussed broadening invitations to include additional Aging & Disability network partners, following a model used in senior networking meetings.

**3. Subcommittee Goals**

- **ADRC Brochure:** Work with Communications, ACC, and AAA to finalize design and distribution.
- **Training Opportunities:** Aim to include a speaker or topical training at each quarterly meeting.

**4. Group Updates**

- **Events:**
  - Second Annual Government & Disability Summit, *Collaborate, Innovate,*

*Activate: Disability Across the Lifespan*, September 23–26, 2025, Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach.

- Fall Prevention Forum, September 26, hosted by the Ventura County Fire Department.
- **Partner Reports:**
  - **Behavioral Health & Insurance (Peter Schreiner):** Shared concerns about the impacts of Medicare Advantage (Part C) on provider access and marketing practices; emphasized caution when switching plans, especially for those with chronic conditions. Highlighted statewide funding changes (MHSA restructure via Prop 1) that may affect behavioral health revenues.
  - **Access Central Coast (Vanessa Acain & Emily Bridges):** Created new brochures with new name and new logo. ACC now provides CalAIM services (housing deposit, tenancy support, housing navigation, transition services) for eligible Medi-Cal members. Exploring a new contract for home modifications. Emily is also available as a caregiver/personal assistant coordinator.

## 5. Open Floor / Member Comments

- Brief discussion on congressional redistricting in Simi Valley (informational only; non-partisan).
- Chair Election: Carol Leish declined interest at this time.

## 6. Action Items & Next steps

- Solicit volunteers/nominations for ADRC Chair, election at the next meeting.
- Denise to share attendee emails with ACC for CalAIM follow-up connections.
- Continued development of the ADRC brochure (ACC + Communications + AAA input).

## 7. Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 • 1:00–2:00 PM

**TO:** VCAAA Advisory Council Members  
**FROM:** Dr. Karen Gorback, Sub- Co-Chair  
**DATE:** September 18, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** **Workforce Committee (WC) Report from September 18, 2025**

**Committee Members Present:**

Dr. Karen Gorback  
 Dr. Nita Vaidya  
 Brenda Birdwell  
 Al Brown  
 Michelle Rios

**Committee Members Absent:**

Stephanie Belding

**Interested Members of the Public**

**Absent:**

Alice Sweetland  
 Dr. Maria Munguia

**VCAAA Staff Members Present:**

Sonia Vaughn (HICAP Manager)  
 Roger Horne (Communications Manager)

1. **Welcome-** Meeting was called to order by Sub-Co-Chair Dr. Karen Gorback at 10:09 am.
2. **Public Comments-** Dr. Gorback shared Stephanie missed the WC meeting to attend the Workforce Development Board's Annual Open House in Oxnard.
3. **New Membership-** Welcome to the newest member of the WC, Michelle Rios. Michelle is an VCAAA Advisory Council Board Member. She represents a service provider- Coastal Caregiver Center in Camarillo. Welcome to the Workforce Committee, Michelle!
4. Job Fair in Partnership with the Conejo Senior Volunteer Program Wellness Fest at the Goebel Adult Community Center in Thousand Oaks on January 21, 2026.
  - a) Six employer tables will be available in the room to which we are assigned; Julie Spivack confirmed number of tables.
  - b) Employers from January 2025: (Event canceled due to fires)
    - City of Thousand Oaks (Dr. Karen Gorback)
    - Comfort Keepers (Brenda Birdwell)
    - Conejo Valley Unified School District (Al Brown)
    - Royal Staffing (Nita Vaidya)
    - Senior Helpers (Michelle Rios)
    - Workforce Development Board (Stephanie)
    - Livingston Memorial (outside table)- hold off (will invite if anyone else cancels).
  - c) Committee members assigned to contact employers:

- 1st contact letter (intro and info); 2nd letter (contains logistic info).
- Each committee member assigned as noted above.

- d) Introductory and follow-up letters to be developed by AAA and signed by Stephanie and Monique. – Roger (will review 1st and 2nd letter).

Date by which Introductory Letter should be emailed by Committee  
Contacts to employers: November 6, 2025. We should have a finalized list of employer participants by next AC meeting.

- e) Postcards as "takeaways" printed by AAA. Roger mentioned there are still copies available. "Job tips!"
- f) Who will be responsible for bringing a clicker and tracking the number of attendees? Sonia will assist with this.

5. **Other Business:** Brenda- IHSS from Santa Barbara (agendize item).
6. **Next Meeting Date** – Thursday, November 20th from 10-11 am via TEAMS.
7. **Adjournment-** Meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.



**VENTURA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE  
FY 2025-2026**

**All Advisory Council meetings are held in person.**

**All sub-committee meetings are held via  
Zoom/TEAMS.**

	<b>Advisory Council</b>	<b>ADRC</b>	<b>Housing &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>Senior Nutrition &amp; Health</b>	<b>Optimal Aging</b>	<b>Workforce</b>
<b>July</b>	July 9 9-11 a.m.	July 16 1 - 2 p.m.	July 15 2 – 3 p.m.	July 16 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	July 23 2 – 3:00 p.m.	July 17 10 – 11 a.m.
<b>August</b>						
<b>September</b>	Sept 10 9-11 a.m.	Sept 17 1 - 2 p.m.	Sept 16 2 – 3 p.m.	Sept 17 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Sept 24 2 – 3:00 p.m.	Sept 18 10 – 11 a.m.
<b>October</b>						
<b>November</b>	Nov 12 9-11 a.m.	Nov 19 1 - 2 p.m.	Nov 18 2 – 3 p.m.	Nov 19 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Nov 26 2 – 3:00 p.m.	Nov 20 10 – 11 a.m.
<b>December</b>						
<b>January</b>	Jan 14 9-11 a.m.	Jan 21 1 - 2 p.m.	Jan 20 2 – 3 p.m.	Jan 21 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Jan 28 2 – 3:00 p.m.	Jan 15 10 – 11 a.m.
<b>February</b>						
<b>March</b>	March 25 9-11 a.m.	March 18 1 - 2 p.m.	March 17 2 – 3 p.m.	March 18 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	March 25 2 – 3:00 p.m.	March 19 10 – 11 a.m.
<b>April</b>						
<b>May</b>	May 20 9-11 a.m.	May 20 1 - 2 p.m.	May 19 2 – 3 p.m.	May 20 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	May 27 2 – 3:00 p.m.	May 21 10 – 11 a.m.
<b>June</b>						