

**City of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County  
Area Agency on Aging  
Older Americans Advisory Council**

**Monday, April 8, 2024 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Area Agency on Aging  
700 4th Street SW, Suite A  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
and Zoom**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>AAA Staff</b>
Mel Pearson, Chair	Michele (Shelley) Hennie	Michelle Briscoe
Lynne Anker-Unnever, Vice Chair		Brian Alvarado
Danny Lay		Renee Archuleta
Meggin Lorino		Ana Benavidez
Guillermina (Gigi) Osoria		Kyle Kemp
Geraldine Rivera		
Dr. Joseph Roybal-Sánchez		<b>Guests</b>
		Aimee Brown

**1. Call to Order**

The Older Americans Advisory Council (OAAC) meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

**2. Introductions**

Staff and OAAC members introduced themselves.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Lynne Anker-Unnever. Danny Lay seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2024 meeting was made by Lynne Anker-Unnever. Danny Lay seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **5. Updates:**

Ms. Briscoe shared FY24 provider monitorings mostly complete. Monitoring of Department of Senior Affairs conducted in March. Very few findings, mostly regarding data entry.

Mr. Pearson requested clarification of monitoring. Ms. Briscoe shared monitoring focuses on three main components: fiscal; program services and definitions; data and OAAPS reporting. The AAA issues reports at the completion of monitoring. Monitorings are annual and typically take about 30 days to issue a report. Ms. Anker-Unnever noted corrective action plans can add to the timeline. Mr. Alvarado added providers are still struggling with hiring and retention issues and related challenges causing concerns with meeting goals.

Ms. Anker-Unnever asked Ms. Lorino if she could share insight as to why it remains difficult to hire home care workers. Ms. Lorino shared it's largely wages. Medicaid rates limit the amount that can be paid, and competition from alternative jobs. Ms. Rivera asked what the answer might be. Ms. Briscoe mentioned the AAA pays higher rates, but Ms. Lorino noted the AAA is a very small portion of the market so the agency can't raise payment rates. Members discussed potential opportunities to engage on challenges. Ms. Lorino shared she will be meeting with the new state Medicaid director to discuss concerns. Ms. Briscoe added this also affects adult day providers.

Ms. Briscoe shared the AAA has received the FY25 budget allocation from the state and will be completing the budget proposal. The allocations include a small increase in federal funding, and a substantial increase in state funding from the additional ALTSD request from the legislature. Ms. Briscoe will provide the budget for review at the next meeting.

Ms. Briscoe share the Administration for Community Living (ACL) released updated Older Americans Act (OAA) regulations which will require updates to state and then AAA policies and procedures. Details will be shared as they are available. September 2025 is the target for compliance. Opportunities include bringing back grab-and-go options to better serve needs of older adults. Ms. Anker-Unnever noted opportunities to serve caregivers of older adults making minimum wage, and Mr. Lay noted accommodating the preference of rural older adults not wanting to participate at the center every day. Ms. Briscoe shared the AAA will collaborate with the state regarding opportunities.

Ms. Briscoe shared information regarding the Blue Zones Bound: Live to 100 in New Mexico initiative, noting overlaps and opportunities to advocate for shared priorities. More information will come as the initiative develops.

## **6. Recruitment to fill vacancies, member terms:**

Ms. Briscoe shared there are two City vacancies and one County vacancy and encouraged members to make recommendations. Ms. Briscoe has continues to work with the City Boards and Commissions staff including the Tribal Liaison regarding identifying a tribal representative.

Ms. Briscoe mentioned members needing reappointment will be contacted.

**7. Advisory Member Community Feedback:**

Ms. Osoria asked about opportunities to engage on housing needs for older adults. Ms. Briscoe shared details regarding AAA intensive case management program and meals at the Westside Emergency Housing Center. Ms. Briscoe will engage Ms. Osoria with the AAA intensive case management as the program is expanding to older adults age 60 and over.

Ms. Anker-Unnever shared information regarding the Optum senior center. Ms. Rivera shared Optum hosts online services.

Dr. Roybal-Sánchez shared upcoming AARP events and activities.

Mr. Lay asked about being added to the newsletter for Tijeras Senior Center. Ms. Briscoe suggested coordinating with DSA and AAA communications resources.

**8. Next Meeting:** Monday, July 22, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Village of Tijeras Senior Center.

Ms. Briscoe mentioned the AAA will be moving to City Hall in June. Dr. Roybal-Sánchez offered the AARP space is available on Mondays and could be a meeting space in the future.

**9. Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lynne Anker-Unnever. Danny Lay seconded the motion. The seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: Michelle Briscoe